WE, THE STUDENTS

Faculty

"The Arts have no real enemies except the ignorant."

We feel that University teaching if it is to teach us how to think, rather than what to think, could be improved by reducing lectures to a minimum and by making greater use of seminars where discussion could foster feverish note-taking. (This system is already well on the way in the advanced stages of the History Department and in Diploma of Education classes.)

Seminars instead of lectures would necessarily involve a larger teaching staff. As it is unlikely that the Government would be willing to pay the salaries of a dozen extra full-time lecturers, we suggest that greater use could be made of student lecturers. Each Department in the Faculty of Arts could have attached to it at least two student lecturers in whom enthusiasm might compensate for lack of experience. (Incidentally this would improve pre-University as well as University education as it would give the advanced students—the future teachers—opportunity to clarify their ideas and to become factually more competent.)

As a further improvement we suggest reducing the number of Arts courses as a whole—a free and optional course in Art.

H.M.D.

HISTORY AND ART.

This course in Art could follow mainly along the lines of the History syllabus and would aim, not merely to be a history of Art, but to interpret and be interpreted by history. The student of any literature would find his understanding quickened by a knowledge of contemporary movements in Art. Such an Art course would have the additional advantage of bringing to one focus a number of facts hitherto scattered through a number of courses, and by consequence but partially known.

A similar union has worked well with Greek, History, Art and Literature. One function with the whole Arts Course.

It is ridiculous to attempt to understand the literature of any country without knowing its contemporary history—it is equally foolish to divorce History from the Arts; but under the pressure of nine units and a compulsory language we do both.

V.U.C. is the law School of the University of New Zealand.

"Salient" is proud to feature a scheme for the reform of legal education.

There is a growing feeling in legal circles, particularly among the teaching staff of the Universities and their pupils, that the present system of legal education is completely inadequate for modern needs. In the present scheme of the law in New Zealand has been primarily to clothe with legal form various transactions that a rapidly developing commercial community requires. That function is still an important one to the individual solicitor, but for the profession as a whole the emphasis must gradually shift to the social aspect. As Dr. Rosevear Pounds, the most eminent of Anglo-American jurists, has said, "Let us talk of jurisprudence as a science of social engineering. Engineering is a process, an activity, not merely a body of knowledge or a fixed order of construction."

The conservatism of the legal profession has been one of the most virulent features of the common law in the past, but if it prevents a realisation of the true aims of law it may well be a handicap in the future. Law will become a more trade—somewhat skilled, no doubt, but a trade nevertheless.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

If lawyers are to retain their prestige in the community, there will have to be a great change in the quality of their knowledge, and a greater change in the teaching of law. The lecture system cannot provide adequate instruction, particularly in the principles of the common law. Few people carry away from a lecture in an unfamiliar subject more than a few vague impressions which the passage of time will completely obliterate, and which even the most lurid note-taking cannot properly revive. The only satisfactory method of learning and understanding legal principles is by individual effort; when a student has investigated a branch of law for himself it is rarely forgotten. There are two ways of applying this axiom.

1. The case system, as adopted in leading American Law schools. Instead of carefully studied notes or text books, students are given large numbers of decided cases to read, and (with appropriate correction) deduce for themselves the principles governing the particular branch of the subject under study.

2. The Oxford Tutorial System, consisting of lectures, but with a minimum of essays involving individual research, discussion by small groups on given topics, and moots involving argument on selected facts.

It appears that the most readily adaptable method for New Zealand conditions would be a compromise between these two. Law students at Victoria are fortunate in having a teaching staff which is widely awake to the need for improvement and to the methods by which it can be best achieved, but there are two obstacles to an immediate change.

OBLASTICES.

The first is that more time for study is a prerequisite. Most law students work in offices during the day, and it is in this factor which has shaped the lecture system in the past. At least six hours a week would have to be taken from working time. There is every reason to suppose that in normal conditions the profession as a whole would view such a request with tolerance, if not with enthusiasm. In the meantime, a large body of law clerks caused by the war it would be perhaps too much to ask of employers at the present time.

The second obstacle is the examination system. The adoption of a new method of tuition in any one College might well place its students at a disadvantage with an outside examiner who demands the type of canned law taught elsewhere. Considerable progress has been made in overcoming this, and individual professors now have a fair degree of control over the field and marking of papers for external examination.

DUCAST VICTORIA.

In conclusion, there is every prospect of a better system of legal education on the future, though to some extent it must be temporarily shelved. Consciousness of the need for improvement among law students as a body and the co-operation and goodwill of the profession is essential. Time spent in discussion of essays and means will not be wasted. The lead must come from Victoria.

LEX.

English

In the midst of all the crying in the wilderness for faculty and departmental reform, news of the proposed new syllabus in English comes as an encouraging relief. All four stages have been overhauled and the changes come into effect next year.

The Stage I course will now be much more suitable for students taking English for only one year, and instead of concentrating on one particular period will include a general survey of English literature and place emphasis on the style and the encouraging of intelligent criticism. Students proceeding to the advanced stages will be allowed to specialise in the set periods.

SPECIALISATION.

As far as advanced classes are concerned, the most noteworthy feature is that long-needed reform—the re-contention of the excessive amount of Anglo-Saxon studied at Stage II. A choice is given at Stage III of either a predominantly literary or linguistic course, to replace the present syllabus, only one third of which is literary. Under the new scheme a student may take honours in the language and five literary papers (instead of four language and five literary papers) to merit specialisation, an essential concession at the Honours stage.

And after long years, they're going. Yes. Those "set books" which always seemed suspended in a vacuum. They were never related to the rest of literature studies in class, and the emphasis placed on them was seldom justified. Instead they will be replaced by classical critical works related to the period of literature being studied.

These are far-reaching and enlightened reforms. The provision of a more general course at Stage I, the shifting of the emphasis from language to literature at Stage II, the advanced stages, and the abolition of the old "set books" eliminate the main grievances against the old syllabus. We hope that the example of the English departments in other colleges may serve as an example to the rest of the Arts faculty in need of reform to set its own house in order.
Executive

The Executive met on Monday, July 14th, to discuss "General Policy." The general disintegration in student activity in the last few years caused the Executive to take steps to coordinate V.U.C. into a social unity. Since this new programme depends as much on each student as on the Executive we are putting our plans into your hands.

The chief points raised at our meeting were covered in the following minutes:

1. That a Social Committee be inaugurated.
2. That the number of Social Committee be limited to seven members—one Executive member, one representative of Weir House, one of Victoria House, and three other persons to be elected at a meeting of all College Clubs.
3. That Mr. Cohen report upon the formation of a College Band.
4. That the Executive extends its co-operation to all members of the Staff.
5. That every effort be made to publicise Student Relief.

A word of explanation is perhaps necessary. The Social Committee will become the machinery for extending the social unity of the College—we feel that collaboration with the staff must be an essential part of this plan and that the Student Relief Fund should receive whatever financial benefit there may be.

At the same meeting the question of general student policy was discussed and the following motion was passed:

"That the Executive regards it as its duty to uphold student liberties to the ultimate. Since the Executive has taken this stand, it behoves the students to recognize their own responsibility.

It was also moved:—

"That 'Salient!' be asked to report each meeting of the Executive and that the minutes of each meeting be attached to the Notice Board."

May we suggest that students use this new opportunity to criticize and direct Executive policy.

•

OUR MODERNS.

"WE are the stuffed men..."

—T. S. Eliot.

Twisted desires, frustrated ambition, Realisation of blankness within: We seek compensation in self-exhibition Attracting attention, by meaningless din. We are the vanguard of new generation! Feeling the jeeble and making them wish That they could like us be erotic nectars. Acclaimed by an army of still poorer fools. We can be found among all creeds and nations Assuming great airs in this hubbubbing world... I'm slow to arouse, but with shams I've no patience, By God! I'm in favour of POST birth-control. —'TALLY-HO'

Arts Faculty ... Social Science

Here are three suggestions for new units:

1. SOCIOLOGY: I would have thought that the need for this subject was self-evident, but as the powers that be are apparently disinclined to the inclusion of this subject, now is the time to come to its aid.

2. COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS: Last year Kegan Paul published a magnificent work entitled 'The Bible of the World,' being a collection of the teachings of the eight great religions. This would be an ideal textbook. A course in comparative religions is in the curriculum of every Soviet University; most of those in free China; the Turkish University, and almost in Peru, Sweden and the United States, as well as at Copenhagen, Oslo and Uppsala.

3. CITIZENSHIP: This is not an oddity. Surely if democracy is to develop it is essential that the training of those who are to decide on policies and choose their Government be developed scientifically. I have no space here to enlarge on this, but the course was outlined by the great Danish educationalist Grundtvig, and his teaching forms an integral part in the educational systems of Denmark, Switzerland, and Sweden. The future of democracy rests with its citizens and the future of its citizens rests on their education.

STORM BIRD.

"MIGHTY I AM PRESENCE," Great Host of Ascended Masters, Mighty Legion of Light, Great Angelic Host and Great Cosmic Beings! Blaze forth whatever POWER OF the BLUE LIGHTENING AND SWORD OF THE BLUE FLAME OF DIVINE LOVE IS REQUIRED TO BUSTLE FROM EXISTENCE FOREVER, all ruda, communistic teaching, all destructive activity and its cause and effect from humanity, the earth and its atmosphere this very instant! Withdraw and withdraw all energy, money and supply of every kind from those channels and make them annihilate themselves from existence on this earth forever! Replace them by the visible, tangible, ethereal, godlike and PERFECTION of the Ascended Masters, eternally sustained for the blessing of all mankind and the earth forever! (This American sect has 3,000,000 adherents.)

"SPIKE"

Contributions are solicited for "SPIKE, 1941." Prose, verse, photographs, linos and articles are needed. Send contributions to the Editor, c/o "Salient."

"ROSTRUM"

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF N.Z.U.S.A.

Order in Advance from Durie Maynor, June Holmes or Valerie Bryenton.

THINGS TO COME

Saturday, Aug. 2nd—Plunket Medal Oratory Contest. Concert Chamber, Town Hall, at 8 p.m.


Thursday, Aug. 7th—Chemistry Lecture Room at 8 p.m. Lecture by Dominion Analytic, Mr. R. L. Andrew, on "The Work of the Dominion Laboratory." Supper.

August 8-10—Winter Ascent Mt. Crawford. Energetic trip, requiring proper equipment. Leader, Brian Gavult. Skiing to Kime at limited number.

Programme for Reform

1. Abolish the University.
2. Abolish compulsory lectures.
3. Arrange loan and/or bursary system to encourage people to become full-time students.
4. Increase staff (for existing departments; don't start more departments).
5. Start (and keep going) a mixed room for students, a civilised room where the axes can meet in a civilised manner.
6. Quadruple (at least) size of art room, and get some good original contemporary pictures.
7. Redecorate, oh! redecorate the cafeteria.

J.C.B.

Co-operation

Cut down lectures to a minimum and persuade our professors and lecturers not to abdicate after lectures, but to participate in discussions, where a careful consideration of the forces operative in the life of the community is as much an integral part of Varsity life as the lecture.

Surely co-operation and discussion is the only socially intelligent way of education.

Such a change in the curriculum must come by the will of the students. Hatched in the brain of officialdom the idea would fail. We must first be sure that we want such a modification—that we can stand the realistic mental discipline that such freedom entails.

I.B.
Visitors' Debate

The Debating Club met on Friday, the 18th July, to discuss the motion: "That this House has confidence in the Government," and invited members of Parliament (and Mr. Foley) to lead the debate and the public to hear it. The result was that no member of the audience was not content with the motion in hand but went on to debate with others.

Mr. Cameron, M.P., opened the case for the affirmative. He said that to decide whether a Government was worthy of confidence you must compare it with its predecessors. He traced the administration of the Government stemming from some source, the security, higher standard of living, and the equipment of our soldiers. Mr. Benson Roberts, M.P., seconded him, emphasizing the importance to the farmer of a guaranteed price and controlled marketing.

Mr. Doidge, M.P., was the leader of the negative. He was not going to have a rise in parish pump politics and introduced us to the subtle charms of a British Empire united under bourgeois democracy and the benefits of American finance capital as a social cure-all. Mr. Harmer, M.P., seconded Mr. Doidge and reduced the argument ad hominem. Mr. Foley seconded Mr. Harmer and showed that the figures quoted by Mr. Combs could not be much good because the statistical mislabels of the country showed that either there were 20,000 married women, not widows, without husband's earnings, or there were 20,000 men who were bigamists!

FROM THE FLOOR.

The speakers had been subjected to a constant fire of backchat from the floor, but they thought that the boys were just enjoying themselves.

October

"October," or "Ten Days That Shock the World," is a Russian silent film made in 1927.

The two serious purposes of all Russian directors are the propaganda of the Revolution and the creation of a new proletarian art. The Russians were quick to realize the tremendous psychological limitations of the film as an art form, but at the same time they were forced by the scarcity of film in Russia to delimit the essential aims of the cinema and to export only the most fruitful potentialities of the new art. Thus, even their earliest work makes a striking contrast with American films of the same period, with their over-dependence on simple narration of a story using frequent subjective shots.
RUGBY
FIRST XV.
The Seniors were somewhat unlucky in their encounter with Wellington. Ralph, forwards, as usual, completely dominated their opponents, and Burke once again gave ample proof that he is second only to E. H. Catley as New Zealand’s premier hooker. The backs, thanks largely to Stuckey’s unshakeable determination to bare right through Age, Hunter, were in effective, and the game was thrown away as a result. Brute strength and inexhaustible play are the Senior backbone, Gordon. Play to your wingers more.
A good win by five points to nil against Johnsonville on Saturday put Meads and Co. in fine fettle. Sam himself played splendidly and secured another of his famous “scrum trips” — valuable more because of Parsons’ man on the Japanese tour. Pat Murphy enjoyed an outstanding game, and was well supported by Bowell, Swinburne and Shaw combined well, and Stuckey proved a good full-back with his tigerish tackling and steady kicking.
JUNIOR “A.”
A much-improved side, the Junior “A” game, comported leaders, Upper Hutt, a big fight, and were somewhat unlucky to go down 5—10. It was a great game, fast, exciting, and hard. The forwards were right on the job, with Stacey, Bowell and Grayburn well to the fore. The backs tackled determinedly, Kempthorne in particular giving a man a torrid time. A. Mason played an outstanding game behind the scrum, and kicked two excellent tackles.
Next week the team broke Hart Army’s run of seven consecutive wins by a 5—0 victory in a most scrappy game. Stacey, Millar and Archibald revelled in the heavy going, while MacCool and Fowler nursed their forwards with judicious kicking. Nice work, men!

HARRIES
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS.
The course was still a bit soft when Mr. G. F. Dixon sent some fifteen runners on the start of the 61-mile championship at Silverstream. The leaders were bunched for half of the first lap, with Gir. Bowerry making the pace, but along the riverside the field began to string out, and by the end of the lap it was clear that Frank O’Flynn and Myles O’Connor would fight out the first two places for the eternity. The others were far behind.

MEN’S HOCKEY
BIG “DOINGS” RUMOURED.
The Victoria College Men’s Hockey Club, the biggest individual hockey club in this isle, is still in its hey-day, is campaigning.
Campaigning? Yes, for more members and still more. Is the Club going to claim all Southland? No, it is stronger than last year, despite the war. Under the captaincy of Doctor Berosford (who has a very long record as a Club stalwart) and a vigorous set of officials and committee, the Club is gaining strength apace.

Buy your Suits and Sports Clothes at...
Hallenstein’s
LAMBOT QUAY

Last week we entered a new team (fourth) in the Competition. This week we enter our sixth! Many are new players to the game, go straight on to the field—to enjoy as rapidly improving amateurs a game that requires more training, more technical skill, than any other field sport.

Why these new teams? Why these new players?
Because of the amazing keenness, the exhilarating Club spirit and cooperation.
Because we have an efficient, efficient coach-training scheme. New players learn the game easily and enjoyable under the scientific methods of Norman R. J. Gilsen, sometime N.Z. Hockey Captain, assisted by Harry Scott and George Shaw.

Contact, with the Hockey Association has facilitated the interchange of Training College and ‘Varsity players so that everyone has a game. Everyone.

The new teams aren’t left to battle alone, but they’re helped on their way to victory.

Ralph Keen (ex-Senior “A” half), back into hockey again after a serious illness with O’Connor, who hasn’t been happy for some time, is expected to win by 5 seconds in 39.28. Ted Dismen ran an excellent race and finished third in 40.9, while Dick Daniel (40.45), rather off form, just managed to beat a strong club from Peter de la Mare (40.46). Gir. Rowberry finished sixth in 40.12.

The Club will have to put its best foot forward to win the Dixon Trophy in the inter-varsity race next August. Myles O’Connor is in excellent touch, but Ralph Fenton, who, unfortunately, took a wrong turning in the Club Championships, should be a strong competitor for the additional place. Gir. Rowberry will improve his place over the provincial course, and the rest of the team seems fairly clear.

SPORT
A WELL-BUILT HOUSE.
The Football Club has had a difficult year. But it has been beyond all doubt a successful one.

In reviewing the past four or five seasons we are compelled to admit that the selection of the First Fifteen has not been without its happy choice. Promising youngers—Rose, MacGoan, H. MacVittie and Fitzpatrick—were names that were well known—to mind—were compelled to look elsewhere for promotion. Those who stayed on had their enthusiasm blunted by being pointedly overlooked when a “reputation” man from another centre made claim to a vacant position.

All this has now changed. The Senior Fifteen has come “up through the grades” and shown that it can deliver the goods. Webb, Rowell, Cumling, Innes and MacLennan have proved their ability against the very best opposition. Men have made the Seniors this year solely on their merits, and the promotions of Murphy, Swinburne and Kilpatrick have been more than justified by results.

This policy has paid us a handsome dividend; not so much in championship points—they will arrive later on as a matter of course—more in a remarkably enthusiastic team spirit right throughout the grades. This is the most valuable asset the Club can ever possess.

O.J.C.

whole of the second lap, and it was not until the last two hundred yards that Myles O’Connor took the win by 5 seconds in 39.28. Ted Dismen ran an excellent race and finished third in 40.9, while Dick Daniel (40.45), rather off form, just managed to beat a strong club from Peter de la Mare (40.46). Gir. Rowberry finished sixth in 40.12.

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ARATE
In spite of bad weather, a successful winter season of Mr. Arthe, Northern Tarauas, was last made last weekend. As the river was high it was Saturday night the party reached Te Matare. Arthe was climbed early on Sunday morning but the snow conditions were not difficult.

As this is the last “Sallent” until September 17th, we extend to all College Sports Clubs our best wishes for a successful and victorious season.

Women’s Hockey
In their last three games our girls have had a wonderful run over W.Y.C.A. at Newtown in very bad conditions, and took a toll of the best teams in the grade, and a 6—2 defeat by Hutt Valley at Newtown. This game was very disappointing. On a firm ground against opponents in no way superior, Variety played well in the first spell, and in the second spell after leading 2—1 could not rouse sufficient vigour to hold out Hutt Valley’s desperate last-minute attack. Their forwards broke through with relentless pressure, scoring five easy goals in the last ten minutes. Irene appeared to be suffering from a hangover, and later recovered. She had only focussed on the ball three times during the game, several times she saw two balls simultaneously but invariably played the wrong one. Keep it till Saturday night, Irene. The backs were outplayed every time during this critical few minutes, and the forwards wanted what chances they had. Result: a bad defeat where a win or at least a draw should have been gained.

The team however is improving its combination and attack, and with hard work and luck may yet finish half-way up its grade.

The junior team has played two games so far and, though inexperienced, shows considerable keenness and the ability to learn. Don’t be discouraged by initial defeats, Juniors.