Modern Trends Discussed When...

Student Congress Gets Up to Date

DESPITE a tone of aloofness from real things among some of the undergraduates method of speech, the 1950 appointment of student officers, and the success of its predecessor in 1949.

Besides addresses and discussions on stimulating topics, the ten days were filled with swimming, cycling, croquet, table-tennis, fishing, and... "Bandanna Rossa" first favourites, trying on the new rage and doing. They culminated with some plucky decisions affecting students—reached by all the Con guests. We trust NZUSA will treat them less irresponsibly than it did last year's resolution.

A violent wind

Saturday morning, official opener W. M. B. Neil spoke on modern trends in politics. He had much to say about the generality of the 21 gun salute on the 21st March, to thank the Allied soldiers. The same feeling was expressed by the students, as they knew that the menace of communism should cure the pacifism of young woolly idealists. He quoted as awesomely from Vogt's "voces viva nos vivum survival". He indignantly denied that Britain's hand in Malaya and Burma was an "Iren". Mr. Smith gets his facts from a different place from where I do. ("Iren" not Hure). Training Call's Walter Scott gave us his opinion of "modernity literature" that evening. He deployed the tendency of decline in the arts, and his admiration for the gentleness and simplicity of the old school. He expressed the feeling that moderns are not moderns, that the pacifist stance and peaceful solutions are written about but not generally practiced, it is filling the same satisfactions as pulp fiction for a more sophisticated audience.

Ivory Lovers

Dr. Peter Muza described his personal association with congress through, I don't know, old tales of history, rejecting Spengler, Marx, Popper and Toynbee in turn, the more violently to embrace Muzani. The key to his faith is that "normal standards of truth are insufficient for the historian an event is only what it appeared to be to its participants..." Prof. Marshall, on "trends in social policy", saw all the troubles of the world as due to social relationships. His story as the UN Oxford group was blocked by the general line of thought... one pointed question asked if Prof. Marshall's presence would mean that unless people would solve the real problems of war, depression, juvenile delinquency and the breakdown of the family, these would not be due to the more fundamental facts of a parasitic alienation, and a considered "Not at all. Anyhow wars are peopled are outside our province." Events and words

"Drunk" from Kenneth Popham of Wellington University, a review of the activities of the week, described how the... "The spirit of the students, the spirit of the students, the spirit of the students...". He... a recent attack in the "Student" was later from the NZUSA with the calling of another "International Student Congress" by the British National Union. VUC Students Report...
OUR PART—AND YOURS

We enter our 12th year of publication with a return to our usual full four pages. The reason for this return is many, but we think the main justification is that we can give you a far more topical and rapid coverage of events in the college and out, in a weekly. Too often in the past, excellent reports and reviews have lost their point because the thing discussed was forgotten by the time it was noted in print. This will be a major gain, and we hope that it will be reflected in an increased interest in the opinions which you and we air in these columns.

For the staff, it means a great deal more work and organisation; most of us are part-timers, and you will appreciate what it means to cut down even more on the slender allowance of spare time made available in a university that supports it. How? First, by buying it. "Salient" can be almost self-supporting, with an increase in circulation; if you prefer to read it over someone’s shoulder, but do not pay for it, you may pay in the end after all. Next, and just as important, we want it regarded as an opportunity to get your views aired. That is its chief raison d’etre. Our staff are volunteers (except the editors, of course) and they do the job simply because they believe that it matters whether a college has some outlet for its views—and think that students ought to have opinions worth expressing.

"Salient" is "an organ of student opinion," but it can’t function if you don’t say what you think in writing. The staff can’t possibly write it all themselves, and it would be a bad thing if they did; the effect of the paper depends largely on the number of people in the college who are interested enough to use it. If those people don’t all think alike, or don’t think as we do, then so much the better. A university should be a place where friction whets the edge of thought, not where disagreement in the past, present, too, and the future result of the weekly issue will be to establish "Salient" as an institution for expression in VUC: a fortnightly, however well done, amid the million claims on a student’s attention, tends to be regarded as an apocryphal event, appearing from Lord knows where, and Heaven knows how.

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THE CRITIC ON THE HEARTH

THE literary page (or rather back page) in each weekly issue of "Salient" is, we hope, going to cover a much wider field than formerly. To do this will require the cooperation of those who are interested in the arts, or in any one field.

We want critical reviews of films, plays, musical performances, books, art showings, and anything else you can think of which should fit into this section.

Critical appreciations of writers and poets, original verse and criticism of it would help to make the literary page worthwhile—as it ought to be to a university. If you're sufficiently interested in films, concerts, art showings or plays, to attend them, you are the person we need. If you are willing to do even one review during the year, please submit your name, address and telephone number to the Literary Editor, or write to him in particular interest. Then, if we want a review, we can contact you.

When we say "review," however, we mean a critical review: one which assesses, not merely describes. And if possible, make it short: restrict reviews to 400-450 words. Our space is limited.

—E.M.G.

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THE MUSICAL HORIZON

NOW that "Salient" will be published more frequently, it will be possible to run a regular column on the musical activities of Wellington. It is my intention to turn this space into a "lireside talk," as it were, discussing coming events, delivering some criticism on works and artists heard, and, incidentally, putting in word or two on broadcasting programmes and new gramophone records. It will be without pattern so far. Nor are the weighty pronouncements made by an expert: they stem from an amateur in music listening and music making, and if they evoke fierce criticism on the part of "Salient" readers, so much the better.

The season is only just emerging from its long slumber, and all I can do today is to dispose forthwith of the National Orchestra's announcement of its activities for 1960. Under the baton of Dr. Balsom, it was not much fun, I thought—as if the component parts of our main music-making body were grimly reassembling in the untemperately hot weather of mid-February. I was a bit late in tuning in, but managed to listen to Smetana's famous "Bartered Bride" overture and it was a far from pleasant experience. There was neither unity of playing, nor freshness of rendering. However, it is certainly too early to judge the orchestra and its new conductor. The programmes so far outlined are interesting enough, and solosists like Collett, Turner and Gray Hall hold some promise. Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto will be a healthy change from the romantic thundering of the last year's main crops—Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Grieg, etc. I am also looking forward to Vaughan Williams' Sixth Symphony.

Beethoven and Willner

The prospects for chamber music are most promising. Gerard Willner has already started on the complete cycle of Beethoven piano sonatas under the auspices of the Regional Council for Adult Education.

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VUC Swords Club

Since the Club's activities were last reported in detail, its members have won many notable victories in competition, both men's and women's. We shall report on the following most significant bouts shortly.

F. Flaws won the men's sabre, and was runner-up in the foil. He also won the epee and the 45 points against the following members gained success:

R. Flaws won the epee, with P. Hampson and N. Rumsey second and third.

Juliet Burrell was runner-up in the women's foil, and Alison Keys was third. We also gained second and third in the Junior women's champs.

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