

# Salient

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

Vol. 14, No. 4

Wellington, April 26, 1951.

By Subscription

## Democracy in New Zealand

### No Democracy Without Christianity

For see your calling brethren, how not many wise, not many mighty, not many noble are called, but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world . . . the weak things . . . the base things . . . the things which are despised.

(1 Cor. 128-7-8.)

YOU will see the relevance of the text when I say that I want to think out with you some elementary thoughts about the relationship between Christianity and Democracy. And it seems so true of democratic government that not many wise, or mighty, or noble men are called to it, but that it has to work through the foolish, through the weak, the base and the despised. That surely is where many of the problems peculiar to democracy arise—that ordinary folk govern, and that therefore it's terribly important what kind of person the ordinary man is.

Where, then, stands democracy in our culture to-day, and what has Christianity to say about it?

#### DEMOCRACY IS DIFFICULT

1. Now do you recognise what an extraordinarily difficult system of government democracy is? It makes tremendous demands on all of us. In a dictatorship the ordinary man has no responsibility, and if things go wrong, at least he is not responsible for them, and in an emergency he can cut off the heads of the powers that be, as he did in the case of Charles I, Louis XVI, and the last Czar. But when you have government by the people you have great difficulties. There is the obvious one—decisions can be intolerably slow in being reached and in being acted upon. But others are more fundamental. The people are not ipso facto protected from doing wrong—in an election they may be swayed by passion, by selfishness, by fear, by anything except the highest good of all. Selfish class interests are just as possible in a democratic government as they are in a dictatorship. Just to have a democracy is by no means the panacea that some of our American friends would have us believe, because in democracy we are dealing with people, and immediately we come up against the age old Christian teaching, shown in our generation to be a fact, that man is unredeemed and shows himself by his action to be sinful. And it is this sinful human being that democracy turns into a ruler.

In times past, this was not always recognised. From the days of Tom Paine and Rousseau, democracy seemed to have a chance. Men believed in men, and felt they were good enough to be trusted with government. The development of the scientific era at first seems to substantiate this belief. Man was evolving so satisfactorily that soon he would have everything under his control: with the power that science was giving him, he would soon be able to govern the universe. It was left to our generation to realise the truth of Christian Teaching, that man with all his knowledge, with all his progress, is simply not good enough to be trusted with the power that science and technology have given him. But we can see clearly enough now at the beginning of this century there was a secular philosophical basis for democracy, in the belief that scientific discovery would not only make men

more comfortable, but also better. We know now that this is not the case.

#### SELF INTEREST — NOT DEMOCRACY

2. I said that democracy makes great demands on us. Two of the greatest are probably these—that we must take the responsibility of government seriously; and that we must be able to trust each other and work out this trust in a deliberate attempt to seek the greatest good of all. I want to see now whether these demands are being accepted here in democratic New Zealand.

Very briefly, about the first—we do not accept our responsibilities. Within the last six months there have been two very important elections in Wellington—the City Council election and the Brooklyn by-election. In both, only about fifty per cent of the electors voted. That speaks for itself, and one can only add that it is of such apathy that dictatorships are born.

Now for the question of trust and seeking the highest good of all. The Librarian of this College has written a very good and fresh history of New Zealand. One of the interesting points he makes bears on our subject. It is that every government in New Zealand has governed in the interests of one class. For the first 40 years, the government used the whole economy of the country on behalf of the squatters. The Maori Wars were just one of the results! Under Massey and Ward, government was in the interests of the small farmers. From 1935-49 the Labour government used the economy of the country on behalf of the working people. And perhaps we can add to Mr. Miller's findings and say that now it is used for the benefit of those uneasy bedmates—big business and the farm.

There is here an example of selfish class interests by all groups: and certainly it is difficult to find many seeking the highest good of all.

We have an even more striking example in the industrial disputes of to-day. On the one side we see a union, which by the very nature of the work, encourages into its ranks not always the best of working men: a union which seems to have quite a good claim for better wages and conditions, and yet which, in the quality of work done in the past, has little to justify them: a union which has always seemed to fly to direct action. On the other side, the ship-owners, notorious the world over for being

ultra conservative and for being difficult to get on with. All this is complicated by a government which has introduced the most iniquitous code of regulations yet seen in Western democracy—regulations which limit any attempt to put the union's case and result in any public criticism being stifled.

On the one hand we see a democratically elected government seeking to gain its own ends by undemocratic action; on the other, a democratically elected union executive seeking to gain its own ends at the expense of the rest of the community. Here is a vivid example of democracy going wrong. In fact, it is not too much to say that it seems obvious that such an impasse is the natural outcome of democracy in an unconverted world. We have moved a long way from Tom Paine and Rousseau.

Does this mean that democracy has failed and must fail?

#### SECULAR FAILURE!

3. There have been various secular attempts to find a way out. They all agree with Christianity that to improve matters you must change men. Communism claims that the redemptive act is the Communist Revolution—by means of which men will change from selfish beings into those desiring the highest good of all. We have not seen this result yet, and as we look at countries who are experimenting on these lines, we see no signs of success. Non-Christian Socialism has felt much the same, but with different emphasis—that the process of lifting men up from the level of beasts to that of human beings by political and social action will change men, and cause men to work for the common good. There is little in the history of our country in the last fifteen years to substantiate this claim. The Christian will always feel that there is much good in socialism—security of employment, an adequate wage, labour and capital sharing, the control of industry, security in old age, are merely laudible objectives—but as the Christian looks at the New Zealand scene, he will be forced to deny that so far it has succeeded in changing selfish human nature and that, in fact, without some other factor, the Welfare State, necessary though it is in this unredeemed world, will actually increase the sin of selfishness in man.

#### CHRISTIAN ANSWER?

4. Well, has Christianity an answer? Yes it has; but there is no short cut to it. Christianity starts with God and His relationship with men. God has made man to do His will in this world. Because man is God's highest creation he has personality and with that, as an essential part of his being, free will either to co-operate with God and do His will in the world or to reject that will. He has used his free will consistently against God's will. This has shown itself primarily in the sin of selfishness, so that man, instead of living a God-centred life of service to his fellow men, has chosen the jungle way of existence.

So Christianity says that first and foremost a man's life must be changed, so that he no longer lives a selfish life, selfish either for himself or for his class or group. Christianity claims that the redemptive act is through the action of God displayed

in the Incarnation—the life, work, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the extension of that work in the Christian church.

We claim that this changed life lived in the redeemed society, the Church, will show itself not in selfishness but in love. This love is directed primarily to good and displays itself in the worship of God, the desire to please God, and the desire for the best possible good for our fellow men. This will lead us into all kinds of action. It will lead us primarily to go out and vigorously proclaim the Gospel of Salvation; and at the same time (because the Christian is a realist) it will lead us to try and work out Christian principles in the unconverted world around us. This will, in the context of our subject to-day, lead us to be unpopular with many groups and camps, because we will be striving for the Christian principles of unselfishness, of community rather than group interests, of liberty and of sacrifice for the common good and you will find, if you pursue this course honestly, that one group will hail you as the willing tool of the navy-blue reactionaries, and that another group will denounce you as red revolutionaries. If that happens, never mind—there is hope for the Church if she becomes unpopular!

#### THE COURAGE OF GOD

There, as I see it, is the dual role that you and I as Christians are called upon to play to-day. On the one hand, and primarily, proclaiming again and again that human nature must change, and that God in Christ can change it. On the other hand, and at the same time seeing that as far as is possible in this unconverted world Christian principles are applied as between man and man.

The urgency is great. Christianity does not maintain that democracy is the only possible form of government. But I think that most Christians would agree that it is the highest form so far attained. We feel that it is so high that without Christianity it must fall, because by itself it cannot change the ordinary man; and democracy is government by the ordinary man.

Without the change that Christianity brings, men will not accept full responsibility, will not trust each other, will not seek the highest good of all and in disgust men will allow tyranny to govern, whether the Fascist form we knew in Italy and Germany, the Communist behind the Iron Curtain, or that of the Big Business and Party Boss that we see in the U.S.A.

We Christians have our task, and we must get to it. But I would like to close with this warning. Let us get to it as Christians—as people who have turned to their God through Christ, who are continually and regularly returning to Him in worship, and who, with the indwelling spirit of God in their hearts will take the inspiration, the clear thinking, the courage, they have found in their worship out into the world to tackle problems like those we have been discussing.

This sermon was preached by the Rev. Allan Pyatt, M.A., at an S.C.M. University Service held at Victoria College on 8th April, 1951.

# Salient

## That Hallowed Tradition

**S**ALIENT'S tradition has two parts, one red, by which is meant reflective of Socialist and Communist ideas and ideals, and the other that set out by Old Timer in our first issue of 1951. The second part is in keeping with the traditional rights of criticism and intelligent vigilance which belongs to a University.

These two are not synonymous and their apparent coincidence for thirteen years has been as much the result of expediency as of reason.

Expressed in vigorous and often emotive prose this "double tradition" earned Salient the title of "red rag."

It was not the Old Timer tradition, although of course many fainthearted and woolly-minded oppose that too, not the espousal of causes worthy and unworthy that rankled. The irritant was supplied by the red tradition with its own peculiar approach so often echoing, following and changing with the Party line of Communism. Salient's mind has been so made up, so blind to the protests and achievements of other people as to give it an air similar to that which has become the hallmark of Stalinist-Leninist-Marxism. There was, it appeared, a Salient way of sucking a lollipop, an anti-fascist way, a way which only the very left had discovered or dared to proclaim.

Some of the staff, not including the Editor, are in sympathy with both parts of the tradition. All the Staff agree with Old Timer. Those who disagree with the red tradition do so for various reasons but mainly because they see both possible political choices to be imperfect. One, Communism more than the other. Taking an overall view Communism is a greater evil, for Capitalism at least allows some independence of thought.

By adopting this basic attitude of choosing the lesser of two evils it is possible, for example to judge the Korean intervention. The United Nations is justified since the aggressor was clear, although the resolution was illegal. In the waging of war, however those who do not accept the red tradition can and do criticise both sides, including the forces of the United Nations since it does not imply perfection for them.

Political dogmatism is a foolish process particularly by the ill-informed and even more so when the decision is dictated by a tradition that Socialism and/or Communism is certainly right and Capitalism certainly wrong in every instance.

In a University newspaper a more impartial approach is necessary. Criticism and discussion, bitter and ruthless argument is desirable but not an approach predetermined in every circumstance, in all aspects. The policy should be directed towards a fair treatment of every question.

A Salient Editor, rightly unable to impose his view or refuse copy can only encourage impartiality by balancing copy if there is sufficient offering, correcting gross errors of fact and by use of the editorial.

Every effort will be made to be impartial, to follow Old Timer's tradition and provide a forum for student opinion. It can never be assumed that the Editor or all the staff agree with staff articles or even with the general tone and bias of any issue for that depends entirely upon contributors and the Staff.

## A LETTER IN THE DARK

**S**IR,—First year students at the college are exhorted to take an interest in the various College organisations. Most students support the clubs, but to the "fresher" the parent body, the Executive, seems to be an august body which meets behind closed doors at odd hours to decide Collegiate affairs, and which has no interest in freshers as such. This, I know, is not true. However, it is true that the Executive keeps new students in the dark about its times of meeting, and the rights and privileges of new students.

I have asked various "freshers" the time of the Executive meeting; they did not know. Surely if the Executive expects an interest to be taken in Student Association affairs the Executive meeting should be more publicised. An agenda of the meeting to come should be posted on the notice board, together with the time of the meeting. And what does the "fresher" know of the Executive? Perhaps their names, but not their fame. Perhaps its achievements, but not its aims. The Executive should be so publicised as to give not only "freshers" but other students the chance to take an interest in the Students' Association.

T. H. HILL.

## The Biology Society & A Very Rare Bird

**I**T was the Annual General Meeting of the Biological Society, the organisation responsible for "Tuatara," and discussion centre for those who are interested in the living sciences. Thirty-five people present elected the following officers:

President—John Daneson.  
Secretary—John Ardley.  
Committee—Peter Beveridge, Ron Brunson, Jack Garrick, Beverley Holloway and Vida Stout.

After that they got round to the rare bird. Dr. Falla, of the Dominion Museum gave a talk on the once extinct but now notorious Notornis. Illustrated by slides and a colour film the talk dealt with historical background and the significance of the discovery. Mr. Sorenson, somewhat of an expert on birds himself, proposed the vote of thanks.

A comprehensive and interesting series of activities has been prepared for 1951. The activities arranged assist students and supplement lecture material by almost painless processes. Lectures normally have to be confined to past activity in the scientific field but the Society hopes to stress what is being done and what has to be done in the biological sciences.

Student support of the Society ensures that the topics are varied and not too far removed from the student.

Incidentally for the information of any non-science types who have read this far the Biological Society's film evenings are usually worth attending. Last year's films, including fascinating shots of sea birds and whales, were watched on students mainly from the science faculties. Those few aliens who did have the courage to roll up remained fascinated.

## DRAMA CLUB

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JEAN COCTEAU  
JEAN COCTEAU

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(Who brought you "The Respectful Prostitute.")

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## 'ARACHNE'

### A Critical Review

**T**HE second issue of Wellington's literary magazine "Arachne" appeared last week. This time the editors got quite near (though with delightful vagueness) to explaining their choice of title, and made some useful and clear-minded comments on the magazine's aims and function. "It will allow the unsuspected and remote to be expressed"; its material, they said, is to be diverse, unconventional, and "cathartic." Moreover the philosophical aureole given to it by a thought-provoking article "The Background of a Magazine," would indeed make for a laudable policy and profound influence—but let us first glance at the merits and defects of the moment.

The English of an intellectual magazine is prone to become pedantic, awkward or unreadable, and "Arachne," often is no exception. Nor can depth of thought, allegedly its merit, become in turn a lame excuse for such a fault. Fiction here is less important than criticisms, but the present "Arachne's" two short stories are a case in point. "Sunday" is in a New Zealand setting, but unfortunately in a "To the Lighthouse" atmosphere. The brilliant intimacy and subtlety of Virginia Woolf's best work is inimitable, but in this "story" the aftermath of maddening pointlessness and monotony is fully apparent. The other story, "The Convent" by Marcel Bisiaux, is a reverie full of meaning, but begins to sound "phony" in an inadequate translation.

Mr. E. Schwimmer's "Valerius Flaccus as a Poet" is less of an introduction to the poet than an entertaining but sketchy retelling of "Argonautica," but his two book reviews, of the poems of Hubert Witheford and Alistair Campbell, are really excellent.

W. H. Oliver's essay deals with Wordsworth's isolation in poetry through his belief in pathos, and conceives in this "Empty Country" as he calls it, a relationship with the New Zealand poets. It is an ingenious and original piece of writing.

The most enjoyable articles, however, if not the most profound, were "The Eclipse of the Market" by George Fraser, full of commonsense and quiet irony, a sane and practical discourse on capitalism, and "The Gleaming Lens" by Peter Alcock, avowedly nothing but a plea for a film summer school, but undoubtedly above the other prose in raciness and wit.

The poetry which "Arachne" has brought to light is stylishly the converse of the prose, because it is outstandingly vivid and artistic, though the "conscious virtuosos" have not always something worth saying. Nevertheless, I admired the impressionism of Alistair Campbell's lyrics, the austere pregnancy of W. H. Oliver's sonnet sequence, and Basil Dowling's powers of description and word-music. Peter Alcock's first two poems, clever as they were, seemed to resurrect the shades of much-abused Imagism, but "He Rests. He Has Travelled" and "Chorus One" are very moving and show kinship to the poetry of Dylan Thomas.

"Background of a Magazine" is perhaps "Arachne's" most important contribution to date. The style is heavy-handed, but the content clear and profound. Mr. Witheford has, in part, I feel, adopted T. S. Eliot's philosophy of modern society, but his own brilliant criticism has made it relevant to New Zealand and to "Arachne's" aims.

Until now "Arachne" has not failed even by the highest standards. But I think there should not be a continual self-conscious interposition of standards, only a renewal of the challenge of the first Arachne, whose goal was no mere "spinning of yarns," but to conquer Pallas Athene, the goddess of wisdom herself.

PETER DRONKE.

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## COMPETITION

"World Student News," IUS publication in Prague, ran a competition for the best report on the IUS Conference written by a student. Prize was a free stay at the IUS Winter Games in Rumania. "The World Student News" editors hoped that the objectivity of such reports would be in the best traditions of student journalism, and "Salient" prints some examples of what "WSN" and allied newsheets run in their English editions, just as a guide for any who wonder why VUC doesn't belong to WFDY, IUS etc. (Sorry, closing date was November 30th if anyone wanted that holiday).

## SCARE STORY

"Our students work hard to pass their final examinations as fighters for peace"—Polish theme at IUS. (That scared us straight away—if we fail we're warmongers.)

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

"The American news agencies United Press and Associated Press caused Congress to pass a resolution protesting against the stories put out by them, and to withdraw the press cards of their representatives. They had distorted a statement . . ."

## THE CAD!

One of the leaders of the Peoples Youth of Yugoslavia . . . asserted (in their magazine) that the Congress was a "Propaganda platform" . . . "separated from the mass of students."

## VUC IS PROUD OF

John Platts-Mills "Barrister," former M.P., ex Rhodes scholar who is one of the 15 British members of the World Peace Council, along with our old friend the Dean of Canterbury, Dean Chandler of Hamilton represents New Zealand, following alphabetically after Mongolian Mr. Tsendin Damdin Suren, whose name seemed like some of those Jiggs and Maggie characters—"Count Upstraight" etc.

## HARRIER CLUB NOTES

"The majority of Sofia university students took part in a cross-country race for peace . . ."

## DEVIATIONIST

"Today I would not sign the Stockholm Appeal—O. John Rogge." (Rogge used to be one of the chief apologists for the Cominform in USA, but, like Konni Zilliacus, took the Tito line after the split over Yugoslavia.)

"Yes the Russians knew about New Zealand. They asked about the Maoris, about their literature and art, about their organisations, their political organisation" . . . Prof. Winston Rhodes.

## GARDINER GETS THE BIRD—LITERALLY

Salient happened to be present when Mezzo-soprano Gardiner of the touring G and S cast got the bird—in the form of a well dead pigeon on her hat. The immediate eruption of red head Gardiner, a demand to one of the Opera House's keepers and it appears two young boys were the culprits. Did they do better than they knew?

## REALLY RHODES

In the mountain hamlet's clothing Peaks beneath Caucasian stars  
Where Waitangi's pact means nothing  
And they never heard of paks.  
Do they read Pravda's pages  
With a crib to read dit with  
"Waitangi 1840—Maoris through the Ages"  
Really Rhodes?

Do the servants of the Kremlin,  
Kulaks mining salt all sigh  
At the tale of Hinemoa?  
Do they know of kapai kai?  
And hear broadcast by Moscow  
Translated into Marx  
Maul's tale by Stalin Joe?  
Chuck it Rhodes!!  
(With apologies to G.K.C.)

## In re The Socialist Club, The Executive v. Two Meeting Organisers

V.U.C.S.A. EXECUTIVE ROOM: Wellington: 1951, April 2nd. Meetings—the Emergency Regulations—Responsibility of the Association for Meetings held in the Gymnasium—Power of Executive to call for explanations—

The Socialist Club wished to organise a meeting to be addressed by Messrs Southwall and Brooks. The Executive obtained legal opinion and were advised that providing the two speakers confined themselves to the Emergency Regulations the meeting could be held. At the meeting copies of a resolution based on one of the legal opinions setting out the conditions was handed to each speaker both of whom did not confine themselves exclusively to the subject. Both speakers were not fully aware that they were expected to confine themselves to the Emergency Regulations.

The Executive decided that they had asked for legal opinion on an assurance from Messrs. Bollinger and Piper that speakers knew they were going to speak only on the Emergency Regulations and requested Messrs Bollinger and Piper to appear before them and explain.

At the meeting no conclusion was reached and the matter was concluded with the passing of the following resolution: "That this matter be closed."

The Emergency Regulations which have prevented Salient from publishing three articles are very wide sweeping. The penalties are severe and this incident emphasises how restrictive they are. It also emphasises how necessary it is to have assurance in writing where differences are likely.

If the Executive had insisted on the representatives of the Socialist Club putting their assurance in writing prior to seeking legal advice no confusion would have been possible.

Our Executive did not wish to expose the Association to the danger of being involved in a prosecution with a possibility of a substantial fine. When they asked for legal advice they did so on what they thought was an undertaking that the speakers knew or would be informed of their subject—Emergency Regulations only. At the meeting the speakers trespassed and the Executive rightly demanded an explanation.

The explanation and the complaint of the Executive finally resolved themselves in a question of one man's word against another's. The final result was not satisfactory.

It is not possible to exonerate the Socialist Club's representatives after hearing their attempt at explanation. Certainly the matter was serious enough for them to have had more care for the good of the Association either by making sure that the obligations of each party were clear or by strictly observing their undertaking. They knew the purpose of the Regulations and the purpose which the Executive had in mind. In this case it was not a matter of defending liberties but of causing an unsatisfactory situation to arise when commonsense and reasonableness could have avoided it.

## Labour Students Confer at Auckland...

## Bursaries, China, and the Atom

"WHILE current military programmes have banished any immediate danger of recession, it would be disastrous to overlook the possible effects of a drastic setback in U.S. military spending and foreign aid if relations with Russia should suddenly improve." So writes U.S. commentator Noyes, quoted in the Evening Post editorial of March 27th. In other words, capitalism depends for its illusory prosperity on international tension and the drive towards war.

Peace, democratic rights, education, economic security—all are threatened, and all are the vital concern of New Zealand students. Korea, Menzies' cuts in education expenditure, the Emergency Regulations, form a narrowing circle illustrating one point: IT CAN HAPPEN HERE.

## GUNS v. BUTTER

The annual report from the Executive quoted facts and figures establishing the detrimental effects of the war-drive on social services and living standards. With rampant inflation, New Zealand's education budget has increased from 9.59 million by one-third since 1949, while military expenditure has increased from 8.89 million by over two-fifths, and is now 4 million up on education. The position is worse in the U.S.A., the U.K., and Australia. On the other side, the illiteracy figure for Vietnam was 85 per cent. In 1942, and has been reduced by the People's Republic of Ho Chi Minh (formerly recognised by the French) to less than 20 per cent. In 1949, The Bulgarian 1950 budget showed 30 per cent. to Education at all levels, and 7 per cent. to arms.

Defence of peace, independent thought, standards of livelihood and education are the centre of SLF's agenda for 1951. The affiliated clubs adopted a joint programme for collecting signatures to the Stockholm Anti-Bomb Appeal, pressing for national opposition to German and Japanese rearmament, demanding adoption of the revised SLF Bursary Scheme, opposing increases in fees, working for the achievement of a National Student Health Scheme,

and investigating the prices and availability of text books and hostel accommodation. Besides all this, the Federation has its perennial task of propagating the seeds of socialism in the colleges.

The Executive is to remain with VUC Socialist Club for 1951. AUC Labour Club and CUC Socialist Club show vigorous signs of life. The Canterbury Club had the biggest meeting of its history last month to hear Professor Rhodes on "Education in the U.S.S.R." and the AUC Labour Club, the hosts this Easter, organised a well-attended study-school to accompany the conference.

## PATHS TO PEACE

On Sunday afternoon, Professor Willis Alrey (History, AUC), gave a talk to a roomful of students, with the provocative title "Recognise China." He stated that never before in our history had New Zealand been committed so far and so directly in the interests of another power in the Pacific as she was to-day. He carefully analysed the world situation of global conflict of interest and belief, and showed how the recognition of the government of China's choice could play a vital part in the achievement of world peace.

In the evening, Dr. Farley (Physics, AUC) gave his views on "Peace and the Atom." He stated that Marxists were moral relativists, and would always justify dropping A-bombs on political opponents, whereas Christians, as moral absolutists, could only use it "to restrain

These trends, and what students

## POLITICAL SCIENCE IN PRINT

HOW does a person who has done Political Science only to Stage II and that a few years ago review the latest issue of the reorganised Political Science Journal?

To avoid the question for a moment "Political Science" has a new cover, it is plain, well balanced, easily read and without printers frills. The printers themselves receive due acknowledgment in a proper fashion. The price of an issue is 2/6 and the writers, neatly catalogued on page 75 appear impressive.

As the article of Public Opinion Survey dealing with the General Election shows, the Science of Politics has plenty to interest those who are just electors without using terms and words, a fashion which Professor Parker mocks in his review of "International Relations." This Survey should be of particular interest to those who still wonder why the Southern Cross didn't.

Mr. Thorn writes interestingly on the problem of Canada which is still a mixture of nationalist politics, still owes some statutory allegiance to Great Britain and suffers from lack of political unity. This article does not deal with the more profound nationalist differences but introduces the legislative setting and the steps which are being taken towards political responsibility.

With the exception of the article by J. F. Kahn on Germany today the rest of the issue requires study. Dr. Kahn has something to say about nearly every controversial topic including the occupation, war trials (not admired by the Germans), war guilt and the German approach to reconstruction. The section which promises to tell us about the great problem of Communism and the democratic Germany we hoped was coming, is not very profound. It is not that one wished for a pat answer or even an answer at all, but Dr. Kahn seems to lose the thread somewhere to return to the problem of war guilt. This is not a cheering article but at least it does not pat the allies on the back, list the current defections from Communism and go away satisfied.

MENZIES, Braybrooke and Brooks play the heavy parts or appear to, if only by reason of the number of references supplied as footnotes. They have 51 between them, but Mr. Braybrooke is the highest scorer. Reading confirms that in both articles footnotes are unavoidable. It would be foolish of me to judge these articles since both can only be criticised at length. One thought does occur after reading Mr. Braybrooke's article and that is how dangerous footnotes can be. He has to contend with suggestions made in footnotes and himself sets up another argument in one of his own.

"Political Science" is a publication which is not amateur status and the appeal made in the front for enquiries from overseas is not a case of the frog emulating the cow. I hope the standard is maintained and as it is wisely published "from time to time," removing the deadline menace and the temptation to fill up; it should be. Student support will be necessary and that must not be confined to those who study Political Science for this must be one of the subjects which are vital for a democratic citizen.

evil." He would justify A-bombing on enemy troops within your own territory, on ships at sea, troop concentrations or advanced supply centres; and said "reprisals in every case are absolutely wrong." Needless to say, debate was intense and bitter and opinion almost unanimously opposed the learned doctor's attitude.

We are sure that, led by the Dean of Hamilton and the New Zealand Peace Council, the students of New Zealand will show they disagree with Dr. Farley when a concerted drive is made for Stockholm signatures this month.

## PEACE, IT'S WONDERFUL A SPIRIT OF INQUIRY

**A** SPIRIT of inquiry is one thing that Victoria has always had, whatever its other faults," said Mr. W. H. Oliver who chaired a lunch hour meeting of 70 students who heard Dean Chandler speak of his trip to the Berlin conference of the World Peace Council.

The Dean received a patient hearing through most of his address, an apparent "walkout" at 1.30 was only the science faction off to the labs. His manner of address puzzled us. It wasn't quite the beaming urbanity of our former mayor, yet it didn't seem to fit in with "Punch" versions of country clergymen, he lacked pince nez spectacles for one thing. No, it was rather the "New Yorker's" portrayal of the Church Sewing Guild speaker so aptly drawn by the later Helen Hokinson, that was where we had seen him before.

### CHRISTIAN PACIFIST

There were times when the urbanity vanished, the Dean seemed a little tired after his town hall speech the previous night, where we understand the meeting fell rather flat with an audience of a bare 600. There was no doubting his enthusiasm, or his honesty. He was a Christian Pacifist, pure and simple. That was it, a simple soul who in the banners and slogans saw hope for a new world—the pity is, as he admitted, so many of the Peace Movement in the East would regard Communism as a prerequisite for Peace.

Dean Chandler began with the Warsaw Congress, before which he was nominated for the World Peace Council by "a Wellington lawyer." Unable to send delegates to Sheffield, they drifted to Warsaw, where there were 2400 delegates from 80 nations. He criticised the action of the British Government, a standpoint which he shared with the "New Statesman" and "Spectator."

### ONE WEAK POINT

All the way from Prague to Berlin there were demonstrations the spontaneity of which greatly impressed him. At Berlin everyone had his own approach to the problem of peace, and because charges of Communist bias were so numerous, he tried to find one weak point. The only one he could recollect was a German pastor from the East, who asked him to write to a Western address; that was suspicious. Yet when he came back to New Zealand he found censorship of the mails allowed under the current Emergency Regulations, and it didn't seem so bad.

### THE DEAN ON REFORMATION

Then there was the purge of the Roman Catholic churchmen in the East, which when you looked at it was no different from what happened in 16th Century England, and it was typical for the conservative clergy to be under suspicion when there was a progressive government. The churches in East Berlin were full, and the Metropolitan in Russia had identified himself with his government in a way no different from the Archbishop of Canterbury in England.

### QUO VADIS?

One would expect the Peace Council to be one-third Communist on the basis of its national membership, and it was possible that some of the remainder were fellow-travellers. There was an atmosphere of downright honesty, and he found the Soviet writer Ilya Ehrenberg a great attraction. He gave devastating answers to American journalists and it was obvious that the Communists knew where they were going. (The audience was rather restive at this point).

Peace was blatantly displayed in Berlin—posters, photos of delegates, demonstrations of children, peace almost gave him a headache yet it was so genuine. It was useless to say that the East was preparing for war, and that the West must rearm. Looking at the other side, he found statistics to show that both Britain and Russia's armed forces were 1.6 per cent of the population, whereas America had over three million. (Looks a bit screwy to the writer. Gen. Marshall, 21/3/51, reported nearly 3 million). The delegates received a book published in English by the North Koreans which reproduced captured documents showing all was not at fault on their side, and we did not know as much as we should about Korea.

### WRONG ALLEY

Dean Chandler had seen a letter from Rewi Alley only a month ago which gave the news (straight from the horse's mouth—the audience sat up) that the Korean war prevented a slump in America, and that big business had a part in it. (Anticlimax—why should Rewi Alley be an expert on this?)

### CHANCE TO DO

The Peace Council has a chance to do something, Dr. Fletcher of Columbia University, himself a member, had recommended him to go. They tried to bring the United Nations back to its first principles, and the attacks that had been made on the Peace Council showed how powerful it had become.

### DRESDEN—COVENTRY

Dean Chandler told of the story of his guide who went through the

bombing of Dresden, a horrible experience, these people were earnest and desperate at the thought of a Third World War; this poor girl had screamed aloud in the street when he mentioned its possibility.

In answer to interjections of "Who started the war" and "Coventry" the Dean emphasised that the fate of youth was the same regardless of country, he was telling of the experiences of those he had seen in Germany. (This, seemed a fair answer from the pacifist viewpoint, and the Dean could not be accused of defending the Germans.)

### QUESTIONS—WHAT DID THEY DO

Questions and discussion were varied, some of the answers were more pointless than the questions.

Des Hurley got down to tin tacks straight away. Apart from the slogans etc. what did the Council DO? Well, they discussed the re-arming of Germany and Japan, and some delegates reported that war propaganda had been outlawed "back home" (our phrase of course.)

### COMMUNISM COMES FIRST

Ashton Cook claimed all this was not new to Victoria. Since 1945 we had watched WFDY and IUS on the same stuff, but pacifist enthusiasm had waned when "Peace" conferences had cheered the fall of Nanking, chaired a Korean Colonel, and defined Peace as the struggle against Capitalism (Czech Minister of Education). We could not see that there was the common basis the Dean had claimed: The Dean hastened to explain that although he was a Christian Pacifist, by no means all of the others were; there would be many from the East who would regard Peace as something attainable only after Communism had taken over.

### UNRELIABLE SOURCE?

"Zealandia" was quoted at length (the reader's name escaped us) to show how a French Communist advocated the Peace movement to soften up the West so that the Soviet could attack when the time was ripe; The Dean disapproved of the source (A Catholic Weekly paper), and did not answer the question.

### WAR FOR PEACE

Were the people of Eastern Europe so keen on Peace that they would go to war to defend it, asked Frank Curtin: Yes, the Dean answered, in wartime we must all do our leaders' bidding, regardless of whether we lived in Russia or New Zealand. It was the leaders—

"Yes, but we elect ours" came an interjection which the audience applauded.

### PEACE, OR PIECE OF FINLAND

Russia still had bases in little Finland, emphasised a returned serviceman in the audience, was this helpful towards peace? He had seen what the Bulgarians had done to the Greeks, and it was not his idea of Peace. No very telling answer.

### WOT, NO BOMB?

Mr. Wilpre was surprised that the Dean had not mentioned at all the Stockholm Appeal to ban the atom bomb, which was so prominent in the work of the "Peace Movement."

Our lunch hour had gone, we had to leave . . . "If the Zealandia article is true, then I am one of those gullible people who have been gulled into supporting . . ." the Dean had said.

We read that the Dean's fare was paid by the World Peace Council in Paris.

A . . . spirit . . . of . . . Inquiry . . . that was what the Chairman had said.

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Dance**  
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On June 1st  
Sub. 1/6.

## BRING OUT YOUR DEAD

**A** POLITICAL paper must be as dependent on the whims of fate as is a politician. 1951 will see the centennials black-bordered: an obituary year in the history of New Zealand journalism. It has seen the demise of two political journals.

"The Southern Cross" was born in 1946,—by the Labour political machine, out of the pockets of socialist workers. Pretences at socialism died out when Les Edwards' editorials ceased in 1947, and Dick Scott's "Farm Notes" grew fewer and further between. Faithful unto death was a handful of young L.P. members on the reporting and sub-editing staff. Maybe these relics of a socialist conscience were responsible for the ghosts that appeared from time to time in odd corners of the paper to haunt the dreams of senescent front-benchers . . . Reports of public meetings of the Peace Council, an interview with Professor Rhodes (Russian snow still glistening on his boots), unbiased comments on industrial news, a remarkable admission on the Sharma case . . . The report of smiling Chinese soldiers helping a southbound British truck out of the Korean mud was headed "TOMMY MEETS THE 'ENEMY'" . . . A photo of MacArthur with a caption from Moscow "New Times," was headlined: "MacArthur—CRIMINAL" . . . The earlier policy of suppressing unfavourable letters broke down towards the end, and the floodgates were opened to the noisy torrent of old Labourites protesting against the Labour leadership, against a servile foreign policy, against encroachments on civil liberties, and faltering unionism . . . How often buzzed the lines from the Prime Minister's office (happy days) and the Biscuit Workers' Union . . . shrill protests against protests.

Our second mourned last appeared last year. She is "Charta"—no twinkling stars imagined in her name, but dry old parchments,—an implied contrast between leftist romanticism and rightist "rule of law." She was younger, never saw her second birthday. The rich, the great, and the respectable, who had often grieved at VUC christenings, drank Charta's toast with much cheer as she was dunked in the water. An antidote to Salient, to the Socialist Club, to the deplorable fellow-travelling liberalism that was overcoming the SCM. Dammitall, Lenin, was quite right—got to have a press to put the line across. . . Half-a-dozen issues of cheapjack sensation, an occasional thought worth the ink and the paper. "There grows a substantial conception abroad that Charta lives on the smell of a negative. How often does its parent society meet? Its largest meeting, harangued by a retired general, is greeted in the daily papers as being "dominated by the Socialist Club." Ah me! Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new, said the shepherd-boy when his cobbler Lycidas kicked the bucket. Charta's latest editor goes marching into the throne of Salient, and Charta gasps and dies.

Southern Cross and Charta: "They were lonely and pleasant in their lives, and in death they were not divided."—PAETISAN.

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## Things Requiring to be Objected to . . . NO HONOURS FOR BEOWULF

BY S. J. HARDING  
and  
P. A. Hutchings

ANY discussion of a particular course of study is bound to raise eventually the question of the end of University education, which is in its turn apt to involve even wider issues; however there exists in the university certain anomalies and confusions of aim so striking that one can raise valid objections to them without obligating oneself to produce a whole view of education as a frame of reference. This article has been written to express a dissatisfaction which the authors believe to be widely felt among students, and particularly Honours students, in the English faculty.

Anglo-Saxon (or if you prefer Old English—an obscure pedantry) officially comprises one-sixth of the English course in Stages II and III and one-seventh in Honours, but the student knows from experience that it occupies far more than one-sixth of his time. He is faced with what is virtually a foreign language which would, even were the normal grammatical instructions given in lectures extensive enough, require a great deal of effort to master fully, but as any time over the strict sixth part spent on A-S is time borrowed from another paper he is driven to find some way of passing the examination without actually learning any Anglo-Saxon. It is with the tacit approval, if not the blessing, of the Department that he resorts to learning his texts word by word, line by line. Having no insight into, and usually and quite understandably, no interest in what he is doing, he translates with a crib pouncing on obvious similarities and guessing the rest, acquiring a circumstantial knowledge of a certain set of passages without necessarily knowing a dozen words of the language apart from their particular contexts.

### CRACKS AT ANGLO-SAX

While we fail to see (for reasons we shall discuss below) that OE has much importance at all in the course, even if more rationally studied, we cannot but regret that any subject in a University should become so intellectually useless—so trivial. Yet it is just this triviality, especially in the Honours year that takes up for many students more time than all the other papers put together.

If Anglo-Saxon is to be studied at all it should be done intensively by intending specialists, and not in the perfunctory fashion that is usual with students who learn it because they have to and not because they want to. It should constitute a separate course and not, at least in Stage III and Honours, be compulsory for anyone but linguists, for not only is a little crammed knowledge of A-S texts valueless in itself, but the necessity for it is a positive menace to the student of literature. The Honours student who takes the language options, can if he has the requisite ability and a very grim determination, cover all his course and commit the more important parts to memory in one of two years, but a genuine knowledge of literature, as anyone with a degree in it ought to admit, requires a great deal

more reading, and thinking about what has been read, than can be fitted even into the whole four-year course.

What the student of literature represents quite justly is part of an alien and intricate specialisation (the whole of BEOWULF with all his works, pomps, textual apparatus and German editors) boring in itself and utterly valueless when studied apart from cognate Scandinavian literature being imposed upon him, with no scrap of justification apart from that implicit in a doctrinaire adherence (as we find in Lewis's article in "Rehabilitations") to the principle of historical completeness. For even if he has picked up a little of the language (and if he has it is probably been by neglecting his other papers) what value is a knowledge of A-S to him as a student of literature? Very little. He has not been given the key to a whole new literature, for Anglo-Saxon is limited both in quantity and in range and when, with a good deal of trouble, he has acquired this proficiency in the language he finds that there are no further texts to read that have any more intrinsic value or interest than those he has become so painfully familiar with already.

### THAT OE EPIC—

Beowulf, that poem of unequalled tediousness and unparalleled circumlocution whose ambitions after an expansive magnificence are circumscribed only by the paucity of the author's invention, his conviction that epic grandeur can be achieved by the constant repetition of the epithet "greatest," by a retelling of the whole story twice over on the slightest occasion—this monument of dullness which he has just read is the showpiece, so that the means and the end of his story prove to be identical. He has wasted his time in an intellectual treadmill which could not have dissipated more thoroughly his energies if it had been consciously designed for the purpose. (There is, to use an expressive if colloquial phrase, no future in it). OE literature has sprung an ill-favoured Minerva from the first page of his first book of selections, a mensk lady on molde mon may hir calle, for Gode!

### FRUSTRATION NOT LEARNING

Anyone who has suffered this frustration of three years highly unrewarding study of OE can join heartily with Professor Leavis in his complaint—

"on the plea that unless he knows

Anglo-Saxon and the History of the Language (most of which he will leave behind in the examination room) he cannot properly understand modern English, the student is prevented from acquiring any real understanding of anything."

—F. R. Leavis in "Education and the University," p. 136.

It seems unfair to the lecturers in language that they should be forced, like high school teachers, to teach classes who may not care a button for their subject, at a pace and on a level that must be intolerable for both the teacher and the student with a flair for linguistic, unfair to the literature lecturers who cannot get the maximum co-operation from always slightly pre-occupied students themselves who are forced so to divide their attention, and often to do full justice neither to themselves nor to the quality of the Department's teaching.

One is inclined to regard other departments (even though they may not be otherwise as good as Victoria's) where Anglo-Saxon has been given entirely to the specialists, as versions of the Ideal. There must indeed be a large number of students who feel envious when they reflect on the possibilities of any Honours school "... emancipated literary studies from the linguistic grinds where the candidate for Honours was under no compulsion to spend himself on Anglo-Saxon and the rest."

F. R. Leavis, "Education and the University," Preface.

### BOOK REVIEW . . .

#### MEN ON A RAFT

THINKING of taking a luxury trip by air or steamer? Why bother?—much better to go on a raft, and cheaper, too! If you haven't been on that adventure with Kon-Tiki and Thor Heyerdahl, you should go at once.

The supreme quality of "Kon-Tiki" is that it includes you. While you are reading it the room becomes a bamboo cabin, and you are under the guidance of "Kon-Tiki," the god of the sun, tossing about on the Pacific, with unknown fish in your bed. You haul in sharks by their tails, and greet your other fishy friends from your observation basket.

The writer and originator of the expedition is a scientist studying ethnology, and is specially interested in the problem of the origin of the Polynesians. He does not forget that many of his readers are interested in his observations from scientists' point of view. At the same time his story is so alive with adventure that on one, however much or little they know about his subject, can resist its appeal.

"Kon-Tiki and I," written by another member of the party, Erik Hesselberg, is entirely different. This picture story book is personal, which perhaps endears it to us even more than Kon-Tiki. It changes with the moment, to give us comments on the gravest situations, and light-hearted chatter, with a good laugh over a Hula dance.

I would not recommend "Kon-Tiki and I" for those who have not read Kon-Tiki; it is more a book to keep and bring down to revive memories of your trip across the Pacific.

As for the scientific side—I have not attempted to deal with it here. It deserves a full volume, and will get it when Thor Heyerdahl's book on it comes along. Meanwhile, hurry to Peru.

In Response to Enquiries!!  
Catholic Students' Guild  
"Integrity" and "Pax Romana"

THE President of the Catholic Students' Guild, Des Hurley, informs us that copies of "Integrity," a Catholic Social Monthly, and "Pax Romana," the paper of the world-wide organisation of Catholic students can be obtained through him by writing to him through the common room letter racks.

He has sample copies available on loan for those interested.

### Film Review . . .

#### "STATE SECRET"

#### Political Thriller

THE idea of Douglas Fairbanks Junior being a surgeon with a world reputation is comic enough. His performing his usual he-man antics in this role, and in the midst of a macabre nightmare supposed to represent a country east of the Oder, was a screaming farce. In this fairytale world, the people are sullen and unapproachable, and yet they cheer ecstatically at the sight of their Premier, and (like the eminently pleasant cable-car driver) they are cheerfully loyal to their government. They live under the fear of "secret police," yet all the constabulary wear flamboyant uniforms and rush about manhandling suspected citizens in the street. They are technically backward and carry their produce to market in bullock-drays, yet they have slick sanatoria, motor highways, and railways. The government is tyrannical, yet the only effective help a victim of brutality, is from a black-market racketeer and a vaudeville whore. The members of the government are represented as being fanatical for their cause, and yet they are at the same time cynical and worldly-wise.

"State Secret" consists of nonsensical contradictions woven into a hymn of hate. Dr. Markow comes to "Volonia" by invitation, performs an operation on the failing Premier, who dies (presumably as a result). Although there is a stand-in to make public appearances, the Government cannot allow the doctor loose with the knowledge of the Premier's death. Colonel Galcon (hideous lantern-jawed Jack Hawkins) is the Cabinet Minister who seems to have nothing better to do than to give chase after the doctor across the countryside in an American automobile. The doc is trying (unsuccessfully) to reach the U.S. Embassy, is hidden by the prostitute from the music hall (Glynis Johns) who does a hair-raising alpine crossing with him—straight into a trap laid by the diabolical Galcon. Then events throng fast—the stand-in is shot publicly, the cat is out of the bag, and doctor and lady-friend are turned free to go back home to the wonderful western world where there is still freedom, and, presumably, the Ku Klux Klan, Tamany Hall, MacArthur, smallpox, and coca cola. What a thrill. —PARTISAN.

#### £50 IN THE C.C.R.C. KINTY

PURELY by chance the C.C.R.C. met one night recently, reviewed the situation and the bank book. With £50 still to spend and criticism mounting further action was resolved immediately.

Committee members are all looking into the question of floor covering and since Extrav. will prevent it being laid this will not be completed until after the vacation. During Extrav. all the C.C.R. furniture will be stored in the Extrav. props cupboard (room?) to protect it. Notices are being prepared forbidding the removal of furniture, the broken chairs have been mended and the divans are to be found. One has already been recovered from the Little Theatre. The Executive Room is next for restoration.

The committee hopes to start permanent files of newspapers of the other University Colleges in the reading rack.

Messrs. Jeff Stewart, Chris Pottinger and Paul Cotton, the remaining committee members are pleased to notice a dozen or so regular commoners. They ask you to help by keeping the place tidy and not removing the furniture.

Suggestion: Someone has suggested that the name Common Common Room is too cumbersome—replacement: Vice Common Room.

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## NZUSA CONFERS . . .

### Bursaries—Marks—Motions Various

A CONFERENCE of the N.Z. University Student's Association was held in Auckland at the same time as the tournament. Matters arising from the August meeting minutes included the question of the Blues Panel constitution; an investigation into the holding of Winter Tournament and the Debating Tour of Australia.

The report of the Victoria College delegation (Maurice O'Brien, Paul Cotton and Val Jones) was an interesting document and certainly seemed to be much more comprehensive in coverage than the Reports submitted by the other bodies. Under the Head of Peace Council it reiterated its report of August last which informed Conference that it had refused to send delegates to the Peace Conference and noted that the special general meeting called to oppose it in this action lapsed for want of a quorum. It was a pity I believe not to mention also that Victoria Stud. Assn. accepted an invitation to the Youth For Peace Conference held in the third term of last year. Under the head of ISS, it reported that "the current Victoria attitude on the rather involved question of Student Relief seems to be that we stick to what we have at the moment." This certainly is the attitude of the Executive here now, but from conversations about the College I am quite sure that it is by no means unanimous. (See Page 6 of No. 1 of Salient for this year).

On the position of Victoria College with respect to the International Union of Students the report mentioned the sending of three delegates by the College who were also observing for the New Zealand Student Labour Federation. "As might be expected," the statement continued, "the attitude of their reports differed somewhat from the Miller Report." This report (i.e., VUCSA, observer's one) will not be cyclostyled but is available for perusal, together with the Miller Report. Quite an extraordinary statement follows this one. "There is no current move at VUC to urge NZUSA to reaffiliate to IUS." Of course it may be that such a move is not recommended by the present Executive, but the delegation ought to know that such a step has long been advocated by members of the Socialist Club in the College and at the New Zealand Student Labour Conference being held at the same time, just such a proposal was suggested by the Victoria delegation as desirable in all the Colleges.

#### OUR EDITOR—AGAIN

Under the heading of Internal Affairs the Report noted that the publication of SPIKE had been suspended for the time being. The report has an illuminating paragraph on the question of "Salient." "It is expected that the policy of the paper may undergo a change under the guidance of the new editor." Mr. O'Brien should have known that at the very first meeting of Salient held this year the new Editor of Salient himself seconded the motion of Conrad Bollinger which pledged staff support to the thirteen-year-old tradition of the paper.

The report made mention of its activities in connection with the South African Medical Scholarship scheme.

#### BURSARIES

Certainly the most important remit of the Auckland delegation concerned the issue of bursaries: "That in view of the Court of Arbitration's findings on the rapidly rising cost of living, representations be made in the appropriate quarters for a review of all scholarships and bursaries, particularly those which purport to completely support a student and those for students living away from home."

#### LIQUOR AT CONGRESS

A number of remits and resolutions were received from the Student Congress held at Curious Cove. Among these were that in future NZUSA be

recommended to hold Congress permanently late in January, and that Congress be held at the Curious Cove site in the years 1952, 1953 and 1954.

It was also recommended but not adopted that liquor be allowed on Congress site at the discretion of the Controller and the Steering Committee alone with regard to the following points: That liquor be distributed in glasses only; that the distribution be only at meal times; that there be no other consumption of liquor other than as mentioned above.

#### CONGRESS RESOLVED

Conference agreed to the holding of Congress at Curious Cove in January for the next three years. Most of the Student Congress For Forum resolutions were treated simply as an expression of opinion and lapsed for lack of support. In particular, two Student Forum resolutions moved by Arch Matheson and Betty Dibble of Victoria were passed over in this way. Arch Matheson's motion was that this Congress urge the N.Z. Government to give greater aid to South East Asia. Betty Dibble promoted the resolution, "That the challenge to our way of life made by the Communist ideology should be met by the widespread endeavour to understand it; to compare the ideal with the facts of its practice and to encourage discussion and publication to these ends rather than by suppression as in Australia and vague prejudiced propaganda against it, and often untrue statements about it." Although it was a pity that these and other resolutions dealing with less immediate questions quietly expired, it was very pleasing to note that Forum Resolutions 3 and 9 were considered, at least. Miss Sinclair of Otago had moved the resolution recommending that "examination marks in all subjects be made known." This was acted upon by Conference and a grievance worrying a large number of students was ventilated thoroughly; representation will be made to the Senate by the executive. The discussion which took place on the expulsion of Indian student "Pat" Charma by the N.Z. Government, was quite unsatisfactory, at least as far as the student press was concerned. Conference went into committee for 10 minutes on the motion of the AUC delegate (Britain and the Iron Curtain was Rung Down). If Conference was satisfied by the explanations given there are a great number of students in the colleges who are going to ask WHY? very insistently in the coming months.

Perhaps of greatest moment to sportsmen here and at the other colleges was Victoria-sponsored proposal to investigate the continuance of Winter Tournament. It posed the question: Was Tournament fulfilling its function? As far as it is possible to ascertain the matter is still unsettled and will come up again at the next conference in August.

#### DESPARD

(But this motion was in the terms of Old Timer's letter in Issue 1: i.e., to lead students in the fulfilment and maintenance of rights and duties, keep students informed of events important to them inside and outside the College, act as an honest muckraker in commentary on national and international affairs, stimulate intellectual controversy and to create a VUC-consciousness by making students aware of the College's traditions, etc.—Ed.)

(This meeting continued for 18 hours and the minutes run into 18 pages, and since further matters were probably discussed more information is being sought.—Ed.)

## NOT the U.S. Right or Wrong!

THE Debating Society held its first regular meeting of the year in the Little Theatre on Friday, April 6th. Subject: "That this house considers that New Zealand's foreign policy is detrimental to the best interests of New Zealand people," was carried by the audience on a vote of 23-9.

Conrad Bollinger and Nancy Pearce took the affirmative with John Patterson and Frank Curtin the negative.

Maurice O'Brien took the chair in the temporary absence of President, Jim Milburn, and a distinguished guest was George (of Gan Gan) Pittendrigh, President of Australian N.U.S., who spoke impressively and feelingly on Japanese re-armament, and emphasised that the danger of New Zealand came from a naval power.

Mr. A. Eaton Hurley, a former member of the Debating Society, was judge.

Conrad Bollinger thought our best interests lay in the standard of living, freedom, and world peace. Along with almost everyone else he didn't like Mr. Holland's New York statement. "We're with you through thick and thin" (Interjection from Doug Foy "He'd just finished his soup!")

He distinguished fascism as a threat to other nations, whereas socialism worked from within.

Frank Curtin took the order Freedom, Peace, Standard of living, and in the face of Russian armament and three year conscription asserted that our only policy to avert war was to re-arm. The Stockholm Peace Appeal had to be looked at in the light of the statement of the Czech Minister of Education: "World Peace can only be achieved under Communism." Despite reading the "Peoples Voice," (cheers from audience) he believed that New Zealand had a better chance of freedom with U.S.A. than with U.S.S.R.

Nancy Pearce aimed at an abstract policy based on freedom and justice rather than a selfish one arising out of fear of Communism and a wish to continue to exploit the East. We could not follow both Britain and U.S.A., whose policies differed, and the U.S.A. was too unreliable, anyway, with Senator Taft as a spokesman. What did Truman say . . . "Threatened to punch his nose"—audience.

We should take pride in having an independent voice which would be lost if we took sides with the U.S.

An encouraging number of new speakers took the floor, two earning placings. In accordance with tradition, they were spared the ordeal of interjections.

Mr. Eaton Hurley's placings were:

First, Jim Milburn, who with his usual fluent and vigorous style decried the hate that led to wars. National independence was second to life itself, which was more than ever menaced by the atom bomb.

Frank Curtin was second, Doug Foy a breathless third, Patterson

## Are Students All Talk?

THE trouble with these damn university students is that they're all talk and no action. They talk a hell of a lot about the equality of all men, rights of coloured people in India and so on. Some of them are sort of religious and talk about loving our neighbours in Asia. What do they do about it? Not a darn thing!" So said X, a vociferous passenger, on a 6 o'clock tram.

Is he right? The V.U.C. I.S.S. committee doesn't think so. We think some at V.U.C. will want to help I.S.S., a non-partisan, non-sectarian, university organisation whose main interest is, at present, helping countless students in Europe and Asia who are trying to study under seemingly impossible conditions. Some can stand up to it, but many fall victim to T.B., malaria, dysentery and typhoid. I.S.S. tries to help by providing drugs—but drugs cost money—that's why we want you to help.

Would you like to have as your only place for living, sleeping, and studying, a bare 10ft x 12ft room shared with 4 others? If you were a student in Madras you'd count yourself fortunate to have that.

Madras isn't an I.S.S. relief area because conditions aren't bad enough. No wonder when hundreds of students in Calcutta have to sleep on the streets. The I.S.S. committee thinks some students at V.U.C. will want to help I.S.S. do something about this sort of thing by providing hostels, health centres, etc. That's why we're asking you to help us get money for this by working on Saturday, April 28. If you can't spare half a day, perhaps you could give us 10/- or so. We don't think there's a single student at Vic. who can't either spare a morning to work or give us a few bob. If you can help by working or giving, fill in a work-day form. (Forms are posted on the main notice board and in both common rooms.)

Are university students all talk and no action? That depends on you.

—A.M.

## The Exec. or . . . Little by Little!

THE matters various both complaints and suggestions which have so far appeared in our pages since the beginning of the year have all been raised at meetings of the Executive.

Two of the most important: washroom towels and rubbish boxes have been the subject of letters to the Registrar. A letter to the Registrar on such matters usually has results.

All the matters will be dealt with in a letter from the Executive which we shall publish.

(tops for humour) fourth, and Nancy Pearce, Conrad Bollinger, Tom Beaglehole, and Bryce Harland took the other placings.

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## — A FABLE FOR THE TIMES — How the Socialist Club Lost Its Head

THE SOCIALIST CLUB AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY HAVE DECIDED THAT MR SKINNER, BEING A PATRON, IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE CLUB. HE HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER OF MEMBERS. THE QUESTION OF A NEW PATRON IS BEING CONSIDERED, AND MR SKINNER'S NAME HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE CLUB.



### "What About Me?"

With acknowledgements to the "Evening Post."

ONCE upon a time there was a Socialist Club at the big green house at the top of the tennis court. It began one night in a little room in the house, called "Salient Room," they thought it would be jolly to have a club, and it was called the Socialist Club. And when they had a club they wanted a "Patron" to put at the top to make it look pretty like a candle on a birthday cake. So they made Mr. Skinner from the big greyhouse called Parli-ament the Patron.

It wasn't much good having a club unless they had lots of fun, so first of all they started to pass all sort of re-o-lu-tions. But this was a hard word to spell all the time, and one day they had a crocodile instead like the bigger children at boarding school. This crocodile went along the street just like the Brownies, except they were mostly out of step. This they called the Ind-on-esia Dem-onst-rat-ion which is very important in history. Some bad had tried to get them put out of other clubs in the big green wooden house, but a clever man made a very important speech about liberty, and they were allowed to stay.

Then Mr. Skinner said something they didn't like—it wasn't a naughty word but it just wasn't what they liked to hear. So they threw him away just like an old candle off the birthday cake.

So they went back to the little room in the big green house and thought of who they could have instead. And someone thought of Mr. Combs who was a read old man who was very much liked and re-spect-ed. So they made Mr. Combs the Patron. For a long time after this they were happy, especially with a new word called "Peace" which was a lot easier to spell than "Re-so-lu-tion."

Time went by and one day they met in the big green house and thought about the Patron, and how it would be good to have a Pres-i-dent instead. This would make Mr. Combs like a very big fancy candle 'cos then people mightn't see how small and crumbly the birthday cake had not. 'Cos year by year lots had found that the club wasn't so friendly after all, if you didn't like what Russia did, you weren't wel-come at all.

So they made Mr. Combs pres-i-dent and put it in the paper. And Mr. Combs wrote to the paper and said he didn't like being the president (being an M.A. he didn't spell it pres-i-dent) 'cos no one had asked him about it and he didn't want the job.

Moral—Make sure the cake is worthy of the candle.—A.W.C.

## PEACE WEEK AT VUC

THE first activity of PEACE WEEK at the College was held on Monday, 9th April, in the Common Common Room (Lower Gym). The night's entertainment consisted of two parts: 1st, the formation of a Peace Committee or Club, and the showing of an American produced technicolour film "Where Will You Hide?"

The film was shown to a crowded audience of about 60 students—it was a vivid statement of the fact that you won't and can't hide when the next atom bomb arrives. An appeal was made to sign the Stockholm Appeal to Ban the Atom Bomb and other weapons of mass destruction and a number of signatures were collected.

Then the assembly proceeded to constitute itself a meeting under the chairmanship of Lance Robinson. Maurice Pagan spoke briefly on the devastation which he saw at first hand at Hiroshima. A fraternal

visitor from the Wellington Peace Council, Rona Bailey, detailed very briefly the coming activities of her organisation — these included the visit of Dean Chandler to Wellington, who spoke in the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 17th—and the New Zealand National Peace Congress to be held on May 8th-12th at the Auckland Town Hall. International figures expected to be present will include Mme. Sun Yat Sen, Paul Robeson, the Dean of Canterbury and Mrs. Jesse Street.

The meeting proceeded to discuss the formation of a Peace Committee in the College. The following interim committee was elected and instructed to prepare a draft constitution to be submitted to a meeting to be held not later than the first week of the 2nd term, and subsequently to the Students' Exec. for its ratification.

Convener: Frank Curtin.  
Secretary: John Patterson.  
Committee: Gwenda Martin, Conrad Bollinger, Jim Milburn and Lance Robinson.

—L.B.P. & D.M.

## Enter—A Murderer

THE university's social season begins about this time every year. Graduands pay tactful calls on old friends and relations to borrow a gown to be capped in; university wits pay indignant calls on the editorial committee of "Cappicade" to complain about their dirty Limmericks not being printed; and all the female freshers pay enthusiastic calls on the Gymnasium to show their legs to David Cohen, who grades them into first, second, and third rows of the Extravaganza chorus.

Extrav is here again. Extrav is ever the centre of the social life of the university season. Through the weeks of rehearsals — discordant orchestra-tunings, high-pitched peep-talks from a demented producer, thumps and crashes from the properties staff and the male ballet, hungry yelps from the whole cast around the saveloy-pot on Sunday evenings—a community is built up. And this community has a spirit, chiefly manifested in much whooping in the small hours of the mornings after the evenings when the show is on the boards. There is dancing (for those who like that sort of thing), there is beer, and there is the cemetery.

Rehearsals have begun for 1951's show of the year, "Sidarella." With this year's show, V.U.C. Extravs return to a political theme from the traditionally heretical point of view. Extravs have travelled many and varied zig-zag tracks since those pioneer days when the late Judge Ostler and Fanny Irvine-Smith clod-hopped around the stage in tights. The heights were reached in the political satires emanating from the genius of Ronald L. Meek, the last and greatest of which was the 1945 farce "Peter in Blunderland." (And how fond the newspaper critics are of telling us!) Inevitably, all extravs must suffer in comparison.

We do not pretend that "Sidarella" hits the Meekapots. But it has points to recommend it. So the selection committee thought when they picked "Sidarella" from the 6 scripts submitted. But the "Sidarella" that hits the Opera House at the end of May will be a very different colour of a cow from the raw-burned document that saw the light three months ago. All characters are entirely fictitious, of course, and any resemblance between them and persons living, dead, or otherwise, is entirely co-incidental.

Sidarella sits and wrings her hands (and other peoples' pockets) in the House of Wrecks. Sidarella is in the competent hands of that adept Extravaganzactor, Dougall MacDougall MacDonald Donald. With her, she has her step-sisters—the Jolly Dodger being taken by John Patterson, with

enthusiasm. The source of Siddie's home troubles seem to be industrial, there are choruses of Strikers and Pickers, and strange individuals like Fire-Plug Belch and Shock Barn-dance (Bernie Spolsky and Hec Mac-Neill).

It is the search for her long-lost-and-requiring-to-be-found Fairy God-mother, the Buzzard of Uz, that takes Siddie and her step-sisters across land and ocean to Egypt, Gorea, the Land of Freedom and Democracy, and finally back to a glorious welcome home, with much jollification. In Egypt we find Mr. Rattlee and the King (Fat-Faroot) gambling for the future of the Sew-age Canal, and the Minx of the Sphinx very jealous of the love of the potentate himself. In Gorea we walk in on the Futility Council of the Benighted Nations in session, see Spleen Archerbomb rallying democracy's ranks, and Stickitinsky trying to blow the place to Jericho. The scene finishes with the Mikartha of Japan (Con Bollinger) taking over the Council, only to be punched on the nose by Harry Bluman himself.

From there to Jellis Island is a short step. Customs officials and the great General Schelsenhauser (Mike McLeod) cross-question the step-sisters as they land to make certain that they are not disloyal, and they are finally introduced to their friend the Buzzard—dressed to fit the part of uncle Sam. The Buzzard returns with them to the Land of the Long White Shroud, and there assists them to sell up the national assets. Much joviality ends in the marriage of Sidarella to the great Prince Balder Dash, and the final curtain is rung down.

The public only gets this sort of thing once a year. We must make sure that by the time that final curtain descends, they have had plenty of it. That means that the show MUST be a good one—and it will only be that if EVERY ABLE-BODIED HAM-ACTOR IN THE COLLEGE rolls up to the next rehearsal in the top Gymnasium. Properties staff and wardrobe, not to mention the programme-sellers, the make-up staff, and the back-stage boys could still do with some more people too. Roll up, tumble up, everybody come.

This is university season. Be in it, and make the most of it.

—C.B.

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## BOXING

THE Tournament proved something of a disappointment to the Victoria boxing team; not so much because we were optimistic prior to the tournament itself, but rather because of the fact that having won all our preliminary bouts, numbering five altogether, we regarded ourselves as somewhat unlucky in not being able to take advantage of such a fine start. We were however defeated by the narrowest of margins, and we were undoubtedly not entitled to win on our efforts, even though in the circumstances these were better than we had hoped.

As mentioned we won all five preliminary contests on Saturday morning, and went on in the evening to win two finals, being closely defeated in two other finals. Indeed, had our lightweight representative not had such an enervating fight in the morning, he might have been able to swing the scales in our favour by dint of his superior strength and fitness, against an experienced and ringwise boxer in Frank Davis of Auckland.

Individually the light heavyweight division was won by Jim Donald for Victoria, who turned on a display in the evening superior to his preliminary fight, which he won closely. Donald fought very strongly, punching mainly to the head with straight lefts and rights, and gained the verdict largely from his cleaner blows.

Bob Street was successful in the middleweight class and as usual, he gave us the benefit of a polished display of boxing, both his bouts ending in technical knock-outs. Street is a great strength to the club, and has now won the title twice in succession.

Tony Keesing did well to outpoint his Otago opponent in the morning, beating him fairly easily, but against a horse of a different colour in the evening, he was outpointed by O'Sullivan of Auckland. Showing great gameness Keesing stuck it out remarkably well, and O'Sullivan was hard pressed to score points at all stages. Tony was our featherweight representative.

Bruce Brown turned on two sound and skilful fights and was unfortunate to be beaten in the evening only by virtue of his opponent's superior fitness. Brown had to fight probably the fittest man in the Tournament. He was the welterweight representative.

Our last representative was Mick Davis, of Massey, a lightweight who fought surprisingly well to severely beat a skilful boxer in Button of Canterbury—later going on to run Frank Davis very close. F. Davis had a very hard fight was at an immediate disadvantage—in the circumstances his fighting deserves high praise.

None of our boxers were awarded blues.

## ROWING

ALTHOUGH it may not be generally realised, the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race and the N.Z.U. Tournament Race were held on the same day. As every one knows the Oxford-Cambridge classic wasn't such a good show... Oxford swamped early in the race and in the later re-row was soundly beaten by 15 lengths.

Now looking at our own N.Z.U. Rowing classic, V.U.C. like Oxford was coming along... two incidents however point to Victoria being the better of the two. Firstly they did not swamp, and secondly they did not come last as Otago was disqualified. Nevertheless it must be admitted that our crew was a disappointment both to themselves and to their supporters, and it was felt that they were not at their best and could and should have done better. It was Auckland's race from the start and it must be admitted that they were a very fine crew indeed, while C.U.C. and O.U. likewise put up a spirited performance.

In the Fours we witnessed a close finish between A.U.C. and C.U.C., our own crew filling third place. Although lacking in polish theirs was a creditable effort if one considers the short training period that was available to them.

In the Double Sculls, L. Smith and O. Weenink rowed quite well to fill the second place for V.U.C., although once again A.U.C. won by a considerable margin. Later in the morning a crew from the Combined Auckland Clubs met in an invitation race against a Composite Crew in which V.U.C. was represented by D. Horsely and C. Drummond. Despite the fatigue of the University men the race promised to have a thrilling finish, had an amusing incident not marred the race... both crews ran aground in the mud flats as the tide receded and the Auckland Club's Crew were more quickwitted in abandoning the boat for about fifty yards then scrambling aboard to finish several yards ahead.

Despite poor weather, the conditions were favourable for some good rowing although a strong outflowing current added to the length of the course. Our thanks go to Peter Butcher and the Auckland Rowing Club for their successful organisation, and to the charming ladies who provided the refreshments.

One lesson to be learnt from Auckland's outstanding successes in the Rowing is the necessity for Clubs to have their own sheds and equipment. With it there is no limit to what can be done and without it there is unfortunately little scope for increased activities. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when Victoria may be able to boast its own "Club" in the full sense of the word.

## TALKING SPORT

SEVERAL Tournament results which did not make the last issue are given in this issue. I am sorry that they did not appear last issue and wish to thank all those people who sent in reports on the Tournament events. I hope that they will continue to send in sports news throughout next terms. As the Winter Sports Season is now getting under way many freshers are wondering about our sporting activities in the Winter. One way of advertising your club is through Salient. I would appreciate it if all sports club secretaries would send me a report of their clubs and their proposed activities for the coming season. You cannot expect freshers to play for VUC if they cannot find out about the club in which they are interested. The main notice board is cluttered up with all sorts of notices and it is too easy to overlook the various notices of the sports clubs. Unless the present club members do their bit towards interesting Freshers in our clubs we will certainly lose a lot of players to outside clubs. One way of arousing this interest is by sending reports into Salient. We will publish them. It is over to you.

## APOLOGY

SOME kind person handed in sports copy entitled Tournament Roundup. I am afraid that as some of the writing was completely illegible and that which was readable had been published in other reports on the Tournament this report was not published. If the writer would contact me and give me the information regarding Easter Tournament next year I will be only too pleased to publish it. Thanking you.—DAPHNE DAVEY.

## HARRIERS

AT the AGM of the Harrier Club, held on April 2nd the following officers were elected.

President, G. F. Dixon Esq., C.B.E.; Vice Presidents, Dr. F. B. Shorland, Messrs. A. G. Bagnall, D. Cairns, Jr., N. Claire, R. M. Daniell, J. C. Hawke, I. C. McDowell, S. K. Newall, F. D. O'Flynn, F. O'Kane, M. J. Poole, G. C. Sherwood, D. A. Viggers, Dr. R. Hunt; Coaches, W. M. Matheson, M. G. Truebridge; Hon. Sec., S. R. Searle; Committee, T. Levy, R. M. Milburn, K. M. Phillips.

This year's training scheme will be conducted under the joint guidance of Mac Matheson and Mike Truebridge. All intent on getting fit are invited to come along to Weir House basement at 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday nights. At 9.30 a.m. on both Saturday 21st and Saturday 28th April, lectures (including films) will be given on cross-country running by Mr. Hutchings in the Oriental Gymnasium, Hataitai. All who may be interested are extended a cordial invitation to attend.

Sat. April 21st.

There will be an invitation run at Massey College. For details of means of transport and time of departure refer to the college noticeboard.

Sat. April 28th.

This run will commence from the Johnsonville Anglican Church at 2.30 p.m. Those interested in joining the fun should meet at the Railway Station at 1.15 p.m.

Sat. May 5th.

The "Novice Race" of two and a half miles will be held at Worsley Bay starting at 2.30 p.m. This race is open to all runners who have not won a race off scratch since leaving school.

All who have lost some of their youthful fitness should remember that in addition to medium and fast packs, a slow pack is always run. It's never too late to start working off some of that surplus condition. How about rolling along to the next run? New members will be welcomed with open arms.

## STOP PRESS

IN the first match of the year, V.U.C. 1st XV completely overwhelmed last year's champs, Marist by 11 points to 3. Keep it up, boys, it is time we had the Jubilee Cup again!!

## IMPORTANT NEWS

A N.Z.U. Men's Basketball Team has been selected and will shortly embark upon a tour of Australia. Wellingtonians will have their only opportunity to see these boys in action on the evening of May 20th. A game has been arranged between the N.Z.U. team and a Representative Hutt Valley team at the Trentham Gym.

Special buses will leave Petone Post Office at 6.15, Hutt Post Office at 6.30 and return buses have been arranged. During the course of the evening a collection will be taken up to assist with the expenses of the overseas tour and the N.Z.U. Men's Basketball Association hopes that University students will give their wholehearted support. We do not know whether V.U.C. is represented in this team but we wish the team all the best for a very successful and pleasant tour of Australia.

## BASKETBALL

THE first game between A.U.C. and C.U.C. was very fast and was only marred by the rain which fell throughout the first half. This game resulted in a win for AUC by 28 to 11. VUC then took the court against OU. Otago's speed quickly gave them a lead. During the second half VUC began to get the ball through much more successfully. The shooting was very accurate but the ball failed to reach the goal circle often enough. The Otago forwards were all outstanding and Julie Hunt (VUC) played a very fast and accurate game in the defence. On the whole, for the first game Victoria did very well, 31 to 11.

AUC and OU played a very even game and it was only in the last few minutes that Otago drew away to win 24 to 22. The match VUC versus CUC looked throughout the first half like a possible win for VUC but with the departure of the sideline supporters the team seemed to tire, the shooting was less accurate and in the last three minutes CUC caught up and won 14 to 11.

The following Monday VUC played AUC. Victoria played the best game yet, cheered on by a large crowd of supporters. The ball was lost in the goal circle too often. All players played excellent games especially Julie Hunt and Evelyn Garbett. The final score 22 to 8 did not indicate the great improvement of VUC's game.

Four of VUC's players were selected for the North Island team. They were Julie Hunt, Evelyn Garbett, Pat Wilson and Muriel Batchelor. The last two being emergencies. This match resulted in a win for the North Island 23 to 20.

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