SACRED COW AT CURIOUS COVE
A THEME WALKED IN

"And when each man had milked her dry
The old cow died of roaring, O.
At three o'clock, at four o'clock
At five o'clock in the morning, O."

SOME time about January 25, 1952, a strange but much rumoured quadroon of considerable intellect and capacity, and a bovine exterior made its appearance at Curious Cove, Queen Charlotte Sound for the fourth N.Z.U.S.A. Congress. Never did a taboo raise such a stir about the Cove, nor did it ever reach at last the salted, flagged and cursed, not to say drained of its tactual fluid, only to exhibit such a tenacity for life that, in the words of the mistrel Jacobus Baxterius (blised wide-spun):

"... as they were lamenting all
The cow got up and made reply:
You're a set of bloody suckers, mates
One can't ever die!"

That, in a buttercup, in the story of Congress '52. The very high social and intellectual standards of gatherings made us somewhat suspicious except from the point of view of a Congress without a theme, and with even a V.U.C. lecturer on the programme, though we were one and all congratulating the Controller, he having equaled the best previous record for organizing a meeting and a social programme that left little to be desired.

The discussion was slow to warm up, the hot parties, with their open doors and open threats, were by no means so, especially when forty or fifty students, dressed in black, hat, chaperoned, dithusly outfits from the 8:16 P.O.B., book-borrowers, those public and otherwise lendable grey hours. With the cheery help of the Controller from Internal Affairs, indoor and outdoor appeared to go on as usual. The way, and, if the weather had nothing to do with discussion, the contest might have entered world class, at least for funfare. The "fishing" expedition to Ship Cove and vicinities on the return journey was a very remarkable and unprecedented experience in the verse "I'm washed out like a dish rag!" also indulged the Daily Press with some exculpation over the damping of "the intellect" the glow from which had penetrated even his blindfold myopia. Although fishing was knocked off this day's programme by his inappetence, he was very sensible plan of having every afternoon a fishing trip, such that plenty of opportunity to stock up for the next day. Of course, he allowed more time this time to improve their minds. Under the very able guidance of Donald Anderson (0.0.) a group met on several afternoons to listen and learn, from Banks to Pat Wilson, read by Jim Baxter, Philip Bethell, Bob Chapman, and Donald himself. Music rather lagged until Owen Jones arrived, but there he struggled manfully against the piano (or rather the forte) each session, while all and sundry enjoyed both his playing and his wit.

Apart from the above, we got down to serious business at least twice during the mornings and evenings we assembled to hear series of papers. The first of these was by the well-known specialist in his own subject. These were followed by discussions in groups usually led by a representative of the topic in the discussion from the floor. There was no apparent pattern in the titles of these talks, but, and this was a very good point, the discussions were, as they should be, a pattern more coherent than that which is engendered by a set theme, and helped at least some to find order in the academic fog of the previous year. No doubt this was much due to the magnanimity of the speakers, who was on a uniformly high place, but it might perhaps be interpreted also as an illustration of the fact that the title "University" is not altogether a misnomer. Because, we found this integration of the old into the new and vice visibility with the chronological order of talks and fit in with the theme of the Congress, the talks and the themes. In the hope of showing how they can draw together on the old ideas, and of eliciting dialectically that which is to be reasoned from present-day opinions of others present.

The Clen Hoof

As the chorus from Jim Baxter's song quoted above indicates, what came to be the central theme of the discussions was the attitude attached W.D. E. N. PARTON (Chem. G.U.C.), in his talk, "Is Science a Sacred Cow?" He looks to the Thearchas of some of his fellow scientists and their followers, attacking their adherence to what he called "Sacrament". It is the idea that scientists as such have a monopoly on objectivity, independence of mind and tolerance, and hence are specially qualified to judge the world's future. As he has shown in an analysis of the history of Dalton's Atomic Composition it is not, he said that Science has ever arrived at a final truth. The most likely is that there are certain hypotheses which have proved wrong, and it is thus by the elimination of error and not by method that any solution to the problems of science progresses. Why then do scientists, more especially laymen, set up science as an idol, a sacred cow whose pronouncements of whatever sort are to be taken for Gospel truth? Because, he said, it is an objective about science (guaranteed in published papers, without comment and free criticism) which, how, naturally lends itself to results and not easy to scientists themselves. They are often characterised by such a statement, but is in common with the Christian by the old adage, "One can never die!"

Next week (Duty issues 3 and 3) DONE
BACK TO NORMAL. SALIENT A NEWSPAPER

CLUB NEWS, SHORT ARTICLES, MORE VARIETY

BALLAD MAKER
JAMES K. BAXTER, author of the Sacred Cow, is a poet, married and student. He has his work published both in anthologies in single volumes and other publications. If you expect long hair, corduroys and a suggestion of cartesian you will be disappointed. Baxter's hair is distinctive but not Byronic and his speaking is more towards treads than corduroy.

After hearing him at a poetry reading one supposed that his voice dictates the mood of his poetry or that his poetry controls his voice. A soft almost whispering voice, slow and deliberate, suits his style and often simplifies them. This simplicity is, of course, not unintelligible simplicity but that kind which best indicates poetic depth, motives, ends and causes. There is serious enough but their deceptively, clear expression is an ideal for other New Zealand poets.

The quiet voice, sometimes subdued manner and the photographs, with the air of remoteness accentuates the poet. This Congress Ballad emphasizes the ballad maker, the student sitting in the cab rather than James K. Baxter, the poet. The poet author of:

"Recent Trends in New Zealand Poetry"
"Beyond the Palliade";
"Blow Winds of Fruitfulness."

DEAR STAFF
Those who reacted to Salient's open letter of last year were mainly those to whom it was not addressed.

SO FAR ONLY SIX TOURNAMENT BILLETS
RING 45-561.
Across the Desk . .
SHEATHED BLUDGEON

DIZZY from our professorial pub-
lishers, two senior editorial public
figures, one contribution from a
teacher who had given me a promo-
ounce of another, and a personal
conversation with several members of
Salient’s last issue for 1962 we hear
the theme is that of the boomerang
bludgeon.

Clearly, however, to remain sharp.
A staff-student debate is fore-
cast—this time a section one—our
hope.

INTELLECTUAL THROMBOSIS
AT CURIOUS COVE

With naive simplicity some stu-
dents at the University have adopted
a Peace Statement. It contains no-
thinking and others are not aware of any
have not been working at, or
could not do next week if the parties
were willing.

This superficial approach to peace,
so superficial indeed as to include
India and nifty Pakistan, would dis-
grace our College name if put before those for whom it is intended.
Salient students understand nothing at all to do with the State-
ments. Their opinions are set up for
promulgation. We can do more in
this direction in the culture of mature and responsible students.

EXAM FEES—THE SENATE

Salient objects to the increase in examination fees. The fees have
already and this is the third increase in
the last year, and the new marks system we are confirmed in our view that
student representatives on the Senate
are essential.

Salient cannot take a reasonable view of decisions gravitas facti feature.
reasonable unless reasons are
vouched for.
—J.McM.

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(11th March) will meet you at
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(Rasp. U.V.C. Socialists Club)

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and
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POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

It was the same idea of the
importance of indigenous, as opposed to
imported values, which was taken up by
the writer of the New Zealand novel A social commentary on the
observed that literature in N.Z. has
not played a part in the world’s major
of those the depression and of the
war—any tendency towards a period of
release, during which the cracks
appear in the surface of our society.
Then the writer comes down to an
organ of social criticism by mere
grappling with its problems. He
ought the, the writer is able to see life in
N.Z. from a different standpoint and to
point out the gaping disparities between
his personal world and the social
environment. Thus

THE CACTUS
SUCH—BISLEY—ROGERS
I.S.S. — UN — ?

As well as problems of the University close to us, those
distant but no less important in the sphere of international
affairs were thrown up by three other people.

Mr. Robert Bisley, in the I.S.S. seas-
sion, brought up his complaint of a
tour through South-east Asia, and of the reprehensible treatment
and especially in the Universities in that area, urging that something be
done through I.S.S. to relieve the
latter. His attack, however, revealed
the enormous depth of the problem,
and this was further emphasized by
the remarks of Dr. Lo N. Rogers on
the Middle East. He spoke of the
problems of race, of economic de-
velopment, and of political conflict
that he had met as Professor of Sur-
vey at Baghdad University for 14 years,
and particularly stressed the situation of those non-Muslim
lines to retain Western values, with
the consequence that corruption and inefficiency it entailed. Discussion
after this talk was lively and
acrimonious, among others who said
people were thinking more clearly and
becoming less afraid to speak, but
also that they were taking their responsibilities in those matters
very much to heart.

Other aspects of world politics were
also covered at a recent meeting of
Welling (Speaking on “Social and
Economic Aspects of South-east
Asia and Africa”) and the conclusion
of the U.N., Dr. Burch’s convincing
persuasive performance of Christi-
ian, White and Western elements. On
the other hand, passage was made
maintained that hardly anything was
wrong in the position of the former, but the developed areas had it not been for
their, albeit meager, representation
in the organization. As it was the
complicity of U.N. in the face of national sovereignty, he
ruled out the idea that things
which Dr. Burch had been closely
detected, a measure would have no
chance of going through unless it
more or less was accepted by some countries with no intention of carrying
out this national egalitarianism, which
vitiated social legislation, making it a very
low common factor of national
policies, was most obvious in coun-
tries like U.S., U.K. and N.Z. For
instance, the speaker, having cable(?
message dealing with the traffic in
women, was told these were “international”. The remedy was
least, at partly, in the hands of the
including Western countries, for the
nuisance nationalist attitude was
mainly due to the absence of an in-
formed and influential public opinion
on the matter. As practical a step
we could take is to study the reports
and agendas of the General Assembly
body by writing letters and telling,
how to influence New Zealand’s policy in regard to the
Charter, as it was already
the best possible aspect of its
performance of Christian.

Up at Strange, at a meeting of the
Trusteeship Council to a greater ex-
gerate of precious time, after
discussion, the general feeling arose
moreover, that the powers for unde-
derstanding of the powers in the
the power to do something about
poverty and disease in a third world.

The Borrowed Hide . .

NO NATIONAL ORCHESTRA
PLENTY OF CRAZY PEOPLE

HAVING thus touched upon our responsibilities both as students
and as citizens, the course of discussion turned to consideration of
the events of the last several days. Mr. O. Chapman (Hist., Auck.)
attacked a re-assessment from the
standpoints of music and literature.

Mr. Jensen (who had arrived only
in time to judge the Sphynx Press
hall on the night of the Ship Cove trip)
took an opposing view. He
in the Society.” He argued that, historically,
music sprang from social needs, as
did the church music and minstrelry
of the Middle Ages, and the Court
representatives of the Roman and
poets: like Haydn. This social basis
of music is still evident today. Joplin
enovation, had brought the composer into
close contact with the public, his
music a personal significance for
many of his listeners. But the Indus-
trial Revolution had taken music
from the drawing room to the concert
hall and in so doing had destroyed
that intimacy and with it much of the
close contact with the public. The
earlier music. Today the situation
is fundamentally unaltered, although
in a place like the Cambridge Music
Society (where, it is said, Mr. Jensen
has just come) the old social background
and significance could be rediscov-
ered. “I have no objection to the
bound to a transitory situation for
its appearance is not likely. It will
be felt as personally as when it
was brought up. One could give the
value to the development of musical
taste in New Zealand to call forth
and ingenious folk music, played in
small local groups, than to spend
large sums on a full symphony or-
chestra, which, after all, was only
required for compositions of the last
century and a half. The sort of
music appreciation” imposed on
school children was quite unreal be-
cause it substituted authority for
the creative principle. In fact “good music” was no less a
substituted foreigner in the
“Tan-pua alley.” However, the diff-
culties of producing native music
were immense and Mr. Jensen was
patronized more closely and try to
bring music to the people in their
social development at any day when
it appeared into the current and that
night stage noises drifted out of
the dining room windows from the
“Mr. H’s” evening. February 1, the
Congress was privileged to hear the
world famous “Cow.” In the “Mr. H’s”
“Cow,” words by James R. Baxter,
music by Friend and performed by
us by Roger Harris. It immediately
went through with the others and
but, and this illustrates Mr. Jensen’s
point, the difficulties would see none of its finer beauties.

(Concluded on Page 4.
NO PUSHES TO THOSE WHO MAKE HOME)

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Horns of a Dilemma...

Solutions - SOCIALIST AND CHRISTIAN

THese talks had proved deep issues. Now we were looking for someone who could put forward the views of all three. Economic class and inequality, coupled with an increasing estimate, supersaturated with ideas central to the Socialist Mr. Chapman had pointed out and even perhaps for Mr. Jenks’s imposed union. Yes, as well as peace and the universality, the instruments of the ruling class, acting in league with the “Coca-colisation” of the world. This is also at the root of what is called Asia and Middle East. The solution is not patchwork or isolated aspects of the problem, but a comprehensive solution, the socialist creed. “From each according to his ability, to each according to his labour”—or should read: accordingly as his liberality. Absurdly we must have been led astray by this preoccupation of progress.

An alternative view had been put forward by Mr. Bush, in the talks given by Mr. James K. H. Moore, of the English Theatre. F. C. Harrison (Dundee), and it became increasingly apparent as the day wore on that their analysis was, and how many were coming to see the urgings in their terms. On the subject of “Choice of Beliefs,” Mr. Moore argued that the principal attitudes to society exhibited in recent literature. What poets rebel against is nothing but the “Comfortable View,” typified in that pleasant faith in the collective man which passes for a philosophy in the “Readers’ Digest.” Only when guilt is recognised does innocence become possible.” This means that it necessitates the precariousness of human life. “He which cannot see and feel, is so linked together by a common sense of this that even in the darkest time of fear, take pleasure in doing evil. But none, seeing this, believe it upon a falling-off from an age when perpetually arranged, ruinous. It may not be temporal, for it may be eternal, but it also always envisages the state in which man’s moral choices are called for, because all are naturally good. More widespread is the belief in Progress, emphasised by the American tourist who told the speaker: ‘You’ll be all right, just as long as you grow-grains.” The fallacy of this view is shown by the logic that although modern men’s tools are better than his Paleolithic ancestors’, they are used for exactly the same purpose—War; for, in Edison’s words, in moral matters generations are as “blocks laid end to end” and then the result of bad or good or virtue from father to son. The unjustly scorned problem which characterises this attitude is also found in the fact that man is as much a man as the “beakless” and little as the “beak” so as to render man’s nature so as to need to master men. By knowledge, Scientists,” Mr. Baxter agreed. Bush found. It is a task for research into its own sake but people years of work for the idea of “Nature’s

In the Bucket...

With such a heavy emphasis throughout on the need to see with and the values with which we can rely on. The South University Forum became the scene of some of the most obvious debates. in the end resolutions were passed, to be sent on to N.U.E.A. for approval. The following objects were noted:

1. To improve the mechanisms of our own university by the setting up of an Executive Committee to the appointment of Student Counsellors, the institution of Orientation Weeks and the Rationalisation and increase of the seminars.

2. To preserve the independence of thought in the University by protecting against Police checks on Student activities.

3. To put forward some practical suggestions for the reservation of peace, foremost of which is the admission to United Nations on all nations seeking.

Furthermore, a collection was taken for a Student Relief in Water supply, which realised 831 12/-. In all. and last, but by no means least, the Congress Forum recommended that all reference to liquor in the Congress rules be deleted, and the fact that required the moral responsibility therewith regard the support we ourselves and not with an over-]

Red Rag Propane Bullet

One still lingers the Old, old story, begun by people who should have listened to a warning even if the people who those don’t, that Congress is a ‘Hole’. The Red Rag Propane bullet are two points to make in reply.

Firstly, it’s not... Next to the Congress, the Red Rag Propane bullet is not true. Informant was the strongest present, for which everybody was staggered. We believe in the free clash of opinion as a part to the freedom and belief, also that an opinion is best stated by one who was present at it, 100 years ago, in a no less troubled age. John Milton spoke boldly: “And though all the winds of chance were to blow against me, yet, my soul would rise and sing victorious o’er the steep and rugged cliff.”

Secondly, if you think Truth means that the most ignorant person was that? The doors are open and there is no need to be afraid. The Prime Minister did not go to Congress who would not be glad to see anyone come, provided he had been told. What we do find in Congress for is not that the state that we are, but also that all of us who are to be heard with their own voice. What is a University in Europe has tried over the years, TO LEAD A LIFE OF SPRESEN. That’s what a University and especially a Congress is for.

BRYCE HARLAND

WIDER HORIZONS

LOWER Ivory towers can confound deeply, for that case no one.

One of the chief aims of a humane education, it has been well said, is to enable the student to see the life of a society in a given period—its literature, its literature, its art, its politics, its economics and philosophy—as a coherent whole. This year the Historical Society will sponsor the series of talks on this object in view; for it is felt that the "broad degree" taught in units leaves room for some liaison work between subjects. The talks, given by experts and based on the immediate field of student, will cover various aspects of the period's connection with European history.

They include: French literature and society under Louis XIV, International Law in the later Middle Ages, and literature in Restoration England.

The break of the field should help many students, not only of history but of law, science and all other humanities to see their own studies in a fuller context of life and thought, or at least to stimulate them to help themselves.

It will be held on the last Thursday of every month and the programme for the year can be obtained from Prof. Wood or from W. R. Harland.

STAFF SEE THE LIGHT!

THE effect of Salient’s vigorous criticism of the staff, last year, was to bring about a change in the policies for lectures. Most lecturers were brought to great length to explain that students’ approaches and attendance. It is not the arrangement of the staff, of yellow, from the Senior M.A. lectures, but the reason for my knowledge. I actually mentioned “Salient” in the lecture, and a philosophy, spent most of it’s first lecture on academic freedom—a freedom which, in this case, is a “synchronization machine.”

He pointed out that Professor Wood was available at various times, for intelligent questions. He would of course become less available as questions became less intelligent, and if he was not satisfied with the amount of attention—drop a bottle of ink! In conclusion he maintained that the History Department had always been open to their requests. "With us it’s not the hills so far up the hill." It did its best. Professor Wood, and the University in Europe has tried over the years, TO LEAD A LIFE OF SPRESEN. That’s what a University and especially a Congress is for.

BRYCE HARLAND

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PEACE STATEMENT

RESOLUTION AT THE COVE

At this year's NZUSA Congress it was pointed out by staff speakers and by the fact that N.Z. university graduates did not interest themselves in problems which should be the concern of University people, and that which the community could expect some less from the University. The tendency is either to accept ready-made opinions or to hold no opinion at all. The university's ignorance of practical problems was regarded as a failure to accept responsibility by the student body.

In past years many of the valuable discussions begun at Congress lapsed when students returned to their daily routine. At Congress this year the Student Labour Federation and the Christian Students held several meetings to see what ideas and beliefs they had in common. Many students not connected with the S.L.F. or the Christian Church and several students who belong to both also took part in the discussions.

While there were at these discussions inevitable and fundamental differences of opinion expressed it was not all that war peace was something for which we should all be striving, and consequently a meeting was called to discuss what we could do jointly in this direction.

The outcome of this meeting was that a declaration was drawn up embodying five concrete suggestions upon which we agreed almost unanimously. We realise that the world peace is open to many interpretations, and that a Christian standpoint, more by peace than a mere absence of conflict, is perhaps the most urgent. The threat of another war we agreed that our immediate common objectives was to prevent such a war and that we were convinced that the adoption of the following resolution was a step towards that end. When the declaration had been agreed upon it was before the whole Congress and once more was put to a vote. The students (5 votes in the negative) adopted it as an official resolution of the NZUSA Congress.

It was further agreed that this declaration be sent to all the Executives of the constituent colleges of the NZUSA as a call to the executive of NZUSA and that it be put to the students (at least 5 votes) as an adopted resolution. It should be stressed that this declaration is not backed by any partisan, bodily but has the support of students and staff of all the most diverse opinions.

Congress further resolved that this statement be adopted by NZUSA and/or any of its constituent colleges as a declaration of N.Z. as an expression of opinion of New Zealand students and also to be sent to the sessions of students who are named in clause II and to the President of the Security Council of the U.N.O.

Failing wider acceptance the resolution should still be sent to the student unions in New Zealand as a statement coming from NZUSA Congress. We realise that world peace is further maintained by resolutions, we yet strongly feel that it is the duty of individuals and groups in democracy to put their views in such a matter, and that such views can and do affect decisions made at higher levels. And particularly do we feel that the University has a duty to speak on matters of great importance, thereby also helping to some extent to make public opinion more positive and informed. We propose that this statement should be given the maximum publicity in the Press, and particularly in the student press that it may thereby elicit more interest among the student body and make the subject of peace one of more immediate concern, and that it will be discussed and criticised and thus to help to formulate student opinion.

STATEMENT

We, students of this University, having considered that major threat to world peace and security is the fronting up of understanding that arises between nations, feel that the existence of an understanding which is based on the threat of another war we agreed that our immediate common object is to prevent such a war and that we were convinced that the adoption of the following resolution was a step towards that end. When the declaration had been agreed upon it was before the whole Congress and once more was put to a vote. The students (5 votes in the negative) adopted it as an official resolution of the NZUSA Congress.

This issue was very heavy going. Students criticised last issue as too specialised. We take notice—next issue will be different.

One set of Salient 1961 2/- in seeking staff co-operation, for example in clubs. It would be an excellent thing if more staff could be brought to Congress, an ideal which everyone present heartily endorsed in view of the very friendly atmosphere which prevailed when staff members joined enthusiastically in every activity. Mr. Smith's suggestion of the running of the games for fun (like volley ball) instead of for competition only, of a student health scheme, and the suggestion that courses in the colleges were all strongly approved, and could be much more acceptable to his comments on New Zealand social activities, and his professional inability to distinguish a University graduate here by his conversational and often somewhat uncritical reverence for the staff. The University in this discussion and others led members of the Executive to the conclusion that a great deal depended upon the attitudes of students as well as upon their material conditions.

Now to Page Two. Toos a Biz First.


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