FIREWORKS FLICKER AND BUZZLE "No Confidence" Fails

Fireworks expected of MR DON HAMPTON's motion of no confidence in the present students' executive no more than fizzled at the special meeting of the Students' Association.

Instead, the motion, which met a majority defect, quickly resolved itself into an even-tempered and well-ordered debate in which a packed body of students in the Little Theatre, seat of the student body, and the President of the association, MR DAVID WILSON, as the chief protagonists.

Association members remained unenlightened after some of Mr Hampton's charges, but most of the issues were adequately answered by Mr Wilson.

Classifying his main grounds for dissatisfied with the present executive (published in the last special edition of SAULANT) Mr Hampton, in a 45-minute hearing punctuated only spared by intervals, maintained that the executive had not attempted to make student life at Wellington more interesting. He had been told by many students that the executive was too keen about getting results, which was an exaggeration, and that the executive was too much interested in improving the students' life.

Mr Hampton described the executive as a "man in a million," and that the students were not happy with the way the executive was handling the problems of the students.

Mr Wilson, on the other hand, pointed out that the executive had been doing a good job, and that the students were not satisfied with the way the executive was handling the problems of the students.

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Editorial

Cafeteria

Elsewhere in this issue we have printed Miss Jenk’s CAF report. We don’t completely agree with her findings, but are pleased the subject is being debated at last and the executive has found it necessary to have a proper investigation.

It seems that in prodding the collective conscience SALIENT gave the impression that we were attacking Miss Rosie and her staff. We thought it was clear in the article that this was far from our stand.

If it wasn’t let us make it clear now.

This is not a retraction of SALIENT’s stand that there is room for improvement. Cafeteria set up, simply a clarification that our argument was and is with the executive and not Miss Rosie, whom we realise has got to run her business as she sees fit.

Executive must however, he continually watchful on behalf of the students.

We believe further that Miss Rosie is administering the CAF with the best of intentions; we are disappointed however, that she does not give different views in these columns as she originally agreed to do.

Keep Watch

Whatever the merit of Mr Hampton’s argument in his no-confidence motion he must have succeeded conspicuously in pricking the conscience of the student body.

For it could hardly have been brought home more dramatically just what and how much the executive committee is capable of achieving on the students’ behalf.

But in this the essence of achievement can be measured only in terms of student support.

If the executive is to function at its highest level and avoid becoming an autonomous body it deserves to have every student take an intelligent interest in its affairs. If it ears then any member of the students’ association is accorded the right to say so.

But by the same token, the executive, whose responsibility to 5,000 students is an onerous one, rightly requires active backing from every quarter of the student body.

Assuming the widespread enthusiasm shown by attendance at last week’s meeting to be genuine it would appear that interest by Victoria students in their own affairs is in its ascendency.

We are not, however, sufficiently optimistic to really believe this. What has happened is that the executive for the past two weeks or so has at last the appearance of a team. Only a constant watch will keep it so.

(Continued from page 1)

SUMS UP

Sunning up his case, Mr Hampton said he used the word corruption and had apologised for it. "I also said our student body is not properly alive, because of the part-timers who are not much interested in student affairs. It is only a glorified night school. It is not a university."

He claimed the editor of SALIENT was guilty of "tactless" and that he had not termed the executive “rotten.”

Reading round the hall he asked: "Why have these people come along tonight? Is it to hear people or because they think it worthwhile. I hope it is the latter, because those who have come for other reasons have not the right spirit at the university. If you don’t think that student life is dead and apathetic at least think about it.

"Lots of clubs try like mad but I don’t think that as a student body we contribute anything to the city or to the country that we should be doing. I don’t think we are interested enough in what is going on.

"I don’t really care whether this vote passes or not but I do care about the student life.”

SALIENT does not accept Mr Hampton’s version of being misguided. The reference to “rotten” in the context of the supplement article was printed direct from typed notes given to the editor by Mr Hampton and unfortunately returned to him after the article had been written.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—I congratulate the writer of "Bribkists and Roses" for his success in executive progress during the past six months. It is both unfortunate and charming that effacement is so often regarded as the hallmark of youth combined with the concomitant of an amusing young man that rendered his article a disservice.

No discount was allowed for the are and worldly wisdom of the executive members. Even with age and great experience many is the occasion that chance fails to behave in a similar manner. I believe it was Mark Twain who observed that: "God first made the Idiot for the practice and then he created the school board.”

Other comments have been made along the same lines with spectacles referred to concerning. The defects of a democratic system of administration can only be remedied by an extensive training in the field of practice. I write this, not dogmatically, but merely from a background of continued observation and participation.

The paragraph on "Freshers-Godding" reflects the "Ike-Man" approach to an industrial problem, usually termed, induction. The hand-out programme for Orientation Week, 1959, whilst acting as a calendar of events only evokes a faint one of the story. There is a real need for an ably administered full-scale induction policy and programme to replace the gregariousness of the first week of practice.

Positive injection of "Go Thump a Tule", well performed, functioned as an eye-catcher headline, but surely this form of syntax does not become a member of the Arts Faculty, even after making due allowance for semantics and journalistic licence.

However, the envy of the article is contained in this section. The reference to "lunch hour" is timely and apt. Not only has lethargy been displayed by the election of past students’ government, but also in matters of academical, social, moral, and financial costs of living, fees, books, taxation, etc.

i believe the student body organised as a dynamic task force 2500 strong, fully using the powers of knowledge, public opinion, legislation, debate, and mass communications.

Visualise the picture painted: a team of philosophers, psychologists, backed by economists, historians, political scientists, lawyers, accountants and administrators, decree no. 7 to wait upon Government (three-questers-of-a-mile away) for assistance or a “loan secured by posterity” to build: flats, more lecture halls, develop a befitting campus, sports grounds and the rest of the facilities that should be part of the University; the science team (postgraduates) be prevailed upon and waiting with working drawings, super-computers, geodetic equipment, traffic movement schedules, etc. for immediate implementation after the negotiation aspect to be successfully performed the requisition democratic antic.

Students are paying along the lines of immediate utilisation of their studies for their own immediate benefit.

—MUCH REFRESHER.

Sir,—I am wondering whether SALIENT would give support to the following project for the emancipation of motor-cyclists at V.U.W.

Proposed:

1. That motor cars with engines running be not permitted in the University grounds.

2. That motor cars parked within the grounds be left open at all times so that contractors, dustmen, and others of standing may remove them at pleasure.

3. That open incinerators be placed in suitable windward positions so that such vehicles may benefit from the protective dust-covering.

4. That University staff be required to park their vehicles in such a manner as to facilitate entrance or exit from the grounds at peak periods.

Such proposals, if implemented, will surely promote greater goodwill and understanding between all concerned.

—FOREVER AMBER.

P.S. I raised the matter of parking facilities for motor cycles with the Stud. Ass. last year. I believe they were quite prepared to investigate but nothing has been done. I have also heard that the Victoria Technical colleges are investigating over drives ways within the University grounds as their drives ways belong to the City Corporation and therefore come under the control of the Transport Department, i.e. all present parking restrictions are a matter of "convenience" and are really invalid. I have not been able to check on this rumour.

Maybe a push for better parking facilities will result in sensible planning for parking areas with the new buildings being built.

Sir,—How many students would support any move to grace the new science block with a few suitable chairs placed on each floor. Furniture in keeping with the building is essential.

—W. D. CAMP.

PEN FRIENDS

There have been several inquiries from overseas students enquiring about pen friends. Letters from these students may be seen at the executive office. Students requiring pen friends can obtain their names from the office secretary.
WHO DO YOU LIKE?

Below are some of the so-called "blurbs" written by candidates' supporters to influence you in your choice. While a guide, we are sure you have sufficient intelligence to go deeper into candidates' backgrounds than the superficialities which have been written, and then VOTE.

While not the main elections of the year, in their own way the elections to be decided this week have an importance of their own, particularly in light of the recent special meeting.

Actually SAIENT feels a sympathy towards the two candidates who have seen fit not to submit "blurbs" for some of those received were even more atrocious than the sub-edited versions that appear below.

Dear reader, thank them, for you have been spared.

MR DAVID DAVY was elected as association secretary, on his nomination was unopposed.

J. A. TANNAHILL

John is 20 years of age and a member of SAIENT. Educated at New Plymouth Boys' High School, this is his fourth year as a student at university, and his record shows he has a great knowledge of unorthodox deviltry.

In 1956, as a member of the university Drama Club he played an active part in the rather serious harangue of "The Critic." In the same year he was a member of the Tousenman performance. It was also an active member of the Golf Club. In 1957 and 1958 he was involved in va- vaganzas and he is taking a great interest in that production again.

His academic career at university has been somewhat erratic. On six units to complete in his law degree last year, he joined the Robert McCallum Scholarship awarded annually for the best all-round performance. It was also an active member of the Golf Club. In 1957 and 1958 he was involved in va-vaganzas and he is taking a great interest in that production again.

He was a member of Weir House for two years, has boarded privately as a student, and is now living in a flat and has a good knowledge of student boarding problems.

To improve the interests of the student life at the university he is one of his main ideals. He also believes a general discussion of the future, an improvement in executive and general administration and in university in the interests of the students can be attained.

D. L. BROOKER

Don is particularly well suited for an executive position at this university, having spent four years here as a Law student coming from King's College in 1957. During this time he has had every opportunity of realizing the problems and points of view of both full-time and part-time students, having had personal experience as both.

While at Victoria, Don has participation in both full-time and part-time activities, notably in the Rugby Club (in both the senior and junior 1st XV) and in rowing and athletics.

It is Don's intention to use this experience, aided by a freshness and an independent view of others, to re-awaken general interest in student affairs, to improve the liaison with all the members of the staff, and to work in harmony with the other members of the executive. Finding a common interest, he feels that considerable executive experience gained from activities in different bodies outside Vic. will enable him to work for the betterment of the student body as a whole.

J. BAYLIS

First-class commerce student, John has shown a keen interest and taken an active part in student life.

He was a member of 1958 Ex- travaganza and is always willing to hand on ideas and use his experience to help future performances of this fine work of the university's most important and outstanding extra-curricular achievements.

A past member of Weir House, probably the most notable university hostel in New Zealand, he has taken a keen interest in activities, of the university, playing rugby and cricket for varsity teams.

Capping, the biggest and most important function of the university, this is another of his interes- ts, along with many other parts of university life. His outstanding interests include taking an active part in both national and localUniversity-Students Society.

R. D. WELCH

He completed his L.L.B. last year. For one year he was a science student and then changed to law. He has been at Victoria for five (full-time last year and was formerly at Wellington College.

At present he is studying for a L.L.M. If elected he will favour an executive function of constitution and constitutional changes to ensure a more go-ahead executive commit- tee; this work will have his full support in student agitation; he feels that there is a real need for executive committee, to improve student accommodation, to improve facilities; to improve liaison between groups, improvements in town- gowan relationships in all matters for student benefit, whether or not executive has previously concerned itself with those matters.

Promises: He will work for the good of the student body, stand up for what he believes is in the best interests of the majority, will not block.

Qualifications: Has been a full-time and part-time student and knows the problems of both. Has lived in a hostel, boarded and is at present living in a flat.

While David believes that social activities have a proper place in university life, he feels that there is a real need for exec to have more serious aims than along the lines which he considers proper for ac- tion by exec. are: finance for pur- chase, leading student accommo- dation, establishing alumni sup- port, appointment of student counsel; discussing changes in or new courses, investigating failure rates, etc.

G. TOFIELD

Gordon is George's first year at U.V.U., but he is by no means a stranger to student life. At Otago University he took a full and active part in student life as a student counsellor in 1954, and as student member of the "critic" from 1954-1957, being chief-of-staff in 1955, and president of the New Zealand University Students' Union, Society for Student Control of Extravaganza, Capital Committee, association secretary-june-August, chairman education sub-committee, associate committee, secretary select commit- tee on student administration (1956-58); 1959, associate editor Extravaganza, Capital Ball Controller.

His policy consists of two main points:

Support of a complete re-organisation of the executive as outlined in the student council, of which he was a member.

Willingness to listen to com- plaints or suggestions from any student, and, if they are reason- able, to take action on them.

stands on this policy, coupled with his record and a capacity for hard work.

TRUSTING

I feel motivated to at- tach "blurbs" of this nature. Those that read them may be falsely im- pressed, bored or vitri- cible. It is my friends —

D. L. HAMPTON

LIST OF CANDIDATES

The following is the final list of candidates for the Special Execu- tive Elections, to be held on Friday, March 20, Monday, March 23, and Thursday, March 26, 1959.


Major production of the V.U.W. Drama Club, with magnificent hill of Sophieke's "ODISSI REX" and J. E. Baxter's "JACK WINTER'S DREAM," produced by Richard Compton.

CONCERT CHAMBER

From JUNE 22-27

Actors still needed and people in- vested in backstage work. Please watch Drama Club Notice-board.
INSIDE CHINA TODAY
New Patterns of Industry

The city of Lanchow lies deep in the heart of China, almost one thousand miles west-south-west of Peking. It is an old oasis city, lying on the Silk Road, the caravan route which ran between the mountains and the deserts of central Asia and which for long was a major trade artery between East and West.

The yellow mud houses of the old town lie partly on a bluff above the Hwang Ho around the town, along the valley floor, are irrigated plots of vegetables and peppers and the orchards and melon patches which gave Lanchow its reputation—"the city of fruits and melons."

Within the last nine years this medieval city has been plunged abruptly into the mechanised world of the twentieth century. Tall multi-story buildings pale and offices and flags rise above the roofs of the old town; factory chimneys stand up starkly against a background of sunseared pink and ochre hills; in the heart of the mile-wide carts and Czech Skoda buses lumber with workers raising swirls of yellow dust from the still unsurfaced streets.

Everywhere, crowds of labourers and their families scurry over the new construction sites, work to the sound of Central Asian folk music from loud-speakers slung along the telegraph poles, great variety of peoples; apple-cheeked, white-shirted and tall mahogany-skinned caravan drivers from Sinking, Hans, and Tibet and Chinese from Peking and a sprinkling of unobtrusive Russian technicians.

Beyond, to the west, the Lan-Sia railroad is being pushed forward to provide a new link between China and the U.S.S.R., and at Karumul large scale exploitation of the vast oil fields around Lanchow’s north-west is gathering momentum.

POPULATION DOUBLED
Lanchow doubled its population between 1953 and 1958 and will soon be a city of a million people. Its industries today include the processing of local agricultural products, manufacture of chemicals, machine tools and machinery, and the largest oil refinery in China.

Its development epitomises the recent industrial development of China as a whole—the almost feverish speed, the wide range of industries, and the battle of fortunes in neglected or unsuspected resources, the swing of industry to the interior. Among the fields new buildings of the Academy of Sciences or of the Northwestern University serve to emphasise that this development is creating an unprecedented demand for technicians and that industrial advance is being matched by equally rapid progress in the fields of higher education and research.

Lanchow’s former lack of industry was typical of Interior China as a whole. As late as 1953 three-quarters of China’s industry was concentrated in the coastal margins; elsewhere, there was little to relieve the draft of the monotonous poverty of a stagnating rural economy. The description of old China as "a beggar’s mantle fringed with gold" aptly characterises the situation.

UNUSED RESOURCES
The lack of development was not due to lack of resources. China has a wide range of metallic minerals, including some of the biggest iron ore deposits in the world. She possesses immensely rich coal fields. Her coal reserves were conservatively estimated at nearly 450,000 million tons in 1949.

This is the second of a series of articles by Professor K. M. Buchanan (professor of geography) on his recent visit to China and North Vietnam. Since when prospecting has revealed additional major resources. The basins of Chinese Central Asia contain important oil deposits; even before the development of the Karaiman field her proved reserves of oil were larger than those of Iran. Her great rivers have a hydroelectric potential of more than 300 million kilowatts, larger than that of the U.S.A. Her agriculture provides a wide range of raw materials, including cotton, of which she is the world’s largest producer. She has vast labour resources and her peasant masses released from the shackling fetters of low productivity could provide an equally vast market.

Reshaping the Industrial Map
The Chinese People’s Government has placed a heavy emphasis on industrialisation. The First Five Year Plan set aside £11,000 million for industrial and economic development; of this, approximately one-third was devoted to industry. The accent was on heavy industry, which has absorbed nine tenths of the expenditure, and here the U.S.S.R. has played a major role in assisting in the construction of 138 key industrial plants, pharmaceuticals to electrical and optical equipment, as well as high grade textiles and knits. The flint and quality of these left nothing to be desired. The Peking Exhibition featured the newest and most striking achievements of modern industry in China—electric locomotives, hydraulic presses, steam turbine generators, precision lathes, cars and tractors.

The exhibitions confirmed the impression I had formed while visiting the rapidly expanding cities of the interior and south—that a new and major industrial power was entering the world market. And later, in Hong Kong and Singapore, cheap and high quality Chinese-made consumer goods, such as cashmere sweaters and optical goods, were much in evidence. First signs of what may be a major trade drive in South and South-east Asia.

ACCELERATING ADVANCE
It is not easy to appreciate the pace of China’s industrialisation. It took Britain 35 years to expand steel production from 5.1 to 10 million tons; China achieved this in one year. It took 75 years to push coal production from 150 to 200 million tons; last year China more than doubled coal production, achieving an annual output of 270 million tons. 1958 was for China "The Year of the Great Leap Forward" and as the months passed, the pace of industrialisation increased.

The value of industrial production in January, 1958, was 14 per cent, above that of January, 1957; the value of September’s output was 1,027 per cent above that of September, 1957. This accelerating advance can be explained, partly by the pressure exerted by a developing agriculture, and partly by the skill with which Chinese planners have integrated the efforts of small, medium and large-scale enterprises.

The transformation of the countryside, the beginnings of agricultural mechanisation, have created an insatiable demand for industrial products. The expansion of irrigation, for example, will demand vast quantities of irrigation machinery, mechanisation of farming, even in its initial stages, will call for half a million tractors and 117 thousand drawn implements.

If the machine-building industry is to meet the needs of a swiftly-evolving agriculture rapid expansion is essential. Several scientists with whom I discussed this topic were of the opinion that, rapid though this expansion had been, it had...
Chayefsky's Goddess

If you were told that the film "The Goddess" was about the rise of a small-town American girl and that having become that star she will be lonely and unhappy, you would rightly say that you had seen it all before.

But "The Goddess," despite its dimmier world of earlier, is a much better one. It does not have Kassen's electric direction in "Face in the Crowd," or the creation of "Sunset Boulevard," but it does give a great performance by an actress in Kim Stanley, who plays the star Rita Shaw. It is a vital performance. It is not the kind of a woman one would reject by her flightily fun-loving mother. Emily has no friends, she is self-sufficient and ambitious; she is the leader of the town and she is a star. In Hollywood, where everything you touch must surely turn into gold.

Here is Chayefsky's main point—the American dream of success, and the glamour and the wealth that goes with it. Chayefsky shows that it is all a facade. Fane and money are what it is all about. Rita is after, in compensation for the love that she cannot find with other people.

In the end, Rita, having got rid of her first husband, marries another (a famous sports star) who is not the star but she finds her secretaries together to have been her helper. She takes her title around and says if something she could pick off a tree, but it is all too obvious that she and her husband are about ideas of its meaning. She has a nervous breakdown, divorces her husband, and her husband is left as a husband. She finds no peace, and ends up a hopeless failure as a person.

No Happy Ending

There is no happy ending, nor a sentimental one. As her faithful pride in China's young and growing industries, and a people working with an energy and dedication that is far superior to China's remarkable progress.

I did not realize how hard it is to understand the most fervent energy and the dedication with which the Chinese are throwing themselves into this gigantic task of economic development only if we keep in mind a picture old China—nobody can imagine how golden-roofed pagodas and elegant scholars' whirligig China of poverty and exploitation.

RACE OF AUTOMATONS

Of course, I could not see all. Relying only on my eyes, and not on Intelligence extracted from Hong Kong, I saw nothing of the "mass slavery" or the "destruction of family life" which Mrs. Dubees seen in China today. I saw nothing of the "meritorious regimentation" which, it is held, can only come from China's remarkable progress.

I did not realize how hard it is to understand the most fervent energy and the dedication with which the Chinese are throwing themselves into this gigantic task of economic development only if we keep in mind a picture old China—not the China of Jason, but the China of golden-roofed pagodas and elegant scholars' whirligig China of poverty and exploitation.

A country where the peasants are clean and roots, and children with bellies swollen with hunger and disease, is a country where the gap between the rich and the poor, locally and nationally, is huge. In China, 50,000,000 dollars of American aid could not ensure the survival of a hated regime.

We rarely concern ourselves with the "mathematics of suffering" in pre-Communist China—"the sum of millions hungry, of millions who were polluted the earth's surface for a pitance, of children prematurely dead, of men and women prematurely aged and minds acquiescent and fettered by superstition."

Yet, as was driven home to me by long hours of discussion and by personal experience, there is a problem which I have not seen how we can understand the process of change in China. The motive force behind China's progress is simple; as one worker put it: "When I was 10 I was working 14 hours on the night shift in a cotton mill, and determined that my son and my grandchildren will never have to work for the whole night."
PORTFOLIOS RECOMMENDED
EXCELLENT REPORT

The select committee set up late in 1958 to study student administration at Victoria has brought down an excellent report involving the most sweeping and the most sensible changes in living (since 1950 mortgages).

The report from the Committee is written by John Hercus and C. E. D'Arcy. Other members were Brian Shaw, John Marchant and Bernie Galvin, the last two former presidents of the Association.

Briefly, the report suggests streamlining the student association system and passing all minor decisions to the regional number of sub-committees to be retained. Exec would act as a policy-making and co-ordinating body, getting free of a mass of detailed work.

For Exec the select committee offers the portfolio system in work with the other three universities. There would be five officers (as at present), together with eight committee members elected to specific portfolios, each to be chairman of an association sub-committee responsible for the detailed administration of the portfolio.

THREE UNDER FIRE

Three positions are not particularly exacting—indeed, the report states: "On some matters the two House Committees will combine, but the select committee thought it desirable to have a separate committee to deal with matters directly affecting the student body."

It is probable that the select committee was merely anticipating the obvious criticism that the Student Union Building will soon be operating, and that we hope it have open for students living in this area in the weekends also.

The second proposal will mean further staff and price problems, and will be possible only if students make constant and regular use of the Caf. in the weekends. This again will depend on whether or not students find that it is cheaper to eat at the Caf. than to cook for themselves or eat out town.

The third proposal will mean further operating costs in running the Caf. are to be discussed with the Caf. accountant and a further report shall be given at the next meeting of the executive.

A different system for operating the new Cafeterias is, I believe, necessary before the Caf. in the Student Union Building opens, and some information on the management of the Cafeterias in the other universities will be helpful.

Finally, I would suggest Miss Rosie be asked to be present at executive meetings when the Cafeterias is discussed. Miss Rosie has been managing the Cafeterias since 1956 and is entitled to give her opinion.

YOU SAID IT

Animals From Holland—Evening Post. (Headline over story on newcomers from the Netherlands.)

The visiting teams will be billeted by local supporters.—Evening Post.

A whole 45ft. long has been washed up on the beach at Whangamakarua, near Parnell.—Dominion, Jan 29.

Holds Gloom on Moos Future—Dominion. Holland.—The Queen has a slight chill, according to the Da By Sketch. The newspaper said it had kept the Queen indoors at Sandringham for the past two days.—Dominion, 2/2/59.

The following is taken from The Iowa Journal—Mr. Hiram G. Nerences became the bridgegroom of Miss Em. y. Lewis in a pretty ceremony today. As the groom appeared he was the cynosure of all eyes. He was charmingly clad in a going-away three-piece suit. A pretty story was current among the guests to the effect that the coat was the same one worn by his father and grandfather on their wedding days.

The severe simplicity of the groom's pants was relieved by the rich log being artistically caught up by a hose suspender, revealing a glimpse of a brown hole-proof sock, showing a genuine leather shoe, blue braces gracefully curling over each shoulder and were attached to the same belt and aft, while a loosely knotted blue tie rode under his left ear, above a starched collar with a delicate saw edging. The presence of the bride was also observed by many.

LITERARY SOCIETY

ALL STUDENTS (INCLUDING FRESHERS) WHO ARE INTERESTED, COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE WORK PLEASE CONTACT IMMEDIATELY

R. W. (Bob) KERR
Common-room Officer

TREBLE FEES

From somewhere in the upper levels at Canterbury University the suggestion has come to the University Grants Committee that students repeating subjects should pay TREBLE FEES! Apart from the thievish iniquity of the whole move, one who dreamed that up will have some very scrappily made degrees resting on his soul.

J.G.O.
EXEC NOTES

Crockett Souvenir

Mr. D. Wilson, the president, informed the executive at a meeting on March 5 that the proposal about members of executive making souvenirs was submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. I. Williams, who will pass the information on to the Council at its next meeting.

After Miss Jenkins had presented her report on the catering affairs, a lengthy discussion took place. Mr. Wilson asked if the price of the event had increased, and assured Mr. Herron that the management of the catering was able to handle it.

In Mr. Wilson’s opinion the canteen is functioning quite well in comparison with previous years. There is an amazing amount of stones, materials, services, and student flats, and, although Miss Jenkins was not certain if they ought to be published, Mr. Wilson’s suggestion that it be mentioned in SAILENT was carried.

SUBSIDY SUGGESTED

According to Miss Jenkins the only way to bring catering prices down is for the executive to buy a subsidised catering contract. Miss Thompson suggested the Education Department abandon the catering contract in the same way as they do the broadcasting contract, while Mr. Mitchell replied we were after all growing children.

Acting on Miss Beck’s suggestion, Mr. Herron moved that an ad hoc committee be appointed to investigate the organisation of the present canteen and also the one for the future’s sake.

He outlined the work of the committee and mentioned the following points for consideration: Prices, variety of food, staff and labour, materials, service and hours, subsidies, equipment.

Mears, C. Elder and T. Godward and B. Jenkins and C. Polston were nominated for this committee. The meeting was adjourned until a later date. It was also decided to appoint C. Bonds as an accountant when discussions are held with Miss Ross’s accountant.

EXTRAVAGANZA

Mr. Mitchell reported arrangement for the extravaganza were proceeding smoothly. It has been decided that the tour after the Wellington season will be to Hastings this year. The question of a grant to the extravaganza finance controller was deferred until the end of the month.

The report of the select committee on the organisation of Executive was discussed. Mr. Mitchell said that qualified and experienced people were needed for exec, and suggested anyone standing for a position on exec should have had one year on a house committee for experience.

It was pointed out that every university has its own special problems and that students and staff considered that it had worked out the best system for V.U.W.

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Reply—

MRS. J. WILSON
P.O. Box 1350, Wellington.

VOTES OF THANKS TO BE OR NOT TO BE...

At various times, sociologists appraise certain institutions and customs in our society—our drinking habits, our passion for horse-racing, even our habits in public libraries—but there is one widespread custom in New Zealand society of which a critical examination is long overdue—THE UNQUESTED VOTE OF THANKS.

At first sight, it may seem a very praiseworthy thing that at the conclusion of an address the chairman should call upon members of the audience to express the general appreciation. And occasionally a speaker is able to perform this function gracefully, witty and without taking much time.

But how rare this is! Perhaps nine times out of ten we have to listen to something like the “Ladies and gentlemen: It has been a real privilege and pleasure to listen to the very able speech of Mr X... (gloating praise for Mr X).” That was one point which Mr X made which particularly interested me... (whereupon the speaker proceeds to commit the unpardonable sin—repeating the confab lattice-books—of making a little speech of his own for three or four minutes) . But ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that you have enjoyed this address as much as I have and I ask you to express your appreciation in the customary manner.”

And so, after many have listened with mingled boredom and embarrassment to this familiar rite, for the second time in five minutes (although this time with a certain degree of artificiality), everyone clasps their hands.

A Continental friend tells me that, to the best of his knowledge, this custom does not exist in Euro-


FESTIVAL IN VIENNA

Vienna, the world-known capital of music, is the site of the Seventh World Youth Festival this year from Monday, 22 August 4, to which all youths are invited.

Although these festivals have been held in Europe previously, they do not attempt to put across any political line and are becoming broader in their approach to all kinds of youth organisations.

The preparatory committee of the festival which met in Stockholm last year consisted of many varied youth movements, including the Y.M.C.A. International, Zionist Youth of Israel, and the Young Communist League, and many unknown in this part of the world.

At the festival there will be a large and varied sporting programme, as well as meetings of various professions, religions and of students. Unesco press releases in the last festival and its project, 'To build up the mutual understanding of the cultural values of East and West, will form part of the programme of events at the festival.'

The Chancellor of Austria, in a broadcast last year, mentioned his Government’s intention to extend the festival to Vienna and the vice-chancellor, in an interview, said: “The young generation has inherited a certain mistrust from their fathers, which has been expressed in the relations between peoples at the time of stormy events of the past years. The more youth of different countries are brought together under peaceful circumstances the more we learn that they will distrust each other. It was pre-


University Crossing

Every week-day at least two thousand students cross the road to Victoria from the cable-car and the northern part of Kelburn Parade.

In doing so they take a calculated risk because there is no pedestrian crossing. Fortunately Sec. 96 of the Road Traffic Laws of New Zealand may prevent a crossing from being placed in a really handy position near the entrance to the university.

The alternative to having a pedestrian crossing over the main road between the university and Kelburn Parade is for the authorities to place signs at suitable places on Kelburn Parade and Salamanca Road. At present there is one sign near the top of Salamanca Road to warn motorists—the word SLOW is painted on the road.

SAILENT took a count last week of the numbers of students who crossed this road to get to evening lectures. Between 4.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. more than 400 students came up to university by this route. A letter should be written to the Transport Superintendent to ask him to observe the corner and the manner in which students cross the road, and for recommendations to be made to the City Council, on the best solution to the problem.

ARE YOU GEARED

For Easter Tournament?

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NOT A WHISPER

Also present at the Exec meeting was Mr. D. Wilson. Accompanying him was a 22-year-old youth, both were silent throughout the meeting.

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