The Magnet
For Men's Wear
144 Featherston St.
Wellington


RED LIGHT SHOWS—PRESIDENT GOES

MIDNIGHT on Tuesday last week saw the career of Kevin O'Brien, president of the Association since the Mad H.B. of March 1948, gyred to an expected halt. Over these years and the years before, he had been a leading personality in many VUC fields; he had risen through Debating and other executive positions to the Executive from the Canterbury Branch; he had been a rep and an Executive member on NZUSA; he was in and around the Building Appeal; he was appointed last year as student representative on the College Council.

The Tuesday night last week, the gauntlet of his resignation was flung on the Executive table...it was picked up.

When the "Red Dean" (the Very Rev. Dr. Hewlett Johnson) sailed for his Canterbury Diocesan to take up the cudgels in the cause of which he so deeply cared, it did seem that the ripples would hit VUC as waves large enough to cause a Presidential resignation.

Storm warning

On Monday night, April 17, the Students' Association decided, on the motion of L. B. Piper (seconded by C. Pottinger), to investigate the possibility of inviting Dr. Hewlett Johnson to speak at the College during the forthcoming vacation in Wellington next month. Mr. O'Brien raised some points in his speech, notably in the normal course of discussion, but did not go far enough to have his diatribe recorded. The majority of the Exec., both in their discussion and in support of the motion, showed that they considered it to be in the true tradition of VUC to accept such a prominent personality facility to address students on an issue which all of them must have opinions. Some of the Exec. probably didn't agree with the opinions of the Dean; but they saw no reason to exclude him just because they didn't necessarily agree with him. Unaware of the very real threat from the Exec. passed from the motion to other business.

Clouds darken

The clouds darkened the next day when a letter was received by the Secretary from the Association—New Hampshire—from the President. This missive contained his resignation from office, effective from Friday, April 29th, on Tuesday. The reasons for his resignation were that, while he felt "the good to be striving for was peace," it was certainly not "price at any price" and does what man was proposing. He saw in the visit of the Dean "part of a world play to play people's feelings" which involved "mental, moral, and spiritual submission" as a social system which he thought the majority of the students were unwilling to accept. He felt that the majority of those who elected men would not wish him to undertake such a burden on such a minor in such major circumstances. While in "a year in which has seen some democracy" he was reluctant to take such a step, yet he felt that he must abide by the decision expressed in the letter. (The full text of the letter is elsewhere.)

No thunder

The Executive held a special meeting on Saturday, April 20, to discuss the letter. The meeting was of unusual interest, most of the College groups being represented there in the gallery. Vice-President Tom Heath in the chairman's chair read the letter being read: Mr. Heath stated then that he had information which would change the issue. This was that the chances of the Dean coming were now lessened owing to his fatigue on the Australian tour. Mr. Heath moved—and Vanda Henderson seconded forms—that under the circumstances the resignation be accepted. Chris Pottinger moved that as personalities and other private line would be dragged out of the open, the motion be accepted and the Executive agreed.

Fifteen minutes later they emerged from committee and the motion was now put and lost. The Executive, still apparently considering the matter as a practical proposition, refused to admit that the changed circumstances would alter the case: they refused to have the majority opinion of the Executive altered in order to retain the President. Neil Mountier moved, Alison Pearce seconded, that the resignation be accepted. The motion was carried.

Almost immediately, on an open ballot, Alison Pearce, Women's Vice-President, was elected President by a majority of 6 to 3 over the other nominee, Tom Heath.

It was decided to retain the Executive's services on the Finance Committee, where his experience had been a boon, and in order with the offer made in his letter. The new President is now in the process of appointing, and Mr. Heath himself will be the next delegate to the Council. Phys. Ed.

The ripples started some thousands of miles away had rocked the boat hard. One man had gone overboard.

GATHERING STORM

"Special General Meeting called"

This boat had been rocked hard. But on Sunday night, amid the flurry of anxiety, the bull was working around to another direction.

There were enough possible ways for a showy and extravagant Special General Meeting to ensure the Executive for its ill-advised action. The Executive head by its next President, was heading for stormy waters.

Third past the post

NO woman has ever been elected to the position of President of the Association so far as we know.

Previously, two women have filled the position of the Exis. They were VUC women elected president when the College was under the Deanship of Durie Maysoor and Pixie Higgins.

There, of course, no reason why a woman shouldn't be elected to the job if she is better suited than any other candidate. But it's not possible to find out beforehand, whether any women have stood yet and been defeated. It seems rather a pity that, with the number of women there at VUC, no women has been elected—maybe this will be expedient enough to bring this about.

THE PEDIGREE

A. LION PEARCE, new President: A member of the Yoga Club, the Women's Association, has been in and around VUC since 1944. Finishing her B.A. in 1948, she spent the fall of 1948 of which she is present doing the last year, being admitted to the bar.

She is on the Committees of the CSS, the Debating Club, in an executive member of the Swimming Club, and has been behind Extrav since 1945. As an Executive member in the Carstaker Executive after the division of 1948, was re-elected in the 1949 elections, and was elected Women's vice-president in 1949.

Her age is seven, she is not of the same age of the last two subjects: she has been admitted to the bar.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1950.

THE MAJORITY OF THOSE...

WHEN President K. B. O'Brien resigned, he must have known that many of the reasons given in his letter of resignation were off the mark so far as the rest of the Executive were concerned.

It is fatally easy for the ordinary student—who takes an interest in such things only when they are brought to his notice in a startling fashion—to assume that this is a case of "the man of principle" being forced by a "Communist dominated executive" to resign to get away from it all.

We don't suggest for a moment that the ex-president didn't resign what he considered principle; he did not feel strongly enough about it at the original meeting even to have his dissent recorded, but we suppose that he felt the Executive erred in not holding his view. But it would be lamentable if the students then proceeded to assume—as the movers of the motion to be raised at the SGM must have known they would assume—that the Executive was "red." It is not that most of the present Executive are people who, rightly or wrongly, would probably feel themselves hurt to be called Communist.

A lot of straight thinking is going to be necessary at the meeting: so many side issues have already grown round it.

The main questions are, first, whether the Executive had the right to take the action it did, and second, whether their motives in so doing were justified.

We can only presume that the Executive did students the justice to consider that they would be interested to hear the Dean, even if they didn't agree with his views, necessary. The issues with which he is concerned are extremely live ones, and it would be tragic if students wanted to hear only people whose views they liked. The Executive has been censured for "lending the name of the College to one with whose views the majority are not necessarily in agreement," to summarise one if its opponents. This is quite silly: Salient lends its name to views with which neither its editor nor the majority of its readers may agree. Every association at some time will invite along a speaker with whom its members will disagree. Surely the Executive is not committed to a policy of supporting anyone, because they invite him here to speak? Too many facile assumptions are being made as to what the "majority of the students" in this place like or don't like. The Executive was quite justified in taking the action it did, and it is entitled to have its actions examined on reasonable grounds. In fact, since the present policy of the Association as expressed at AGMs is interested in such issues, the Executive can well argue that it was only pursuing Association policy in asking the Dean up here to discuss them.

Nothing will do more damage to "the good name of the college" than a repetition of the 1948 affair: for that reason we can but hope the meeting will take the issue on its own merits and refuse to be stampeded into uniformed criticism.—D.G.

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"EXCLUSION IS PERSECUTION"

ON FRIDAY, April 21, some 60 students heard 20 speakers debate "that Communists should not be excluded from the University." The debate, held at the University Union, included representatives from: C. H. Arndt, a past-president of the Debate Society, who challenged the speakers and placed their arguments under scrutiny; Mr. H. Curtis, Mr. Newnham, Mr. Garrett; Mr. Bollinger, Mr. Macfie; Mr. Garrett; Mr. Bollinger; 4. Mr. Macfie; Mr. Garrett; Mr. I. Vincent, Mr. Harris and Mr. Sutherland. The motion was lost by 24-31.

Mr. Trudgeon, as president of the Communist members of the Party, and, said that the debate had served to illuminate the discussion on the academic level. "Freedom of thought was being violated by the Communists, as they must be excluded from the University. A teacher must be free to inquire, but doctrine would limit the academic freedom of a communist professor. Communists were committed to a policy of revolution." (God: "So is a bicycle wheel").

Mr. Garrett also chose the academic level: "crutches, even heresy, are essential to the testing of truths which is the purpose of a university." Emotions overflowed the whole base of orthodoxy, but the orthodox scientist did not always succeed in expressing himself. Ideas must be allowed to stand on their own merits. Both the University and the country depend on criticism for the correction of faults. People should be allowed to express their opinion (Curtin: "How Hitler started.")." (Bollinger: "That's how Hitler started.").

Mrs. Garrett: "Exclusion is persecution; and persecution has alarming effects. If, as the affirmative declared, Communists relied on force, persecution justified that response. Those excluded became bitter and the country a national ascalion; Mr. Garrett: "a suitable place for an interjection.""

Mr. Newnham was amazed that we should wish to albide free inquiry here, as he alleged was the case in Eastern Europe. "You can mix paints as long as you like, but you can't make white with two blacks." Mr. Cook quoted the sad case of Alger Hiss, Dean Acheson did "not intend to turn my back on Alger Hiss." Mr. Harris: "Both sides must be allowed to run the gauntlet of open discussion.

Mr. Sutherland: "If you suppress what you like, you have not a university but a school of indoctrination." Mr. Bollinger wanted to know how the authorities were going to distinguish between Communists and fellow-travellers—pinch their scepters?

Mr. Curtin split hairs to show why Communists should be excluded but why they could not be excluded. He gave the affirmative a case.

Mr. L. Anson was not sure.

Mr. Foy convinced us that Communist was the same as they were no convincing that in the interests of capitalist society they must be excluded.

Mr. Biddett: "Bloody Mary" persecuted the Protestants, following Mary (Curtin: "Little Jamb")—Sally was expropriated for atheism but he died a confirmed (Bollinger: "alcoholic").

Mr. Werry emphasized the strengthening effect of persecution. Miss Fedor didn't like rabbits—especially communist ones.

Mr. Bollingett: "Exclusion is persecution on the other side."

Mr. Williams saw no danger to New Zealand in the Communist Party. Was Mr. Curtin going to purge Marx from the Library? No, he said. After the debate the meeting passed two motions, both by acclamation. Mr. Arndt thanked Mr. Kevin O'Brien for his work in the Society and in the Students' Association; the following Miss Allison Pearce on her election to the presidency of the Association.

The next debate was on the question of the Church which will be held on Friday June 2.

DRAMA AGM.

THE annual meeting of the Drama Club was held on April 16. No financial statement was made—annual surpluses situation arose. On the motion, all accounts under the heading "Coriolanus" were not yet due. Discussion ranged around the work of the next year, and it was noted that activities would include an entry to Winter Tournament, a play-writing competition, activities in the "Act II" evenings, miscellaneous readings, and a study weekend.

The Club will welcome suggestions for plays to be read or performed, and so that, if you're interested, you can get in touch with the members of its executive for the coming year.

Patron: Mr. James Bertram.
Vice-Patrons: Mr. Ralph Hogg, Mr. Mike Bellingham.
President: Bill Rees.
Vice-President: Audrey Cook.
Secretary: Tony Keating.
Committee: Maureen Rose-Smith, Betty Jane, Paul Trendell, Paul Cotton.

THE INSIDE STORY

AFTER the discussion in Salient columns on the question of a Student Bookshop, we were glad to get this letter from John Hogan, the Managing Director of Technical Books.

Technical Books have been advertisers in Salient for some time, and students must provide a fair number of the firm's catalogue. The remarks it makes—though they are not those of a student—are very acceptable as they give the other side of the story. He says—

"I have been interested in the correspondence in your columns concerning this proposal. The public is not, of course, a new one—it is indeed a perennial that comes up almost every year and in almost every University College.

"A.W.C. correctly states some of the bookstrikers' problems in giving account of satisfactory service to students. However, we are happy to reply that we are able to give a definite answer on these points raised by him—"

"for our part, we have not a general post-war disinclination to carry warehouse stocks—we are quite prepared to carry stocks of all standard textbooks and reference books as our shelves will hold at any time.

"While many books are still not in print again since the war, there is no general shortage of supplies overseas, and we are able to obtain adequate quantities of most books required with little delay.

"Import restrictions do not hamper us in obtaining all the requirements of text and reference books.

"In point of fact, the greatest single difficulty that the bookstrikers have had to contend with is one which is prevalent in providing for text-books required by the students. There has been the uncertainty caused by a customary tendency on the part of the faculty to change the set textbooks at short notice. Many booksellers have had their fingers badly burned by a result of landing a set of textbooks only to find that they were no longer required, and vice versa.

"We understand that this problem is one which fairly concerns the students in question and is dealt with by the book-Wells staff and that in many cases they are prepared to give an assurance that textbooks will not be changed without six or 12 months notice so that book-sellers can order with reasonable confidence.

"As further problem arises if orders are distributed between a number of bookshops, for fear of not getting books they want, place orders for the same with several different book-sellers. Under these circumstances, someone is going to be left with unsaleable stock, or, alternatively, everyone is going to order too cautiously and supplies will be inadequate. This problem, too, is quite capable of solution by proper co-operation between students, their associations and the book-sellers concerned.

"The possibility of orders for textbooks being placed with an importation bookseller by the Students' Association itself in return for a favourable discount for a bulk order is also frequently discussed. The disadvantage of this approach is that there has never yet been a Students' Association prepared to take responsibility for a specific quantity order and for payment within a specified period.

"Now that supplies of most important books can be readily obtained and there is little occasion for specifying unprocureable books, there is no reason why all the students should not be assured of all they require in future.

"1. A firm order placed sufficiently early.

"2. An assurance that textbooks will not be changed without reasonable notice.

"3. A responsible body to deal with if bulk discount is required."—JOHN HOGAN.
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Of the other two stories there is less to be said. The first is a flip- pant amusing little piece of the kind which suited Rayford and Waters. Fortunately it was lifted above the average by Mal Gattchini's acting—a flippancy, amusing little piece whose over-exaggeration with camera at that added much to the effect of the opening scene. The de Maupassant ending was well done. The second story was very well done by the main character—Charles, whose brother, however, still acted it, and thought he and director were fully perceptive. Maugham is perhaps too superficial to get tragedy; it stays cynical, sad, but not tragic.

Quartet is well harmonised: the stories blend well, the actors and director and the audience without discord. It's an excellent film, but Maugham is entirely in the "light orchestral" range.

The Sports Council
ATHLETIC Club, Men's Basketball,
Defence Rifles, Women's Basket- ball,
Women's Indoor Basketball, As- sociation Football, Harriers, Women's
Hockey, Minature Bowls, Rugby, Swimming, Swords.
Table Tennis are all diagrammed and have an active interest in a body which brings together to iron our differ- ences.
We admit that we were not surprised at the activities of clubs and we were just surprised to see that sports clubs are doing what they can to help themselves. It shows that at last the apathy which has enveloped VUC is lifting.

That the first meeting of the Sports Council should accomplish as it did is astonishing.

O renewed, Tuesday, April 18, 14 clubs were represented, and one apologised. A chairman was elected and a secretary to hold posts until the Council is officially recognised by the Exec., when all the officials will be chosen.

A constitution was outlined and accepted; this will be sent to the Exec. The important part of the evening, though, was work out from the very circular just what the needs of sports clubs are. The Gym take—was decided—most of the room; it should be made available for use for everything. The board was best in New Zealand. Lockers for gear took up little space. Although the individual lockers for students will be the other main needs will be a swimming pool and a miniature rifle range in the basement.

The first meeting was a general success, and we should like very much to see the rest of the clubs for everyone's sake, coming in also.

For Information, get in touch with L. E. Bennett, e/a the Men's Com- mon Room better luck, or get in touch with your club rep. on the Council.

Table Tennis Club
For those who wish to play but could not attend the AGM, here are the people to get in touch with: Jack Matthews, Secretary.
B. Hollingham, Treasurer.
M. Martin-Smith, Chairman.

Coming Events
MAY 15-18: Annual I.U.F conference at Eastern Beach, Auckland. The speakers: Prof. Blacklock, Mrs. Graham Miller. Application forms with the Secretary, Evangell Union, Grace Kime.