

Salient

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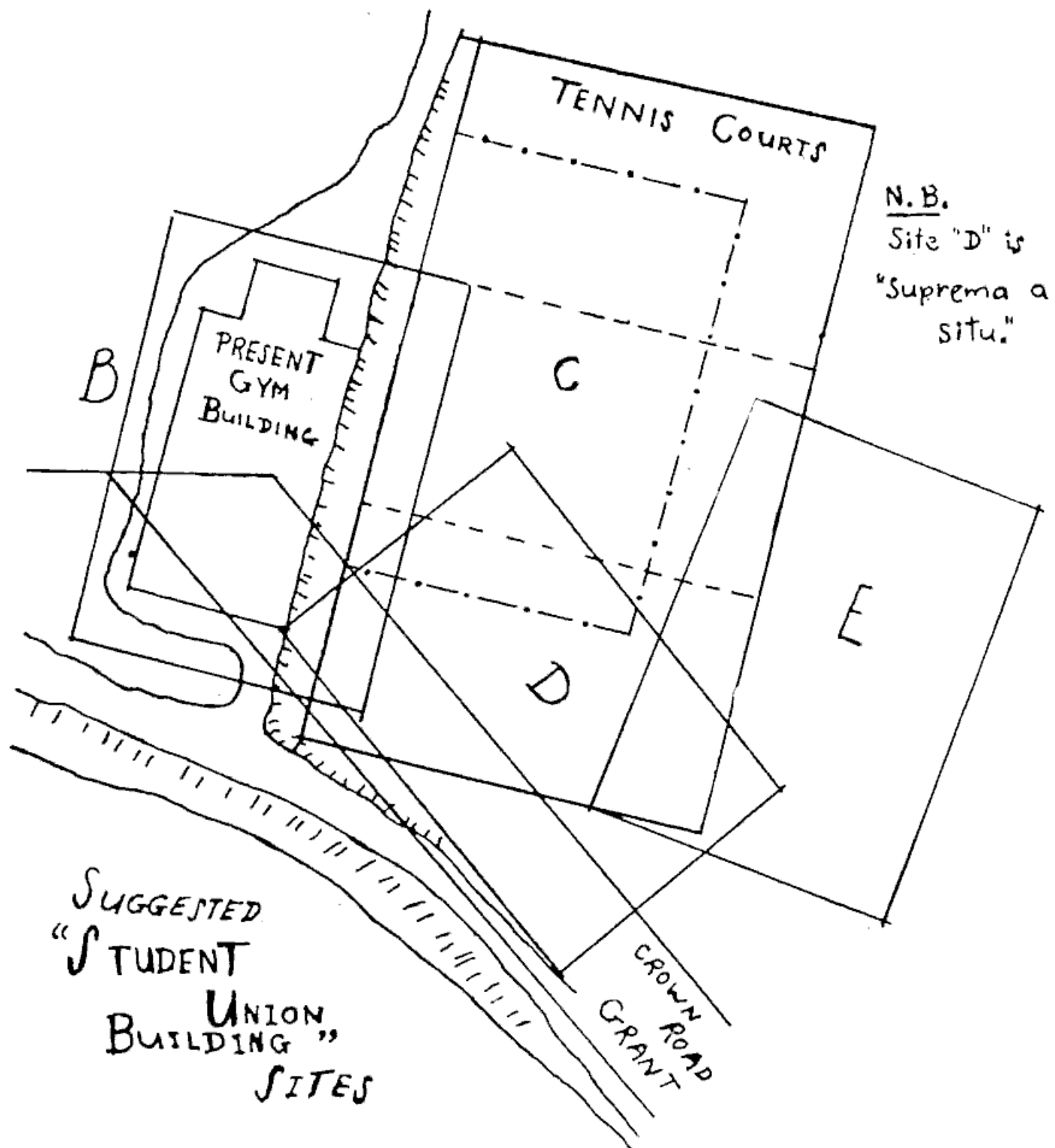


Diagram Indicating Proposed Sites—See Page 2

TAKE IT FROM HERE

Building Sites at Last

DURING the vacation, an important development took place in connection with the proposed Student Union Building. The architects, who have been investigating various possibilities during recent months, have now submitted a report on suggested alternative sites to the College authorities for consideration.

It would now appear that a definite decision on this important question can be reasonably expected in the relatively near future. Once the site has been decided upon it becomes immediately possible for the architects to draw up definite plans upon which to make a start with the actual construction of the building.

* At a recent meeting of the Executive the report of the architects was discussed at considerable length. The outcome of this discussion, together with any other decisions which may be taken by this Association, will serve as the basis upon which the two Executive nominees on the Student Union Building Planning Committee will take their stand. It is for the purpose of keeping students fully informed of recent developments, and of Executive opinion on this matter that your Executive has instructed me to submit this report.

In the first place, I should like to make two introductory remarks. We are at the moment concerned only with the question of deciding upon the most suitable site. It has become apparent in recent months that the funds at our disposal will fall considerably short of what would now be required to proceed with the original plans. This means that we will probably soon be faced with the prospect of accepting a building on a reduced scale as the only alternative to raising a great deal of money. As this question would not appear to affect a decision on the site, however, discussion on this matter has been postponed.

Secondly, the executive has deemed it unwise at the moment to make a fast decision upon the site most favoured. The main reason for this is that we have insufficient technical knowledge of the difficulties and cost involved in the preparation of any particular site. It has therefore been thought advisable to do no more at the present time than to agree upon certain propositions which are considered important and which should serve as a guiding principle in the final determination of the most suitable site.

The propositions agreed upon are three in number. First, it is very important that the minimum amount of money be spent on excavation, foundation work and other matters incidental to preparing the site, in order that the maximum amount may be spent upon the construction of the building itself. When it is realised that the expense incurred under

this item alone could easily run into many thousands of pounds, the importance of this point will be readily appreciated.

In the second place, we feel that it is important that the tennis courts should not be sacrificed unless absolutely necessary. In making a final decision on the site, therefore, the present tennis courts should not be sacrificed unless absolutely necessary. In making a final decision on the site, therefore, the present tennis courts should be interfered with as little as possible, or, alternatively, provision should be made to reconstruct these elsewhere.

A final matter of somewhat lesser importance, but one which should be borne in mind is that the present gymnasium should be preserved if at all possible. Some students may consider that this is merely a transitory consideration, and that the temporary difficulty created by being without the present student facilities should play no part in decisions regarding the new building. It must be remembered, however, that the Student Union Building may well be in the process of construction for two or three years, in other words, the time spent at the University by the average student. To be almost completely devoid of student facilities for so long a period is therefore most undesirable. It is difficult to see how possible alternative arrangements in other buildings, such as the Little Theatre, would be particularly satisfactory. The gymnasium would also be of considerable value to students even after the creation of the new building, and could well serve many incidental needs such as storage space, and the construction of Process and Extrav. equipment.

Bearing these considerations in mind, the Executive has come to the conclusion that the most desirable site is to be found in a position approximating site "C" or "D" on the chart (seen front page). Site "B" has not been viewed with favour because of the necessity for considerable excavation in order to bring it down to tennis court level, and the necessity of demolishing the

gymnasium. In addition, it would not make the best use of the view and the southern side would be almost entirely shut off from the light.

Site "E" has been favoured in previous years when a re-alignment of Salamanca Road had been envisaged. The re-alignment project has now been abandoned, however, and the large amount of excavation and foundation work required makes the site at present unfavourable.

Site "D," it should be noted, lies substantially on Crown Land, and the adoption of this site depends upon approval being obtained from the requisite authorities. Great difficulty in this direction is not, however, anticipated at the present time. This site has the advantages of commanding an excellent view, of preserving the present gymnasium, and of leaving room for two tennis courts. In addition, the excavation problem would appear to be relatively small. This site is the one recommended by the architects.

Site "C" has the important advantages of requiring little expense in excavation, of preserving the present gym., and of commanding an excellent view. It would, however, completely ruin the tennis courts, and its desirability depends largely upon the possibility of another site for the tennis courts being found. Perhaps the best site of all can be found by moving "C" right into the south-east corner of the tennis courts, providing an even better foundation and possibly preserving one tennis court. As in "D," however, permission from the Crown would have to be obtained.

In conclusion, perhaps it should be mentioned that two other sites were also investigated. "Site "A," located on the slope about 50-100 yards south of the present Little Theatre block, overlooking Mount Victoria, appeared unfavourable because of the amount of excavation required, and because it is not conveniently situated. The suggested site "F," located on the lawn to the north of the main block (alongside the cafeteria) has many technical advantages. Its proximity to main roads carrying a great deal of traffic, together with the aesthetic difficulty of finding a suitable design to fit in with the background, yet one which is desirable for the purpose of a Student Union Building are the main reasons for not viewing it favourably. As the construction of new college buildings takes place, its situation will become less and less suited to the convenience of the students.

The most suitable site, both from a long and a short term viewpoint, would appear to be in the vicinity of the present tennis court area.

—P. M. McCaw,
President, V.U.C.S.A.

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RING ROUND THE MOON

THE New Zealand Players have returned to Wellington for their second tour with a better play, and improved teamwork. In their performance of M. Anouilh's "Invitation au Chateau," wittily translated by Christopher Fry and renamed "Ring Round the Moon," they gave us the most entertaining evening in the theatre that we have been offered for a long time. It provided a flavour almost new to us, the "Theatre of Fantasy," and one, I think, that most people enjoyed.

"Ring Round the Moon" states itself to be a "charade with music" and to describe the plot is to grasp a handful of moonlight. It is a fairy tale with distortions of fairy tale figures and situations. Everything about it has a quality of the fabulous. The Ball in the Wintergarden is of the grandest, the rich girl of the richest, the poor girl of the prettiest, and the hero is twins.

The tone is elegant and ironic, passing smoothly from one subject or scene to the next. The terms of this fantasy are very amusing, for the playwright is master of situation, and a brilliant inventor of episodes. M. Anouilh has at his command all the tricks for drawing us into the heart of each moment as it comes along, and Mr. Fry's translation seems to have given an added sparkle to the dialogue.

The Acting

John Carson-Parker, as the twins, moves through the double role gracefully and with style. He had sufficient swagger as the wicked, unprincipled Hugo, but did not seem timid enough as Frederic. On the whole he was smooth and satisfying with the changes from one twin to the other expertly done. Michael Cotterill was excellent as Patrice Bombelles, the secretive secretary, adding just the right comic touch to the

part. Lady India, the millionaire's mistress, was acted with the exaggerated manner of the nineteen-twenties by Rilla Stephens. This was remarkably well done and the irresistibly funny scene where she and Patrice leave the ballroom and continue their tango in the Wintergarden, almost stole the show. Gay Dean as Madame Desmortes, aunt of the twins, delivers her witticisms from a bathchair and conjures up for us a spectacular picture of life as it really was. She kept the requisite light touch for the part all the time. The most difficult piece of character acting was Capulet, the faded companion, giggling, twittering and excitable. This part was extremely well acted by Delme Hope. Diane Rhodes made a charming, natural Isabelle, the ballet dancer who dutifully plays a part in trying to capture Frederic's attentions. The jealous Diane, Frederic's fiancée, was handled quite well by Ruth Alley, but she did not seem to fit into her role as easily as the others. I did not like Edith Campion, as Isabelle's mother. Her voice seemed too high pitched, and some of her movements decidedly awkward. Barry Lineham as the Crumbling Butler, John Gordon as the Melancholy Millionaire, and Roy Patrick as the Lepidopterist, were all first class in their interpretations, though the latter two dropped their voices at certain times.

The production, by Richard Campion, kept the play going gaily and prettily apart from one snag in the fourth act, where some quickening of pace is needed. Above all, the stage settings, lighting and costumes blended to give the right finishing touches to the production.

The result of this combination of talents is as good a piece of light-hearted entertainment as we have seen for a long time.

—Tony Courtney

MARTON-WANGANUI RELAY

TWO V.U.C. harrier teams accompanied by some faithful supporters, headed by Club Vice-president Herbert Taylor, travelled north in brilliant weather last weekend for the Marton-Wanganui relay race. The teams consisted of five runners, who each ran about five miles.

Ross Rawnsley gave the A team a good start by easily leading the field throughout the first lap. John Mahan kept in the lead but only just and Mike Truebridge began the third lap with a Scottish runner only 50 yards behind him. Truebridge developed cramp and Scottish took over to hold a handy lead at the beginning of the fourth lap. Dick Gilbert ran splendidly to close right up on the leader but when provincial champion Brian Derwin raced off with 20 seconds' start on Clem Hawke the Scottish runners' eyes sparkled with the light of victory and Victoria tried to get used to the idea of being beaten by a local club. Hawke ran a determined lap to be within 20 seconds of Derwin at the finish. Meanwhile the B team were steadily working their way up through the field. Bob Croker, Peter Joyce, Tim Beaglehole and Derek Pringle all ran with plenty of life and their useful performances were topped off with a beautiful timed last lap by Tony Gow, who passed the Marton runner in the final sprint to give us fifth place in the whole field and a victory in the B grade race for the Armstrong Shield.

Almost overwhelmed by the hospitality in Wanganui and at Waitotara on Sunday most of the party were kept going only by the basic fitness achieved by all club members. After the reception we received there would probably be unanimous agreement that the stifling heat, the hot hard road and the blisters were worth it and there seems every likelihood that the relay will be on the Club's programme for next season.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Editor of "Capricade," 1954.
- Editor of "Salient," 1954.
- Business Manager of "Salient," 1954.
- Advertising Manager of "Salient," 1954.

Applications to be in the hands of the Secretary of the Students' Association by September 30.

(The last three mentioned, to be in the hands of the Secretary of the Association by October 31, 1953).

Two Milestones

IN this issue there are featured two separate matters; one concerns the Rugby Football Club, and the other, the Students' Union Building. It is fitting that both topics should receive fullest coverage in this issue, for each represents an achievement, and we would do well to consider what each means, and what the story of each has to offer.

It is not the success which the Rugby Club has attained which is important so much as the manner in which it has attained it; so to, with the collective effort of the students in their endeavour to provide future students of a building worthy of them.

One can only admire the drive and vigour with which the Rugby Club has set about each task which has lain ahead of it. Perhaps the enthusiasm of the members is brought about by the fact that it is, comparatively speaking, a small, and closely knit body, perhaps because its objectives have been more immediate, perhaps, because in its lean years its leaders had the spirit and determination to keep things alive and moving in readiness for brighter days ahead; yet there must have been many of them, who lead and worked for the club in the past who could never see an open road ahead. But the drive which is the hallmark of the club today, is not something which has sprung up overnight. It has been with them for many, many years.

Off the field of play they have set themselves to the task of building a gymnasium. They have set about this task with a certainty of purpose which alone makes it inevitable that they should succeed. They rely on, and receive, the fullest support and co-operation of their members, many of whom will never see the new building. And this is the lesson we must learn.

You have before you today the site plans for the new Students' Union Building; this is an achievement which crowns many years of consistent work; yet, today, at the very time when final success is so close at hand, the fire of enthusiasm has died down until the flame is lower than it has ever been before. We are doing very little (if indeed, we are doing anything), to add to the wholly inadequate funds at our disposal for the erection of this building: as a consequence, we are in danger of throwing

away the greater part of our achievement. Because our funds are inadequate, we are already considering ways of reducing the new building to its minimum requirements, rather than seeking to add to the fund so that the building will not become as useless for its purpose in thirty years as the present gym is today.

One difficulty which confronts us is the fact that if we draw attention to possible deficiencies in the new building, we are met with the answer that at the present time we are only considering site plans and not the layout and content of the new building; that we should leave these other problems until the more immediate question has been decided.

But the layout and content of the building could have direct bearing on the matter of the site. At present, the width of area which the new building is to take up is determined by the fact that it is to contain a gymnasium of a minimum required width. Therefore, if the gymnasium were to be erected separately, the building could be narrower, and could more conveniently be fitted into a given area. It might, for example, mean that site D could be chosen without interfering permanently with more than one tennis court; this fact itself, could have a direct bearing on the site which is finally chosen.

A general suggestion which we have to offer, is that the Union Building be erected, without a gymnasium, on site D, and that a separate gymnasium be erected on the site of the present one, and be linked to the Union Building. A point to be noted, too, is that the present estimated width of the building does not allow for the originally planned spectator space in the gym itself. Besides cutting down on the revenue producing aspect of the gymnasium, this could well be a permanent impediment for the future.

One conclusion we can reach. If the value of the building is not to be permanently impaired, we must either construct one with full facilities for such things as are catered for at all, with room for extension to take in other facilities, as funds become available, or else we must have a lot more money, and quickly. What we must avoid at all costs is providing a little of everything, and not enough of anything. This seems to be the present danger.

—F.L.C.

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A REMINDER

STUDENTS of V.U.C. are reminded that as from the 31st of October, College blazers will be obtainable **ONLY** from Hallensteins Brothers' Cuba Street store, and then only on production of a chit signed by the secretary of the Students' Association (Bernie Galvin) stating that the student is a bona fide and financial member of the Association. The D.I.C., formerly sole suppliers of V.U.C. blazers, will now deal only with the traditional items of clothing.

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LETTERS

Aid for the Needy

SIR,—We have heard with alarm of the foundation in our midst of the Bachelors' Club and the Spinners' Club. We are also surprised that a function such as their inaugural ball, which brought the two clubs temporarily together, while their aim is to remain separate, should be such a success. We can only conclude that the clubs apart do not find favour with their members.

We are appalled at the thought of what such segregation may mean to the future population of New Zealand and the morale of the V.U.C. students generally. Psychology students assure us that this may result in repressions, feelings of rejection, and frustration.

We have therefore decided to counteract these dangerous tendencies by instituting a Marriage Bureau. We are sure that this will meet with the approval of the majority of students and staff. Any person interested please write to "Marriage Bureau Staff," via the letter rack in either common room. All correspondence treated as confidential.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF,
V.U.C.M.B.

Building Site

SIR,—It has come to pass in the year of our Lord, 1953, that the site of the new Student Union Building is to be decided. The Executive have recognised its importance by providing this special issue of "Salient" setting out the pros and cons of each possible site in a statement by our President but there it has stopped—dead. A motion providing for a referendum to ascertain what site most students favoured was lost. Even a proposal that the Executive call a Special General Meeting was held unnecessary. So, having informed the students, the Executive is going to deny them the right to express their opinions.

It is true that the College Council is not bound by such opinions, but who would say that the Council would not be influenced? After all students will be the users of the building. It is true, too, that a referendum would cost money—about £15! What what is £15 contrasted with the advantageous disposal of £39,000 donated by past students and benefactors? What exactly do the wishes of past and present students count for with the Exec.? Nothing, Mr. Editor, nothing.

Somebody said that Exec. members could feel the trend of student opinion by personal discussions. But how can 12 vouch for the opinions of 2150?

No, sir! the Executive knew best how to decide this formal matter of

the site for a £109,000 building designed to last 100 years! It even thought that the site (C) completely blotting out the entire tennis courts was one of the two best. That would merely mean no tennis at all at this University for about five years some time in the future.

Mr. Editor, the students' views have been passed over, their debt of gratitude to the past disregarded and their obligation to those who will come after us unrecognised. If a grievous error occurs at this late stage 30 years of hard work by thousands of past students will be clouded and those of the future will be left to wistfully regret their inheritance of an unsatisfying site for their building.

The solution by way of a Special General Meeting lies with your readers.

P. D. CHATWIN,
Vice-President, V.U.C.S.A.

(This letter was referred to the President of the Students' Association, and his comments are printed herewith.—Ed.)

"I do not wish to enter into a discussion on the merits and demerits of what the Executive has done in connection with this matter. In order to avoid confusion or a misinterpretation of the facts, however, I would like to make the following comments.

"(1) The Executive is in no way denying to students their right to express their opinions. If the students feel that they have useful suggestions or criticism to offer, they are free to call a Special General Meeting. Such a move would be welcomed by the Executive.

"(2) May I refer you to my report on page two in which I state that site 'C' would be approved only if a satisfactory alternative site for the tennis courts could be arranged."

—P. M. McCAY

New Zealand Players

SIR,—Allow me to submit a few thoughts on "Ring Round the Moon" and the New Zealand Players. Mr. Courtney in his masterly review, says some very nice things about them but leaves a great deal unsaid and I must say that I even feel obliged to disagree with some of the things he does say.

Christopher Fry, the translator, was reluctant to call the play a farce and it is not difficult to see why. The play looks for chuckles rather than belly laughs and the humour is in the dialogue rather than the situation is. The farcical element was there and the actors did not bring it out. The acting was rather patchy and even what was competent was rarely first class. This patchiness spoils the flow of the play (though this was partly the fault of the author).

I could not help but register an

uncomfortable feeling regarding the individuals on the stage, that I was not seeing new and interesting characters for the first time but people I had seen before—just saying different words. Mademoiselle Desmarmortes positively reeked of Georgiana Tidman because of the common factor that was too overt, Gay Dean. Rilla Stevens is another offender here, her jerky exaggerated gestures are far too characteristic of Rilla Stephens and not always characteristic of her roles. I could say the same of Delme Hope. On the other hand Edith Campion, who has a very distinctive voice, lives her parts so well that she manages to avoid it.

John Carson-Parner's Frederic was very good but I could not bring myself to dislike Hugo as much as the plan demanded. His portrayal was far too "straight" and lacked humour. Diane Rhodes was good, but she did no more than reproduce the words, movements and emotions the script asked for; she added nothing of her own, and Isabelle was therefore rather a delightful part, the sort of part an actress longs for, and if she is the artist I think she is she will improve on tour.

Now I would like to say something nice. For me the most pleasing thing about the players is the wonderful improvement shown by Roy Patrick. Earlier in the year I said in "Salient," "Roy Patrick lacks colour and stage presence." Well! His portrayal of the Lepidopterist in "Ring Round the Moon" was truly delightful. Being the cynic that I am I tossed him off with a "must have been well cast" this time. However a night or two later I saw him turn on a rattling good performance in the title role of "Ned Kelly." He obviously has something and it is good to see it coming to light.

The setting and particularly the lighting was excellent, though I thought rather too elaborate. I would have liked something more stylised.

I still say the Players are potentially a good company. Some of them are unfortunately limited by the type of part they can play but they have a nucleus of versatility and experience, and a reservoir brimming with young talent, so good luck to them!

—DAVID K. BRIDGES.

Moan Alone

SIR,—Professor Gordon joins with the "Evening Post" and "Dominion" in perceiving that the "Literary Issue" is critical of New Zealanders. It seems that none of them stopped long enough to wonder why before describing their reactions. Is the only truth about New Zealand in Tourist Department folders or the "New Zealand Truth"? Is the problem worth discussing at all?

PENNY.

Rugby . . .

THE 50th. SEASON IN RETROSPECT

DURING the past weekend, past and present members of the Rugby Football Club joined in the celebration of a most notable event in the history of the Club. This, of course, was the conclusion of the fiftieth year of University Rugby in Wellington. A most enjoyable weekend was undoubtedly had by all who attended. Those former Club members were also able to observe present day University footballers playing in the North-South match—a match reserved for only the most select of New Zealand players. However, not all the old-timers were impressed by University men attaining to this high honour. In fact, Mr. A. H. Bogle, speaking at the Jubilee Smoke Concert on Saturday, remarked that the sight of University men being selected for All Blacks and North Island teams, could only lead him to one unfortunate conclusion—that there was something seriously wrong with New Zealand Rugby. The standard must be very low, he concluded; after all, who ever heard of a Victoria College player being selected for New Zealand in 1905! !

One rather remarkable fact was stressed by most of the speakers, and that was that in both of the celebrations staged by the Club to date, namely, the 25th Anniversary in 1928 and the 50th in 1953, the Club was at the time the holder of the Jubilee Cup. Future teams of the Club will thus have the incentive to strive for success in the Jubilee Cup on the occasion of future anniversaries. As a corollary to this, however, the slump which Victoria College Rugby suffered during the late 1930's, following after the great successes of 1928-29, was offered up to future members as something which must not eventuate after the present match-winning side has broken up.

The season just concluded was undoubtedly a most notable one for the Club, as not only did the senior team carry off the senior championship for the second year in succession, but several players brought added lustre to the record by achieving selection in the Wellington representative team, present holders of the coveted Ranfurly Shield. On Tuesday, September 15, the names of the fortunate thirty to tour Great Britain with the 1953 All Blacks were announced. Prior picks by many Rugby pundits rightly indicated that R. A. Jarden, J. T. Fitzgerald, B. B. J. Fitzpatrick and W. H. Clark would be selected. Many other knowledgeable critics believe that University players who have been unlucky not to have been accorded further trials were L. T. Savage, E. W. Battell and P. C. Osborne. All the above names, together with I. E. Stuart, A. J. Henley and B. C. Burden, were also selected during the season to represent Wellington. This list of players from the University Club serves to emphasise the extent to which present day players are attaining great distinction on the football field.

Tribute to Coaches

On Saturday it was stressed that the Club as a whole and the senior team in particular owe a great debt to the two remarkably devoted and able coaches who have so enthusiastically guided the team to its second successive championship success. I refer, of course, to Mr. R. B. Burke and Dr. K. F. Uttley. Anyone who has had the misfortune to sit next to Ken or Dick during a club match will appreciate the depth of interest with which they follow every move! At practices on Sunday morning, when most of the team, and very likely the coaches too, felt rather the worse

for wear, the two would be there to force the side back into activity; to forget about yesterday's win and prepare for the following Saturday.

The team this season was also fortunate in having a very capable group to draw from as replacements for the 1st VX. These included J. I. Parker, B. C. Hill, L. H. Silcock and others. F. A. Muller also was one who became a regular member of the side only later in the season, but who was always ready to attend club practices. All who saw his magnificent run the full length of Athletic Park will remember with anxiety how they observed Frank's stride growing shorter and shorter as the line was approached, until, almost running on the spot, he dived to score a memorable try. Looking back, however, it would seem that the keenness for practice followed after that run.

To Ivan Stuart, the captain, the rest of the team can be very grateful for inspired leadership in the tightest of corners. Following the final game, against Marist, when the forwards, led always by Ivan, broke up the far heavier and stronger Marist back, the team showed their appreciation of his worth by carrying him shoulder high from the field. Looking back on the season there are many other incidents which one recalls. Ron Jarden's fantastic burst of scoring in the Hutt match when he unleashed

runs from all corners of the paddock to score 13 points in the last five minutes of the game. Then there was Peter Osborne's impeccable performance in the mud at Martin Luckie Park when the team almost went down to the bottom team in the competition. And Billy Nepia, the baby of the side, when he became embroiled with a Marist forward almost twice his age, and gave at least as much as he took.

Tribute to Team

All in all the season was a most satisfactory one as the side was able to demonstrate that though the obvious strength of the team lay in the backs, on the wet days which seemed to come, Saturday after Saturday, the forwards were capable of rising to the occasion and laying the foundation for victory. On the odd fine day which did occur the team was able to show what a great force it would have been if the season had been only a normally fine one. One of the best tributes yet paid to the side came from Mr. C. G. Gibbons, coach and selector of the Wellington rep. side, when he said that in training the representative teams they had been governed by the principles of the game as demonstrated by the University team. And at the present time the Wellington team is being acclaimed as the leaders in the present brighter, more enterprising style of Rugby. Mr. Bogle, in his jocular remark (one of many in a most humorous speech) undoubtedly was calling attention to the fine standard of University Rugby at the present time and the advances which the Club has made since the green jersey first appeared in the Wellington competition in 1903.

—D.B.G.M.

To

W. H. CLARK
R. A. JARDENB. B. J. FITZPATRICK
J. T. FITZGERALDWe offer our congratulations on their well-merited achievement
and wish them Bon Voyage.

It is a fact that many manifestations of religion are deficient in control by reason. The answer is, perhaps, that religion is the response of the whole man to what is his most vital concern. Here is its unmistakable impulse. "I sought what I might love, in love with loving, and safety I hated and a way without sares. For within me was a famine of that inward food, Thyself, my God," said St. Augustine. The whole of the man is engaged in the genuine religious experience, and the more a man is sensitized like the poet, the more vivid will be his awareness of the hollow ache of his being. That is why many an atheist is a believer inside out. His care and hate betray him; he has sciatica of the soul.

If, then, religion alone expresses the total man, if it is the mother country of the impulses, there is a desperate need for simplicity and wisdom in its direction. A false religion can work havoc, a true religion is the end of man. Reason, therefore, is imperatively needed to make a religious belief grow as it should.

Christianity is a mature religion, and so far from despising reason it has been accused of overrating it. It started as an historical event and expanded rapidly into a universal faith which challenged every idea of the time and the past. It had to defend and justify its creeds. The results are there for all to see; and there are many men who have been drawn by inexorable reason to accept its claims. To them St. Augustine said, "Love truth dearly. Far from us the thought that God defests that whereby He made us superior to the animals; far from us an assent of pure faith which should dispense us from accepting or demanding reasons." It is not a religious, but a scientific age which, as Professor Whitehead insists, "has remained predominantly an antifractionalistic movement, based upon a naive faith. What reasoning it wanted, has been borrowed from mathematics. . . Science repudiates philosophy. In other words, it has never cared to justify its faith or explain its meaning; and has remained blandly indifferent to its refutation by Hume."—C.S.G.

LETTERS (Contd.)

Thanks

SIR,—Owing to the uncertainty of publication, this year's Salient Literary Issue was a rush job, commenced with little warning. Editorial thanks go then to contributors who completed articles several weeks before an early deadline, and then were ready to make revisions, and still enable two-thirds of the copy to be in the printer's hands on deadline night. Also thanks to the twenty writers who sent in sixty poems and nine short stories from which to make a selection. The position of Victoria in this respect is healthier than at other Universities, such as Birmingham, with 10,000 students.

My personal thanks goes to Peter Dronke and Louis Johnson, who watched over the literary indiscretions of a new editor, and to Mr. Harry Lord of the Standard Press, who with infinite patience instructed a layman in the fundamentals of printing production.

JOHN CODY.

Sex

SIR,—In his article on Sex Apartheid, Mr. Oestreicher mentions the natural law; but his argument loses a good deal of force because he seems to regard the natural law as the preserve of Christians, or anyone who happens to agree with their moral code. The natural law, however, is not a force that a nation

or any individual can play around with impunity; and Mr Oestreicher neglected the most important point when he did not point out that if sexual relationships are not related to the natural law there will be certain unpleasant inevitable consequences.

He did not mention, for example, the most important fact of the lot: that the primary end of sexual congress is the procreation of children. Where this primary end is neglected in favour of the second and third ends (the fostering of mutual love, and the allaying of concupiscence) the result is the breakdown of social life.

This, I think, is a sufficiently strong reason for saying not that the natural law is merely desirable, or a Good Thing, but that the natural law is inevitable and inviolable.

And, incidentally, members of the Catholic Church do not accept the teaching of their Church on faith alone, but because the teaching is that which their reason tells them is the natural law.—ERGO.

SIR,—According to your report of Dr. Weaver's address he claims he is qualified to speak definitely on the moral aspects of birth control. May I suggest that by "speak" he means "repeat the dogmas of a church that has pre-judged the issue." It would be a mistake to think that Dr. Weaver is free both to think about the question and to remain a Catholic. This, so long as it is clearly understood by his hearers, who, being university students, are, I presume, endeavouring to learn how to think for themselves and how not to pre-

V.U.C.

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PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

judge issues, is fair enough. It is not, however, fair enough for Dr. Weaver to try to get support for his moral views by suggesting that medical and psychiatric authorities support him. Halliday Sutherland, as a Catholic, is committed to the Catholic viewpoint and his evidence is suspect. He is not an accepted authority outside Catholic circles, nor is Dr. Louise McIlray an authority on neuroses. In any case, if Dr. Weaver is going to make obeying the calls of "nature" his standard of morality he may find a good many institutions of his church are suspect.

—H.C.T.

Resignation

IT is with regret that the Exec. last week accepted the resignation of Exec. member Trev Turner, B.A., who has been advised to discontinue his University studies because of ill health.

We wish Trev the best of luck and health in the future. During his short term on the Exec., he proved himself a very enthusiastic and energetic member, and all who know him here have a great respect for his somewhat shy but nevertheless very pleasing personality. Co-opted to take his place on Monday night was Dick Gilbert.

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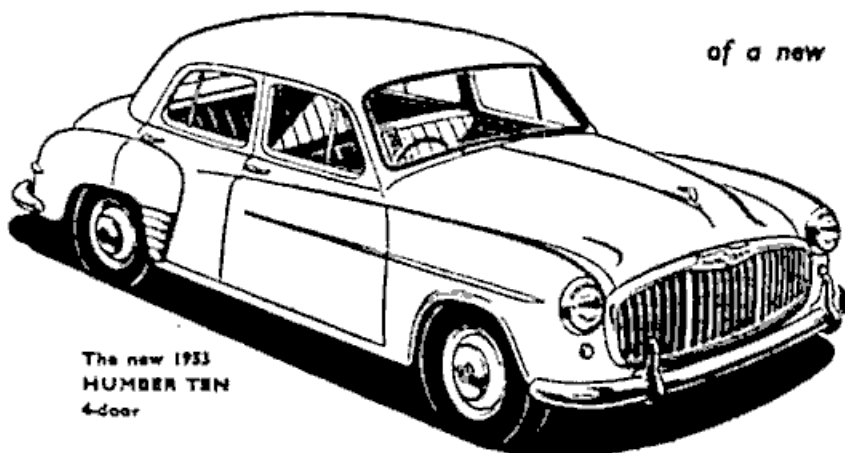
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