



# craccum

auckland university college students' paper

Vol. XXIX—No. 5 Auckland, N.Z., TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1954

Gratis

## Our Unique Institution

ABSTINENCE OF AN ADDRESS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND GIVEN BY DR. G. A. CURRIE AT U.S.A. CONGRESS, CURIOUS COVE, JANUARY, 1954

Even if the University of New Zealand were to be abolished completely today, we would have to create an organisation largely similar to it tomorrow to deal with the central functions of the University system in New Zealand.

Since well over 80 per cent of the income of the Colleges is derived from a central Government, and since New Zealand needs central co-operation in standards for its University degrees, and needs co-ordination between the Colleges in the interests of hundreds of students who remove from centre to centre yearly, and since a great number of Scholarships research funds and other matters have to be centrally organised yearly, it is clear that whatever it is named, some co-ordinating University body is and will be essential.

The special Professional Schools throughout New Zealand are special Schools of the University of New Zealand and to regulate the establishment and location of new ones, and assist the development of existing ones, some centralised policy is needed. Moreover, it is wise that there should be a body which can study the philosophy and development of University education in a small community on a Dominion-wide basis.

Whatever feelings you may have about the University there is little call for you while you are actually studying in one of the University Colleges to have any particularly warm feelings about the University, which seems only to take your money and give you precious little in return. However, the University does have vital functions concerning all of you, and we want members of the Conference to have more knowledge about it because like everybody else, remote as we are from the actual teaching of students and personal daily contact with teachers, with all the warmth of personal relationship that these engender we would prefer to live in an atmosphere of reasonable understanding and even tolerance: perhaps in extreme cases, even appreciation.

We sometimes feel that criticism is rather more often directed at our work than the circumstances warrant and only lack of a true understanding of the University's functions and activities could be the reason for this.

I shall attempt to cover and explain briefly the activities of the various bodies within the University before going on to give you a detailed description of just what happens to the students that we collect from degree and University Entrance examinations.

### The Senate

To begin with there is the powerful body, the Senate, in which rests the authority given to it under the University of New Zealand Act. Theo-

retically it is the governing body of a unitary University which consists of four Constituent Colleges and two associated Agricultural Colleges. Actually the kind of single complete University which was, as I understand it, intended by the Commission of 1926 in their Report has never really functioned, nor have those who have had the control of matters in the Colleges and in the Senate apparently wished it to function. It is in fact a mixture of federal and unitary in its functioning.

The Senate is composed of a majority of persons who are concerned directly with the University Colleges so that whatever policy the Senate develops must be considered to be what the Colleges want.

### Fees and Examinations

The Academic Board, composed of Professors from the Colleges and the Academic Heads of the Colleges is responsible for academic policy throughout the system and in the main the recommendations of the Academic Board are accepted by the Senate. The Academic Board receives recommendations which come up through the Professorial Boards of the Colleges so that in the end the academic policy is intended to be representative of the best thinking of academic men throughout the system.

Critics of the Board would claim that it has to find the lowest common denominator amongst the proposals sent up by the Colleges and so becomes, they think, a brake on certain kinds of educational experimentation.



HUNG ON A SHOE-STRING  
(This building in Bowen Street, Wellington, houses in its ground floor the University of New Zealand in its entirety.)

The Entrance Board, composed of Professors from the Colleges, members of the Education Department, and representatives of independent schools, sets standards for admission to the University. These standards, I think you will agree, are best to be equal throughout the Dominion, just as Great Britain has found that the General Certificate of Education applied on a nation-wide scale is most acceptable as a basis for entrance to all the universities there.

The Grants Committee, composed of persons selected by the Senate for their wide general interest in and knowledge of University affairs, along with the Heads of the Colleges, is charged with the responsibility of advising the Government on the financial needs of the University as a whole.

In addition to the statutory committees there is a multitude of Scholarship Committee, Research Fund Committees, ad hoc committees concerning Special Schools and other matters which deal separately with University problems throughout the year.

At this stage we can go back to the central office of the University and see just what it does and how it uses the money from fees collected from University Entrance candidates and from yourselves, as well as from those who offer themselves for ad eundem recognition and higher degree examinations.

You should understand right at the beginning that though the Government

grants about a million pounds a year to be distributed to the University Colleges, the University of New Zealand receives for its own special purposes from the Government only £6,900 per annum. The clerical costs of running the University office are only about the same as the clerical costs of running the Medical School at Otago. It has always been run on "shoe-string" finances and has been a remarkably efficient and economical examining administrative machine. Then where does all the fee income go?

First and foremost I say flatly that the great majority of examinations in the University are only just self-supporting or actually run at a loss. Some smaller subjects are so costly to examine that even to set the papers and have them printed costs more than the fee income. The money returned to the Colleges to supplement the salaries of members of staff; to pay the actual examiners for the work; to pay for supervision, paper, postage and so on, for the examinations is in most cases as great or greater than the sums received.

Fortunately, however, there are some large examination groups, the fee income from which shows a favourable balance to the University of New Zealand and it is from those particular groups chiefly that the

(Continued on page 8)



## Problems of a National Theatre

It is the hope of many theatre supporters that the professional company known as the N.Z. Players will develop, with possible modifications, into a National Theatre. It is of interest therefore to speculate on the chances of the N.Z. Players surviving and on the possibility of their providing the basis of a genuine National Theatre.

### CAN THE NEW ZEALAND PLAYERS SURVIVE?

A number of difficulties are immediately obvious. Of these the financial one is the most important. The cost of touring a single company throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand is considerable and it is still touch and go with the Players whether their receipts can cover costs. One unsuccessful tour could mean the end. There is the strain such a tour imposes upon the players, creating working conditions few would envy.

With the opening of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Auckland on July 9th, the New Zealand Players are again in the public eye.

This article, examining the problems of drama in New Zealand, and particularly those of a national theatre, has been written for "Craccum" by Murray Gittos, a past chairman of the Auckland Drama Council.

Actors staying with the company will surely need a very developed sense of vocation. And then, since New Zealand offers no professional alternative to the N.Z. Players, will good players always be ready to sacrifice other, safer careers for the uncertainty of employment in the theatre? Can the initial enthusiasm of the audiences, particularly that of the members of the Players Foundation, be sustained? The Foundation is not yet as large as desired and membership in it must be renewed annually with all this implies in annual crusades even to hold ground already gained.

### THE BOX OFFICE

It is the public which will decide if these difficulties are to be overcome. The Players must either give the public what it wants or persuade it to like what the Players wish to give. Wider sections of the public must be reached and this means that the ideals of the Players must be reconciled with the tastes of future unknown audiences.

If one may judge from the present responses of the theatre-going public, there is a decided preference for the classics. Contrary to what many people believe performances of modern West End successes are only occasionally good for the box office. The modern plays with literary pretensions—those of Eliot or Fry—enjoy a limited appeal which is unlikely to be greatly extended. The Players' one attempt at a play by a New Zealander was not, it seems, a conspicuous success and this field is still a debatable one. What then can we conclude from this? One can assert with confidence only that the coming Shakespearean production undertaken with the support of the educational authorities should be a step forward. Nevertheless, in essence the problem of finding larger audiences still re-

mains. We cannot order people into the theatre. It is a problem upon which light can be shed only by a consideration of the larger problem which is the subject of this article.

### A NATIONAL THEATRE

Is a National Theatre Company necessarily the same thing as a National Theatre? I think not. Perhaps to some people a National Theatre is merely a professional company supported by the State or public subscriptions or one which has a recognised superiority in technical standards. This is a purely formal conception. To have more than formal meaning a National Theatre would need to be a theatre wherein something specifically New Zealand in content was given expression. As a nation we are young and our way of life, our culture, draws heavily upon what we inherit from our British ancestry, but he would be a rash spirit who would maintain that we have no way of life distinctly our own. It is this distinctiveness which would need to be an important element in the plays performed by a true National Theatre. At the moment the N.Z. Players could not meet this requirement if they wanted to. Perhaps today more drama is being written in this country than ever before but yet it remains a fact that our culture has only been tentatively given expression in dramatic forms. Recognition of the need is slight, although growing. If it were greater we would find more public interest in the building of permanent theatres and we would find our amateur dramatic societies more concerned with promoting the works of local playwrights. A true National Theatre Company would be merely the end product of a more basic movement towards a national drama. Heads need bodies to grow on.

It would be foolish to suggest that the N.Z. Players, or any other company of professional players, could establish a National Theatre by its own efforts alone. The Players may succeed in establishing themselves, they may even be invited to wear the title of a National Theatre, but they can never become a National Theatre until they represent the final expression of a broad popular movement distinctly New Zealand in aims and character. It is possible however that they could do something to stimulate such a movement.

### NEW ZEALAND DRAMA

"Ned Kelly" was not a resounding success. It could be suggested that this was due in part to the play being "poetic" in the sense which obscures rather than reveals reality, but the main difficulty was more likely the affectation of cosmopolitanism found in so many of our present theatre-goers. To such people genius can never live in the house next door where anyone can watch him mowing his lawn. Culture is a cult. In our name they accept for us the role of "provincials" these most provincial of provincials. But fortunately, whatever their influence in the theatre, they are a very small proportion of our people as a whole. If it is not

## Eighth New Zealand Science Congress

The Eighth Science Congress of the Royal Society of New Zealand was held in Auckland from May 17th to 22nd and had a record enrolment of over 800. Organised in twelve main sections, its topics covered the physical, biological, social and applied sciences with papers ranging from radio-carbon chronology, Kauri leucotomy, to earthquakes, urban sprawl and public opinion.

In fact the full programme appears like a list of topics culled at random from a dictionary of sciences. This diversity, however, was not so wide as it appears, since each section had a particular focus in which many aspects of a particular problem were discussed. The bias, of course, was on the results of research and the problems of a particularly indigenous character.

In addition to the 200 or more papers there was also a more social side including excursions of scientific interest and a *Conversazione* at the Museum headquarters of the local branch of the Royal Society who were responsible for the organisation of the Congress. Public meetings were also held being addressed by Professor Oliphant and Dr. Robertson both of whom had journeyed from Australia to attend the Congress, and by Professor Odell of Otago.

It is difficult to pick out highlights of the programme since it was impossible for one person to attend more than a small percentage of the meetings. Some impressions however, may be worth recording. A lecture by Professor Bradley Patten of the U.S.A. on 'The early development of the Heart' drew a packed house on the first afternoon. The bare title cannot convey the sense of fascination engendered on watching films

showing the actual formation of the first beats of the heart of a bryo chicken. Professor Patten's very pleasant technique of presentation and the reels of films interspersed with film strips made the scene for the subsequent

Tuesday's meetings were mixed, some good, some bad, but raising the very pertinent question of the correct pitch for a paper at a Congress. It may be argued that I believe, that it is too easy to assume a familiarity with a subject by a lecturer in what is a highly specialised field. A alternative pitfall may be to end in a "Readers Digest" of review. The mean is to gauge, and several papers in the first pit. Though Oliphant's evening lecture on 'Man and Mankind' was as adequate as such a subject is not one on which comment can be very constructive. Often scientists are at pains to state their positions and respect the positions of others, but to point out what is wrong in world policy must be a peace and security — but comes to a definite line and then there appears no obvious reconcilable to all.

possible yet (and is this completely proven?) to present a New Zealand play of reasonable merit and secure an audience for it, recourse must be had to less ambitious means of achieving the same ends.

### SEEKING AUDIENCES

The large section of our people which is non-theatre-going and not apologetic about its nationality, must be sought out and its interest in the theatre stimulated by it being demonstrated in simple direct form that the theatre can directly reflect and interpret the lives of New Zealanders. For the N.Z. Players it would mean, in practical terms, taking short plays by local playwrights to the people—to the schools, the workshop, the social club, the sports club, to anywhere the people are congregated. In time dividends would be earned in terms of larger audiences not only for New Zealand plays but for all worthwhile productions staged in orthodox theatres.

### AVOIDING THE CULTURAL DEAD-END

A National Theatre Movement is scarcely possible unless the professional players involved are prepared to, and can, learn from their audiences, not merely from the professional and amateur critics but from the ordinary man and woman. It is easy and comfortable to create an esoteric circle which becomes estranged from the people at large and becomes a cultural dead-end. A National Theatre Company would promote criticisms in public of its work, seeking discussions at all levels.

So, in the final analysis, the problem of creating audiences can only be solved on a lasting basis by the emergence of a national drama capable of appealing to the man in the street. The problem of audiences and a National Theatre are one and the same. It is a matter of concern that so many people over-simplify the problem, seeking the shadow rather than the substance.

Three interesting symposia on Thursday dealt with Radio Dating, Greater Auckland Problems, and Leucotomy. The subjects have a very general appeal both to scientists and to laymen. It was perhaps for this reason that they attracted quite large numbers. Colour slides of a leucotomy and the statistics relating to the subject, in particular gave food for thought both on practical and grounds.

At such a Congress it is difficult to fit in all one's interests and many papers must be given preference for others, but the value of a Congress cannot be measured in terms of numbers and numbers of people attending. Instead, much of the efforts comes from informal discussions with experts in one's own field, or from proposed research, or from making contacts with people from elsewhere.

The Organising Committee congratulated on the work accomplished to make the Congress such a success and the only word of advice should go to the "man in the Weather Office" who presided over his bath taps running and gave a very wet week indeed.

A transcript of Professor T. G. Airey's recent address to the History Section of the Royal Society of New Zealand (1954) entitled, "New Zealand's foreign policy related to the country's social development and to current world events" will be on sale in the near future.



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## INDIVIDUAL, OR TEAM

finds it difficult to visualize a University Tournament anything other than a 'teams' basis. The guiding principle of the Tournament is that it should be a team effort, with as much emphasis on the individual as possible. And yet we find tennis, Summer Tournament, and, to some extent, Table Tennis at times run on an individualistic basis.

Tournament is nothing more than that. It is a tournament to discover the best tennis player in the University of New Zealand each particular year. Furthermore, at least one player travelled to Christchurch to play one game, while those who played in the finals of any event played only one game. No attempt is made to disregard of the individual behind the Tournament.

organizers of Table Tennis are so blatant. Here, a 'Teams' Tournament, with winners and losers in the first round playing off, is too easy. However, only two other colleges instead of three are met. Follow-up, a Championship Tournament is held, with the aim of discovering the best players of the year. The organizers' intention is not bad, but it could be better.

ing criticized the organization of the tournament, in particular, it seems to offer some reconstruction of the guiding ideal of the tournament. The situation is best described by taking a leaf from the Training College book, and playing a pure competition, with each College meeting every other one. The tournament would be to play singles, and combines in this competition, with certain objections to such an organization have been raised. An alternative view is that it would be possible to complete two such tournaments, involving each player in three games of three sets each, on the day. It is believed that the organization of the two-game advantage tournament would not solve the problem.

That is the case, an alternative tournament at each person play only two per match. Thus, half the tournament would play singles and doubles, while the other half would play doubles and combines. At least one inter-club competition in Auckland is run on such a basis, and matches are completed quite comfortably in an afternoon. This fact, incidentally, tends to negate the contention that it would be impossible to complete a full match, as suggested above, in one day, because at Tournament the full day is available for play.

Another objection to playing a full match, with three games for each person, is that nine games in three days is too much to ask for any player. One retort could be that fewer parties and more tennis would be better for health generally. Another, more concrete one, is that Tournament hockey and soccer involves each team in four games played over three days. It is doubtful if the amount of tennis suggested above would be any more strenuous than hockey or soccer.

One opinion stated that the abandonment of the Championship Tournament would discourage some of the country's leading players, who apparently would not deign to play for the University unless they had the opportunity of being crowned New Zealand Universities Champion. If that be the attitude of some of the competitors, the sooner they are left out, the better. We want no sportsmanship of that calibre.

One of our major sports is openly disregarding the ideals of Tournament. It is high time the people who help pay the cost of this Tournament took action, and made the organizers of the sport toe the line. (Note: The A.U.C. tennis officials did raise the matter at Christchurch, but it was thrown out. Why? Tradition must not be interfered with!)

—J.H.

## Badminton

Tuesday, 22nd of June, the Badminton Club's 'C' Grade played their second match of the season, against Eden, at Remuera. Eden won well at seven to three. Varsity were without a leading player, Chee, but never stage looked the team of a season earlier.

The game between Mitchell and Parmenter and McKenzie was a close one, but marred by too much miss-hitting. The best player of the four was unobtrusive J. Oakden. Apart from the early stages of the game, when A.U.C. held an edge, the points were never far apart. Eden recovered from this disadvantage and held a slight advantage throughout the remainder of the game. An interesting game but not inspiring one.

J. Oakden and J. Oakden won their game 21-10. Eden's pair started well, but 6-2. Varsity rallied to 7-6, and won their position to 13-6. From 13-6, "New Zealand" never looked like losing, with Chin and his partner taking the initiative.

The most exciting game of the tournament was that between J. Mitchell and E. Parmenter (Eden). Parmenter held an early advantage, to the lead at 10-4. The players

changed ends at 11-6 to Parmenter. With the score at 12-6 against him, Mitchell fought for a long time to hold his own, and finally made headway to be only one point down, 11-12. Mitchell was unable to maintain the pressure, and Parmenter carried his score to twenty, with Mitchell on thirteen. Mitchell showed his fighting qualities again and gradually brought his score to 19, to Parmenter's 20. Neither player could do anything about the situation for some time, until finally Mitchell found the roof and his opponent emerged the winner 21-19. Both players displayed sound defensive qualities and considerable tactical knowledge. A rather low roof, which both players found with some regularity, was the only factor which marred an excellent game.

The rock on which J. Oakden and M. Heenan crashed in their doubles game was B. Gillespie, who was too strong at the back of the court. Both Varsity's girls fought very well, especially Margaret, but they went under, 15-21.

Chin and Holdom did not show up over well in their doubles. An early deficit proved too hard to overcome, and they went under 17-21. Try as he would, Chin, the bulwark of the pair, could not bring his shots off.

### Men:

J. Mitchell 19 versus E. Parmenter 21.

T. Gan 21 versus R. McKenzie 10. Mitchell and Gan 18 versus Parmenter and McKenzie 21.

Chin and Holdom 17 versus East and Stanton 21.

### Women:

P. Brooking 15 versus M. Caley 6. W. Strickett 3 versus M. Chambers 15.

Brooking and Strickett 4 versus Caley and Chambers 21.

J. Oakden and M. Heenan 15 versus C. Hawke and B. Gillespie 21.

### Combines:

Chin and Oakden 21 versus East and Hawke 10.

Holdom and Heenan 5 versus Stanton and Gillespie 21.

## Rugby Notes

Since the last edition of "Craccum," the history of our club has not been a bright one. The renowned 3A team was well beaten by Training College while the Seniors and 2A have had a run of mishaps.

With the return of Alan Stevenson and the appearance of the star O'Rorke player Nat Uliuviti, some improvement was expected in the Seniors but unhappily this has not come.

Last Saturday O'Rorke played the Mangere team whom they were "tipped" to beat. However the game ended quite differently with Mangere winning 15-6. Many tales of woe accompanied the boys' return to the hostel, but the truth lay in two unmentioned details. Firstly for many of the thirsty players the trip to Mangere Domain was far too long; and secondly, the hearts of other players were divided between the hockey team on the sideline and the game they were supposed to be playing.

Disregarding this it is a pleasure to see the younger players, namely Bruce Beetham, Bob Luxford and Dave Mayo coming to the fore; while Arthur Young is coming to prominence both as a hockey coach and as a footballer.

With two wins in succession 3B are now taking their football more seriously. There are many fine players in this team but special mention should be made of Denver Carter. As a full back he saves him team time and time again and his powerful boot has contributed to these two good wins.

Last week members of the 3A team were having to do a lot of explaining. After a run of successes (some quite substantial) they failed to rise to the occasion against Training College and were well beaten 17-11.

It was rather unfortunate that Varsity in the first few minutes of the game lost one of their most valuable players, Morris Goodwin, who was on the receiving end of a rather forceful tackle, but during the few minutes that he played he caused a considerable amount of trouble for the other team. Another Varsity player, Fielding, was similarly incapacitated in the last few minutes of play. He also caused trouble during the match (for both teams).

It seems as if this team has learnt a lesson from defeat and regained its honour with its merited win over Marist. In connection with these two games it is only right that we should record the fine play of Bob Graham, Barry Sweetman and Murry Francis.

The latter is playing really good football, and is showing that determination that marks a classic winger.

In conclusion one of our enthusiastic spectators has remarked that some people can shout and play football at the same time, but what all players

should realise, is that this shouting is better left to those who know something about it. The suggestion here is that it should be left to the captain.

—MYLES E. HYNDE.

## Tennis Club, A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the A.U.C. Lawn Tennis Club was held in Room 4 at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 1st July. Thirteen people were present.

It was reported that Court 2 was in excellent order, No. 1 should be better than it was, and No. 3 was an unknown quantity. The question of forming a hard court on No. 2 was held over until the little matter of a gymnasium was finally settled.

The usual difficulty in collecting subscriptions was reported. It was pointed out that some of the unfinancial members actually used the courts on only a few occasions each year. Various ideas for collecting a small court fee from such people were put forward, and the incoming committee was instructed to investigate the position.

Some thought was given to the encouragement of new players. It appeared that inter-club matches kept the courts in use on too many Saturdays, and beginners felt a little out in the cold. The re-introduction of inter-faculty tennis matches was discussed, and it seems we may see these taking place this season. It was agreed that the important thing was to arouse interest in tennis as a game, and then to cater effectively for the people so interested. And here it is! The incoming committee is to pay some attention to the matter. The decision to endeavour to play a Staff-Students match was made.

Summer Tournament will be held in Auckland next year. The retiring secretary, Mr. M. White, pointed out that preparations for this event would need to begin immediately.

A £17/12/6 loss was incurred in the year's operations. Capital expenditure on courts was the main reason for this.

The following people were elected to office:

President: Mr. J. A. Kirkness.

Vice-Presidents:

Professor Briggs, Professor Keys, Professor Rodwell, Mr. Segedin, Dr. Becroft, Mr. Brown, Mr. Cawley, Mr. Heron, Mr. Justice Turner.

Club Captain: Mr. M. H. White.

Secretary: Mr. D. Light.

Treasurer: L. Nash.

Committee: Miss F. Cotton, Miss R. Dickson, Messrs. I. George, B. Woolf, and B. Cadman.

A vote of thanks to those who had held office during the last year was passed.

Trophies won during last season were presented to:

Men's Singles: C. Maiden.

Men's Doubles: C. Maiden and R. Wright.

Ladies' Singles: Miss V. Teat.

Ladies' Doubles: Misses V. Teat and F. Cotton.

Men's Fresher Champion: Mr. B. Woolf.

Ladies' Fresher Champion: Miss B. Sissons.

REMEMBER

TO

VOTE



## Election Time Is Here!

The first of the College elections, that for President, will be held Monday, 19th and Tuesday, 20th, of this month.

This is the first time for some years that an election for the office of President has been necessary. This fact, in itself, augurs well for the future of student affairs.

The candidate elected to the position of President automatically becomes the most influential student in the College. It is he who will guide the student policy for the next twelve months, and students are urged to make their choice with care.

### SECRETARY

**JOCK MCGOWAN**

### TREASURER

**BRYCE POSTLES**

(There being no further nominations, Jock McGowan has been declared elected Secretary, and Bryce Postles, Treasurer.)

### PRESIDENT

**PETER BOAG**

Nominated: R. M. Smith  
B. R. Horton  
D. Hackshaw

We have prevailed upon Peter to accept nomination because we feel that he is, of those available for nomination, the best qualified by experience and judgement to carry out the duties involved. He is not sponsored by any organised group in the College.

Peter is the Men's Vice-President of the Association, Chairman of the Publications Committee, and Editor of "Craccum."

He took his M.A. in Mathematics at Otago in 1951. He was a member of Otago University Students' Association Executive, holding the post of Tournament Controller. Thus he gained experience not only in university activities but also in inter-college affairs.

Peter arrived in Auckland in 1952, and is doing a B.Sc.-Dip. Ed. course. He has been editor of "Craccum", and executive member since 1953 and a member of many committees of the executive, amongst them Carnival, Tournament, Grants and Appeals. He has edited Tournament programme. Thus his interests have extended to all spheres of Association activity, knowledge of which is just as essential as the will to work.

The major tasks of the President are to carry out work overlooked by other executive members; to provide from his experience a continuity of administration not otherwise provided for by the Association's organisation; and to conduct "external affairs"—the Association's relations with the public; and with other Colleges.

We have nominated Peter, and we urge this strongly, because he, alone

of those available for nomination, has the breadth of experience needed to deal with both the domestic section of the President's duties and with external affairs.

He was an observer to N.Z.U.S.A. last August, and an AUC. delegate to the Easter Annual Meeting. In 1953 he was appointed by N.Z.U.S.A. as Congress Controller for the 1954 N.Z.U.S.A. Congress at Curious Cove, a task which he performed with credit to AUC.

Peter has, so far as we know, no major vices. He may be of blameless life and character. He is certainly the only delegate recently to have attended an N.Z.U.S.A. meeting in a dinner suit.

**Peter needs your vote.**

We commend him to you confidently; not in an attempt to influence you, but in the hope that the record we draw to your attention may speak for itself. We do most strongly feel that his experience qualifies him for the manifold tasks involved.

Roderick M. SMITH (President).

B. R. HORTON (N.Z.U.S.A.)

Frances D. SPENCE (ex-President)

Marion W. SOLLY (ex-Vice-Pres.)

### MATE FRANKOVICH

Nominated: K. P. Lynch

L. O. Kermode

F. A. Cotton

Outstanding through hard work, leadership and devotion to student affairs, Mate Frankovich is the natural choice for President. As Capping Book controller, student Exchange Director, Social Committee Chairman and House Committeeman he has given distinguished service to the Association. Since 1948, Catholic, Law, Mathematical and Photographic Societies, Ski, and Tennis Clubs have all known him as member, administrator and leader. Behind-scenes he has aided many other clubs. Mate's service during two terms of Exec. Office has revived student social life and enhanced Association prestige.

His Vice-Regal Ball organisation will be long remembered. If elected, he promises greater Exec. efforts for Student Welfare. Existing relations beyond the College must be maintained (Tournaments especially) but student money must be used primarily for the benefit of students whose fees provides it. He plans a more efficient Executive and elimination of money wastage. Finance Committee (now lapsed) must be revived. Mate deplores needless cuts

## Internationalism Runs Riot

### N.Z.U.S.A. Marching on Behalf of Students

Extracts from communications from the Resident Executive of N.Z.U.S.A. to the executive of A.U.C.S.A.

10th June, 1954: "Some weeks ago N.Z.U.S.A. received an invitation from the International Student Association of Japan to send representatives to a conference to be held in Tokyo from June-15th August. . . the central theme of the Congress was "Crisis of our time" . . . we have tentatively applied to the American Foundation of Youth and Student Affairs for financial help if all countries invited to attend this show turn up then it will be an opportunity not to be missed to make contacts and discussions with representatives of Seats Asian Unions.

22nd June, 1954: "The tour will be Wellington, Sydney, Manila, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Sydney, and China (Formosa)."

24th June: "The visit to Japan will be of little real value the opportunity of contacting National Unions en route is which would be very valuable."

The purpose of this article is to ask "How silly can we get?" in our excursions into the field of Internationalism.

There may well be among the students of this country a widespread and purposeful desire that friendly and cordial relations at the student level should be established among the peoples in this part of the world; and this desire may well be coupled with a wish that we should take every opportunity to establish between student bodies a field of common and co-operative activity which will be of benefit to all.

But it is respectfully suggested that the latest move by our leaders on our behalf may well be so ill-conceived as to border on the irresponsible; and is at best evidence of such a vague and ill-defined approach to the problems as to require a re-examination of policy.

It is submitted that N.Z.U.S.A. does not know where it is going—but worse—instead of examining its position with that careful and cautious approach which the problem demands, or rushing into expensive activities prematurely may be foregoing opportunity for later worthwhile endeavour.

The cost of the trip will, if it eventuates, be largely borne by an American organisation with incidental expenses (at present unassessed), being borne by the N.Z. students. But it is suggested that the American organisation, if it looks kindly upon this venture, might well do so for an alternative trip later in the year.

What would be the advantage of a later trip?

It is suggested that the Japanese trip would be valuable by reason of contacts made with Asian unions.

in Club grants and seeks greater Club co-operation with Exec. Services rendered by Clubs should be better recognised. He champions the Gymnasium scheme and has a practical plan of finances. Emphatically, says Mate, no more raising of student fees.

Science graduate and law student, Mate Frankovich is popular and respected among students and staff. Capable and experienced, he has the drive, tact and impartiality to make a first rate President.

—KEVIN LYNCH.

Yet in January two Resident Executive members toured through the route from Sydney-Singapore-Key and returned via South Africa and the United States. In Tokyo they attended a conference of representatives from these South East Asia countries.

Yet no evidence of any value to the personal contacts has yet filtered through to the College level or seen at the deliberation of N.Z.U.S.A. at the Easter A.G.M.

These junketings, and that of other delegate to Australia, cost students of this country £335.

Yet N.Z.U.S.A. has not as yet developed any specific policy in the international field beyond those vague motions of sympathy, indignation, commiseration which have been tended wherever the need seems to have been felt.

In our relations with Australia and the United Kingdom, the unfortunate proximity has enabled sports, debating, art and student changes to be carried out, a policy developed over many years and evidence of providing opportunity for an ever-increasing number of students being able to share its benefits.

It may well be that such activities or modifications of them, can be planned further afield.

But it is certain that any delegation going now into the Asian area will be bereft of any specific guide to the Colleges of any schemes they may be able to participate in.

The suggestions here made in the present scheme could well be placed to consider this matter specifically at the next N.Z.U.S.A. meeting that prior to that meeting the students at the various colleges consider carefully the questions involved; the opportunity be taken to consult with Asian students at present in the country to obtain first hand information of the problems and activities and that N.Z.U.S.A., after having thought again, and thought a little harder, should then send forth a delegation to visit National Unions which have been appraised well in advance of his advent and his mission—short — that what the students of this country expect form the National Union is something better than the present ill-conceived "open Handclasp."

—R.M.S.



## LIBRARY AND ARTS

Student

## Thomas and The U.S.A.

the late Dylan Thomas, one of the best poets of his generation, could also write and speak lively, perceptive prose. Last year, home between U.S. lecture tours, Welshman Thomas received a broadcast for the B.B.C.

the United States of America from New York to California, glazed, again, for many of the year, there streams for its heady supper a and prejudiced procession of lecturers, scholars, sociologists, writers, authorities and that and even, in theory, United States of America."

Sydney, "At first, confused and by shameless profusion and by shameless generosity, unaccustomed to such importance as they are, by their hosts, to and up against the barrier of common language, they write in books like demons, general- way, on character and culture of American political scene. But, the middle of their middle- through middle-western universities, the fury of the

Resident and more do such entries appear. "No way of escape!" or "I am beaten!" until at last, they cannot write a word. And, all over, old before their eyes like rissoles in the

any value has yet been reached. The level of the N.Z. and that of Australia, cost \$335. not as yet policy in the and those indignation have been need seem

Australia enabled students out, a policy and opportunity, number of its best, such action, them, can

it any delay, an area, a guide, schemes, ate in. e made is, uld well be, matter, J.S.A. meet-

the garrulous others, also, and garlanded from one nest to another: the English way of life, the American way as it is, and guzzle through it; correcting the theories of the benefit of remote female audiences who did it was dead, not having ever had been alive; people talk of Etruscan pots and pans to of dead pans and wealthy Boston...

pass one another, en route, wing, I wonder; one of us with clean, white lectures he could call his own, going west to his remunerative

doom in the great state, university factories; another returning dog-eared to his clutch of poems and his carefully typed impromptu asides? I ache for us both. There one goes, unsullied as yet, in his Pullman pride, toying—oh, boy!—with a blunderbuss bourbon, being smoked by a large cigar, riding out to the wide open spaces of the faces of his waiting audience. . . .

Verbal Ectoplasm. "He is vigorously welcomed at the station by an earnest, crew-cut platoon of giant collegiates, all chasing the butterfly culture with net, note-book, poison-bottle, pin and label, each with at least 36 terribly white teeth, and



the late Dylan Thomas

nursed away, as heavily gently as though he were an imbecile rich aunt with a short prospect of life, into a motorcar in which, for a mere 50 miles or so travelled at poet-breaking speed, he assures them of the correctness of their assumption that he is half-witted by stammering inconsequential answers in an over-British accent to their genial questions. . . . He is then taken to a small party of only a few hundred people all of whom hold the belief that what a visiting lecturer needs before he trips on to the platform is just enough martinis so that he can trip off the platform as well. And, clutching his explosive glass, he is soon contemptuously dismissing, in a flush of ignorance and fluency, the poetry of those androgynous literary ladies with three names who produce a kind of verbal ectoplasm, to order as a waiter dishes up spaghetti—only to find that the fiercest of these, a wealthy huntress of small, seedy lions (such as himself) . . . is his hostess for the evening. . . .

"Late at night, in his room, he fills a page of his journal with a confused, but soothing, account of his first engagement. . . . and falls to sleep where he is immediately chased through long, dark thickets by a Mrs. Mabel Frankincense Mehaffey, with a tray of martinis and lyrics. And there goes the other happy poet bedraggledly back to New York which struck him all of a sheepish never-sleeping

## Ealing Studios Again

If you remember the antique railway engine that played a happy part in our Capping Procession this year, then you will remember its name—"The Titfield Thunderbolt." It's also the name of a current film in which the engine plays a notable part, and if you enjoyed "Genevieve," you shouldn't miss this latest production from the Ealing Studios.

Again this is English comedy at its lightest, brightest best—the type of comedy that has brought the name of Ealing Studios to the fore, and established for them a reputation that may well be envied by most of the flashy American film companies. For "The Titfield Thunderbolt" is the latest addition to a long line of Ealing comedy successes that began several years back with "Passport to Pimlico."

One may ask what it is that has made these films so popular — and rightly so. If there is one ingredient that has appeared in each film it is the ability of the English to laugh at themselves—to hold up their national characteristics, their "weaknesses," their eccentricities before the world for their own amusement as well as for the entertainment of everyone at large. But there is more than this in the English supremacy in film comedy. It does not rely on the same worn out situations that appear in one American film after another, nor does it rely on the "corn" of the Bob Hope variety. Perhaps it's because the Americans produce so many films that there are more of a mediocre quality. But again, the comedy successes that do come from Hollywood are usually of a specifically sophisticated variety—"The Moon is Blue" is one example that comes immediately to mind. Perhaps the greatest American film comedy since the war was "The Quiet Man," and surely it is not a coincidence that the film was made "on location" in Ireland, and further, that it was the nearest that the Americans have come to "English" comedy—no offence meant to the Irish! In other words, the film drew its humour from the character of the people themselves—not from obviously contrived situations or from the sheer wit of the dialogue.

Here in a nutshell is the outstanding quality of "the Titfield Thunderbolt." If lacking a little of the pace of "Genevieve" and relying a little more on the sympathy of the audience, the film gains in its concentration on human characters rather than on the train—or, as in "Genevieve," on the cars. And what more hilarious characters could you get than George Relph's parson who appeared more interested in trains than in sermons, who drove the train while the Bishop stoked the engine, and Stanley Holloway's eccentric country gentleman who spent his day at the local pub shouting drinks to all and sundry, and who bought the local railway on hearing that the "Buffet Car" would open at thirteen minutes to nine. These two characters bring the most laughs in their efforts to save the old branch line, but there are many more, and the situations are made to match. The skilful hand of Sir Michael Balcon is again seen to advantage, while this, the first Ealing film to be made in colour, gains much by the innovation. . . . The

heap at first but which seems to him now, after the ulcerous rigors of a lecturer's spring, a haven cosy as toast, cool as an ice-box, and safe as skyscrapers."

One month after recording this rollicking valedictory, at the beginning of a lecture tour, Dylan Thomas died in New York.

colour is never obtrusive and the softness of its tonings, sharply in contrast with some of Hollywood's films, sets off the English countryside to much advantage.

On the same programme were two supporting films from Britain, each most effective in its own way. "Lancashire Hotpot" provided many interesting scenes of both the industrial and rural sides of Lancashire, and of Cheshire, its neighbour, along with a witty commentary, "Dark London" proved more than interesting for the picture it gave of the varied life of different members of London's African community. If the film lost a little by an over-dramatic treatment, especially the voice of the narrator, it gained much by the short talk given by Constantine, the former test cricketer, which was not only sincere, but beautifully spoken.

The programme showed British films to great advantage; they seem to offer a challenge to Hollywood that is not being answered.

—D.J.S.

We regret that, owing to an error, the photographs which appeared in this section in the last two issues of "Craccum" were not acknowledged.

The Festival photographs were supplied per courtesy of the Auckland Festival Society (Inc.).

Those photographs which appeared in conjunction with the article, "An Approach to Pottery" were by T. Pausma.

## Joynt Scroll

This year two series of debates were held at VUC's Little Theatre, one on the Friday evening, 18th June, for Joynt Scroll; and the other series on the following afternoon, to pick the N.Z.U.S.A. Debating team to tour Australia.

## TEAMS:

Otago University: K. E. W. MELVIN, leader; J. E. G. IRWIN.

Massey Agricultural College: MISS RYAN, R. CORBETT.

Canterbury University College: A. LAWSON, I. CRESSWELL.

CAC.: P. McK. FALCONER, A. R. HARWOOD.

VUC.: B. M. BROWN, D. GARRETT.

AUC.: MESSRS. CHAMLEY and DUGDALE.

## FRIDAY EVENING:

Debate One: MAC. (aff.) v. AUC. (neg.) "That Morals depend upon environment." Won by AUC.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

Debate three: AUC. (aff.) v. CAC. (neg.) "That N.Z. should forthwith secede from the Commonwealth and join the U.S.A." Won by AUC.

Placing for Joynt Challenge Scroll: OU., VUC., CUC.

Judges: Miss C. S. Forde, A. Eaton Hurley Esq., Sir Matthew Oram.

Placings for individual speakers: Melvin, OU.; Brown, VUC.; Irwin, OU. and Garrett VUC. third equal.

Team to tour Australia: Messrs. CHAMLEY (AUC.) and MELVIN (OU.). If Chamley unable to go, LAWSON (CUC.); If Melvin unable to go, BROWN (VUC.)



# CRACCUM

Auckland University College Students' Paper

The Editor accepts as little responsibility as possible for the contents of this paper, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the A.U.C.S.A. Executive.

## STAFF

Editor: JIM TRAEU.  
Sports Editor: JIM HOLDOM.  
Literary and Arts Editor: DAVID STONE  
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with CLARE LITTLE, JENNY HILFORD  
and FOXGLOVE.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

The picture of the University of New Zealand given by the Vice-Chancellor in his address at this year's Congress and which we reprint in this issue, is a comprehensive and informative one, and on the whole the future of University education in this country seems hopeful. It is obvious, both from this article and from other similar statements, that the U.N.Z. has at its head a man who realises fully the many difficulties that lie in the way of administering a system of University education in New Zealand. This is hopeful in the extreme, and when he can recognise that complete devolution into separate Universities will come if such a step is desirable for better teaching and better research and if it is wanted by the country as a whole, at the same time as he maintains that a central authority is essential to ensure that standards are kept uniform and that New Zealand does not endeavour to support a larger system than is possible with such a small population, shows that he is fully aware of the realities of the situation as well as what may be ideally desirable.

Apart from the academic sphere, the problems of administration have been under review for some time, and where it makes for easier and more efficient handling of the problem, some stages of devolution have been carried out. It is obvious that the needs of the students have been considered in support of changing any cumbersome piece of administrative machinery. This is as it should be, of course, for no system can be considered efficient if it means that the students are put to a great deal of unnecessary labour and wasting of time. The outstanding example of this has been the method of collecting examination fees, which has decreed that examination entrants have to forward their fees and entries to Wellington individually, even although it seemed that the College Offices were the logical places to handle such matters.

This anomaly has now been corrected, however, and as from next year, students at A.U.C. will pay their fees and enter for their examinations through the College Office. In addition students' records will be housed at the College, instead of in Wellington, and so will be in their logical place—as close to the scene of the student's activities as possible. The University is to be commended on this one bright spot in an otherwise rather indefinite horizon.

With this commendation for some valuable administrative devolution must go a warning against premature or too hasty academic or complete devolution. Apart from providing scholarships, the task of the U.N.Z. at present is to award degrees, and since it is the only university in the country with the power to do that, it follows that a New Zealand degree must be of the same merit no matter from what college the holder has come. There is an unavoidable disparity at present, slight though it is, between the standards of different subjects in different colleges, and we cannot help feeling that if there was not the restraining influence of the U.N.Z., it is possible that these could increase to such an extent as to make two degrees from different centres practically unrecognisable. One solution to the devolution problem is, of course, to make each college a separate University with its own charter to enable it grant its own degrees, but since, as Dr. Currie said at an earlier Congress, that is not likely to come until each College has a population of about two million supporting it, the U.N.Z. must continue for many years to come, to carry out the functions of a University, sans students, sans staff and sans professors.

—P.W.B.

(This Editorial was set up before Mr. Boag resigned.)

—J.T.

## NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN.

Once again it is time to be thinking about the student elections and for suitable people to stand for various executive positions. Nominations are now being called for, and will close on the 18th of this month, at midnight, at the Executive Room. For those considering offering their services we print here under some advice.

If you are standing for Executive, you must realize what is expected of you if elected, and what you, as a person and a student, will gain.

1. Subordinate the interests of your faculty, your clubs, societies; you are now to act in the interests of the A.U.C. and the student body as a whole, both present and future.
2. You are expected to have enthusiasm, energy, and above all a willingness to pull your weight, for if there is one student on Exe., the other members suffer—there is no room for honour and glory merchant.
3. Most of your spare time will be consumed on Stud. Ass. business; in doing so you will lose contact with your friends; this loss is more than made up by the new friendships with fellow Exec. members.
5. There will be a number of privileges for you, especially at social occasions, but you cannot go to a ball in the knowledge that you will dance every dance with your current love—your duty will be to talk to and entertain guests older than you, and less inclined to join the hurly-burly on the dance floor.
6. If at the end of your term of office, you have pulled your weight, you will have the great satisfaction which comes from a difficult job well done in the face of inevitable and uninformed criticism.

## Notice

As I am an interested party in the forthcoming elections I have, with the consent of the Executive, resigned from the post of Editor for this issue.

Full authority has been handed over to the Sub-Editor, Jim Traue.

Peter W. Boag.

## Square Dancing

Although the 'craze' for this form of recreation has come and gone in Auckland there are still groups in existence which find it enjoyable and stimulating exercise and an ideal social activity. In square dancing there is no waiting to be asked to dance and partners are changed frequently in the general mix up which occurs during some of the figures. Men will find nothing effeminate about it as the emphasis is on the figures—a basic walking step being maintained throughout. No experience is necessary before attending a Square Dance as beginners are taught the fundamentals and each dance is explained before it begins. Each programme will consist of square, round, circle and longways dances as is traditional in the United States.

Square Dance Evenings are held in the Men's Common Room every Monday evening during the second term from 8 to 10 p.m.

S. R. BROWN,  
Physical Education Officer.

## Health Magazine

The College Library is receiving current copies of the lay magazine of the American Medical Association—"Today's Health." This magazine will be valuable to teachers as source material for Human Biology classes and Health Education. As the aim of the publication is to 'inform its readers about modern medicine' it should also interest those who like to keep informed on modern medical practice, parents, and anyone interested in retaining and improving his or her health.

—S. R. BROWN.

## Kiwi, 1954

Contributions are required for this year's edition of "Kiwi." These should take the form of articles, poems, verse, and must be submitted to the end of the Second Term.

## Capping Book, 1954

Applications are called for for the Editor of Capping Book, 1955. These should be addressed to the Secretary of the Students' Association and must be handed in before August 31st, 1954.

## Photographic Society

The University Photographic Society held its second competition with the subject "Atmosphere" at the Chemistry Lecture Theatre on Wednesday, June 15, at 7.30 p.m.

There was quite a large number of entries and the judge was Mr. G. W. Sparrow, the prominent industrial photographer. The Society said all entries had their merits and gave many helpful criticisms, ending by saying that if he can help being applied he will be rewarded.

The winner of the competition was R. Bielecki who filled the first places. The winning print of seagulls and skies were really a triumph.

The next competition evening will be on July 7, when a panel of judges will also be held.

## STATIONERY

## BOOKS, FOLDERS

## NOW ON SALE

## STUD. ASS. OFFICE



# LETTERS

## METALLURGICAL BOTANY?

I—I sadly watched the floral the other day turn from Z to B past A, sorry for the poor condemned to circulate in neat for the rest of their life. Next it was announced that Princes Poplars are going. The handsomeness have been busy lopping a bit of decent foliage off the vegetation. It seems as if we are at a grudge against the plant kingdom in general.

While immersed in gloom and despair at these things, a thought occurred to me that may well merit the interest of the City Fathers. The suggestion is that all city trees be removed, and a long term replacement programme be started, using cast trees. Great variety would be possible—light dural shrubs, graceful aspens, sturdy steel oaks, and these could be tailored to fit the requirements exactly. An efficient Dept. would have a reserve whereby worn trees could be spotted at the base and removed for to be replaced by others, thus ensuring ever changing variety to the eye. There is, indeed, no reason for foolishly following the pattern of temporary trees: science could be helped by the reconstruction of fossil trees, and scope is seen for the full employment of modern sculptors. Waste would be eliminated, and a futuristic touch given in places, by the use of cut-out leaves from foil milk bottle tops.

For those who consider the cost would render the scheme impracticable, and the Council must naturally consider the aspect, I have an answer. City streets would become aluminium avenues, and these sturdy little trees would have parking meters built into the trunks, thus eliminating the present antiquated hitching-post variety. In time the revenue would under the Parks department self-supporting. The tourist appeal would be immense. And, the meter trees could be delightfully mushroom shaped to afford shade in the summer, and keep both cars and pedestrians cool in winter.

I trust that the weight your paper carries in civic circles will allow these suggestions the attention they deserve.

QUERCUS.

## INDO-CHINA

Re the article on Indo-China published in your last issue.

While I do agree with some of the writer's particular views I cannot agree with his principal tenets.

His main points can be summed up in the following propositions.

(1) The war in Indo-China is primarily "imperialistic."

(2) The French are only interested in re-establishing their colonial power.

(3) Indo-China is not our affair and other nations should keep out of it.

(4) The war is most uneconomical regards France, hence France should quit the "senseless" battle.

Let us examine these.

The war is primarily imperialistic.

While in its beginning phases the war may have been purely one of imperialism versus French colonial-

ism is it not so today. The nationalist movement is now merely the expression of militant communism. Ho Chi Minh the nominal leader of the Viet Minh rebels, is a fervent communist disciple and was politically educated in Moscow; in other words he is not a patriot but a representative of the ugly force of international communism. Red General Gian the military leader is also a known communist. The French then are fighting a movement national in name only, strip away the nationalistic disguise and the hungry communist wolf appears. In other words the French forces are fighting the same movement which since the end of the war has gobbled up Czechoslovakia and most of Eastern Europe.

Behind the imposing facade of freedom used by Ho Chin Minh lies the steel chain of communistic slavery.

True the Indo-Chinese should have their freedom but I fail to see the difference between French or Communistic imperialism.

Let us now look at Indo-China from a statistical viewpoint.

Firstly let us have a look at a map of the area. Indo-China borders three nations, Burma, Thailand, and across the bay of Siam the Malay peninsula. In both Burma and Malaya Communist thugs are in rebellion against the lawful authority. Fortunately in these two cases the Communists did not succeed in gaining control of any nationalistic movement and have been revealed for what they are, the agents of International Communism. If Indo-China falls let us look at the picture again. Both rebellions would then become positively dangerous for they could now draw on supplies and reinforcements of volunteers from the nearby Communist armies. It is quite on the cards that in such circumstances that Malaya could not be held. In other words Malaya's rubber and tin would come under Communist control.

Japanese war strategy in the East was based on the following.

(1) Given control of Indo-China the way is open for a quick attack on the Malay peninsula and we have Malaya. Indonesia must fall as the Malay peninsula is like a dagger pointing east-wards. Once we have Indonesia Melanesia must fall and the way is open for the capture of Australia and New Zealand. I don't have to remind readers that they did not miss by much. A relevant point is that the Japanese only committed half their army to the Pacific.

Indo-China too has a large rice surplus and this is what China wants. This rice surplus can be used as an economic weapon, especially against India.

Thus Indo-China must be held on both military and economic grounds.

It would be better to hold as much of Indo-China as we can than suffer the results of losing it.

The second proposition that "The French are only interested in re-establishing their colonial power" is also incorrect.

The French if they could would gladly evacuate the country, but France is also a member of the free nations and from a strategic aspect the area must be held. In other words because of the present situation the United States, New Zealand and Australia do not want the French to evacuate.

The third proposition "Other nations should keep out of the conflict" would result in millions of people coming under the dread control of war communism. Czechoslovakia and Abyssinia are two other cases where the enslavement of peoples were not our affair.

The fourth proposition has more merit. The war has cost France a terrible amount in both men and money. From the French point of view the war has resulted in a terrible loss of young officers for the rank and file are mainly Germans or Vietnamese. A rather good remark was made regarding the fall of Dien Bien Phu, two nations are interested in the outcome. France because a French General commands the garrison and West Germany because eighty per cent of the troops were Germans. Fort Isabella, the last point to fall was entirely manned by Germans.

Thus if one looks at Indo-China from a general as distinguished from a particular aspect one sees that the rebellion is really the attack of military communism. This attack is just as real as the invasion of South Korea and in like case it must be stopped. One must not be blinded by the rattle of Ho Chin Minh's cries for independence. After all the only independence he has to offer is the same sort, that Poland and the other East European nations enjoy. True the Vietnamese should have their independence but from a military, economic, social and christian aspect it must not be a Communist one. Far too much attention is paid to the aspect of Vietnamese independence by pseudo intellectuals who swallow every Communist catch call and attempt to gloss over Communist aggression. We must be realists and see the position as it actually is and not as some other body wishes us to see it. Camouflage is useful in war and the Communists know that it also has its advantages during peace.

In conclusion I ask the reader to answer to himself the following questions:

(1) Who or what nations have provided the so called liberation armies with modern weapons, supplies, artillery and ammunition.

(2) Who are the regular cadre who direct the Viet Minh armies in battle (mass tactics used are Chinese).

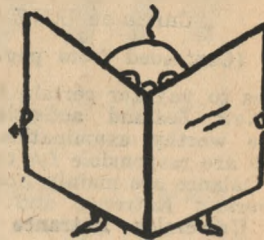
(3) Which nations have a direct interest in the success of the Viet Minh armies?

(4) Why does each Viet Minh battalion have a political adviser who is a communist?

(5) If the rice bowl of S.E. Asia falls, how long can we remain out of the conflict; after all once the French are cleared out the only European controlled area in Asia is Malaya (this is correct unless we regard Communism as a European phenomenon).

(6) What is the difference between French and Communist Imperialism? (note: Communism cannot be national; readers who disagree should re-read works by St. Marx and Lenin on the subject).

—TROTSKY.



## Ponderables

with Foxglove

IT is not really sufficient to direct attention to the best that has been said and done in the ancient world. The result is static, repressive, and promotes a decadent habit of mind.

THERE are two ways to slide easily through life: Namely, to believe everything, or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.

WE are not to suppose that progress implies that there is in detail no retrogression — no resolution of higher entities into others of a lower status — no degradation or descent within the pyramid. Disintegration no less than integration has to be reckoned with in the history of natural systems.

THE principle of realism means denial of the ideal.

YET all the world knows that even a single line can arouse emotion.

HOW many errors have been and are being committed through vague and confused intuition?

CULTURE is based on the existence of rules. Such rules are the essential instruments of freedom.

TO be is to be related.

IT is interesting that language can state facts. It is also interesting that it can state falsehoods.

CRITICISM is thought of as if its business were not explication of the content of an object but a process of acquittal or condemnation on the basis of merits or demerits.

WHAT we call progress consists in co-ordinating ideas with realities.

IT is a safe rule to apply that when a philosophical author writes with a misty profundity, he is talking nonsense. Indeed high priests in every profession devise elaborate rituals and obscure language as much to conceal their own ineptness as to awe the uninitiated.

ONE of the great obstacles to a free consideration of the details of our human plight is our tendency to regard familiar notions as 'sacred'; that is, too assured to be questioned except by the perverse and wicked.

EVERYTHING comes from everything, and everything is made out of everything, and everything returns into everything, because whatever exists in the elements is made out of those elements.

THE machine is here to stay. It is the forerunner of the democracy that is our dearest hope.

NOBODY has yet offered any sort of reasonable explanation why anyone should be drinking without the intention of getting drunk.

AND while we are on the subject of spurious cankers, can anybody tell me why corduroy trousers are considered not quite the thing in certain quarters?

Copy for the next  
issue of "Craccum"  
will close  
MONDAY, 18th  
5 p.m.  
at the Executive  
Room.



Currie on U.N.Z.

(Continued from page 1)

means to pay for certain University of New Zealand activities comes. Those worthy examination subjects which are responsible for the favourable balance are mainly Accountancy, University Entrance and Medicine; and University Entrance shows a credit balance largely because of the accrediting system.

### Scholarships

By far the largest expenditure by the University of New Zealand from the balance of its fee income goes into Scholarships at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate level.

It is true that the whole Scholarship system has been built up on fees without consulting the people who had to pay them, but I doubt if you would criticise the system as unwise or short-sighted. It has been of inestimable benefit both inside the Colleges and for overseas travel to a large number of gifted New Zealanders since the system was established away back in 1872.

If we assume that the cost of travel for Senate, Academic Board, Grants Committee, Entrance Board and other committee meetings are met by the Government grant, then the whole cost of running the office, conducting examinations and giving degrees would be paid for from fee income, but the whole surplus is taken up in paying for Scholarships.

### What does it do?

We may now consider the service which the University of New Zealand renders to the whole University system under the five heads Academic, Finance, Scholarship, Special Schools and Research. We repeat here again something that needs always to be remembered, that of course the Colleges are the real centres of learning and the real universities in the ordinary sense, although the University of New Zealand is the only body in the Dominion which has a charter from the Crown to confer degrees.

**ACADEMIC.** The teaching work is done at the Colleges and the actual content of the subjects taught is in the main determined by the people responsible for teaching them, as it should be, and only the most general outline is set out in the University's Calendar.

As far as I am aware, all teachers in the University can teach their subjects in the way they think best and can do such research as they think most worthy without any restraint put upon them by the University, or by its Statutes. The teacher is free to teach his proper discipline as he thinks best and to claim otherwise today is, I believe, only to beat a long dead horse. In any case the remedy, if any were needed, is in the hands of the Academic Board.

It was not ever thus because in the old days of the examining University, very precise prescriptions were set out for courses and examinations were carried out by examiners overseas; nowadays the teacher is also the examiner in his own subject.

### Uniformity of standards

In its enthusiasm for further devolution of responsibility to the Colleges, the University is now trying as fast as it can to get the Colleges to accept full responsibility for doing all the examining and keeping the students' records where they belong—close to the student body. Through the Academic Board, however, the University does set a general pattern for the courses of study which must

be followed for its degrees, maintain a certain uniformity of standards and tries to safeguard the interest of students who move between Colleges during the year. Occasionally it has a full discussion on matters of major educational policy.

It is true that a reasonable uniformity of standards can now be obtained throughout the system by the very fact that College staffs have become large enough and experienced enough to see that a good standard of teaching is maintained at each centre. The necessity for any detailed central control has through this fact been reduced, though opinions may differ about the amount of uniformity that is still desirable.

The Senate is considering at present a suggestion by the Chancellor that a Curriculum Committee be set up which will have powers derived from the Senate to approve courses submitted by the Colleges even if considerable diversity of courses is suggested. This would allow Colleges more autonomy in expressing their individual philosophy of education and



Dr. G. A. Currie

the Curriculum Committee's duty would mainly be to see that high standards are maintained and that the interests of the students should be safeguarded when different courses are offered at different centres.

### Examinations

Centralisation of Entrance and other examinations as at present has at least the merit that it provides the machinery for even standards of attainment and for giving similar individual consideration to students in special circumstances in all parts of the Dominion. We have heard of cases in other countries where laymen in University Councils have been able to interfere with examination results through their overriding authority on governing bodies; this is not possible in New Zealand since only academic men appointed by the University of New Zealand as examiners, along with other College teachers, have any final power to pass or fail students.

The University seeks constantly to maintain standards which will have world-wide acceptance, while doing everything possible to see that all students get fair play.

**FINANCE.** The funds for staffing and maintaining the University Colleges come, for the most part, as indicated earlier, from Government grants since fees from students represents in New Zealand on the average only 13.5 per cent of the

total income of the Colleges. It must be remembered also that about half of the actual fees are paid for through Government bursaries.

The precise costs per student are difficult to assess since all Colleges engage in research and have other useful functions besides the training of students, but for the sake of computation we will assume that all income, unless especially earmarked for research, goes to teaching students.

### Free education!

Based on these assumptions, and remembering the rather uncertain basis of calculation, the following costs per student in the Colleges in different disciplines are:

Dental student	about £400 p.a.
Agricultural student	£380 "
Medical student	£270 "
Engineering student	£265 "
Arts and Science ave.	£120 "

There is little need to stress the obvious privilege the community extends to students in meeting the costs of such university training. The University Grants Committee needs, however, to be most careful and conscientious in its recommendations to Government for funds and the Colleges economical and efficient in their application. Not only do high standards for admission need to be maintained but I believe that in cases of repeated failure only very high fees should justify students in continuing University studies.

Through the block grant system negotiated by the Grants Committee, the Colleges retain their autonomy and through the quinquennial grant they are able to have continuity of policy and to budget ahead. Although the College Councils have this autonomy in the use to which they put their block grant, there is still a necessity in the national interest for the Colleges to get approval from the University when new departments or new Chairs are established since it is clear that from a financial point of view it would be impossible for every College to proliferate in all directions without considering the fact that New Zealand with only two million people is not yet able to finance four separate universities complete with all departments.

Of course, all universities do not need to have all departments in order to function as universities, nevertheless, the point I am making is that for any new development it is necessary, in the public interest, that there should be a Dominion body to advise on it so that the Government will not incur undue expense.

### Building

No major permanent building is under construction at any University College at the present time, and the whole system is faced with the need at the moment to catch up with the serious deficiency in building from the past and to prepare for the future increase in student numbers.

The Government has been made urgently aware of the position and it is our hope that a rational, long-range building plan for the University will be accepted shortly and finances provided for its development.

### Scholarships

Our policy is to assist graduates of high merit to go as far as possible with their studies in New Zealand and then afterwards to give the specially gifted the opportunity for study abroad under recognised world authorities.

On a rough calculation, opportunities were afforded for New Zealand students to study abroad faculties to study abroad financial aid and even that would be increased if we included the special opportunities of shipping concessions, Travel grants, grants from universities and from various nations. In all these special cases the University of New Zealand plays a major role in the selection of those who will receive such special opportunities.

**SPECIAL SCHOOLS.** The general function which the University is expected to perform in relation to Special Schools since the time of the University is that it is a complete university for New Zealand, made up of Constituent Colleges, each with some Special Schools, but no one Constituent College itself being complete with Special Schools. It is clear that the present state of our economic development and the size of the population it is impossible for a College to have all necessary Schools attached to them, so the Senate to consider whether Special Schools need to be started where they are started, where they are located. A second Medical School at Auckland and a possible Veterinary School somewhere in the North Island are examples of new Special Schools at present under consideration.

### Research funds

Every effort is being made to finance the Colleges so that staffing and maintenance grants be adequate to provide for as an ordinary proper activity necessary at present to find moneys for research, so the difficulty in distributing these moneys performing a valuable function stimulating research and assisting the training of research workers.

What is the outlook for the University of New Zealand? At present there is a steady devolution of responsibility for all matters to the Colleges. At the same time the centre is being strengthened through the Grants Committee and other Committees to make the University a more effective body for handling finance and other matters than can be most effectively handled centrally.

It is possible that the Colleges soon be given the title "University" without necessarily granting them just as the University of New Zealand is able to do at the present moment the Colleges wish this step taken, it might be useful to their individual standing, and the next step would no doubt be the final recognition of the Constituent Colleges as separate entities.

If that final step becomes a reality for better teaching and research, and if it is wanted by the country as a whole, it will come. At that stage there will remain the problem of handling many matters which are necessary common to all of them and require some central focus.

Looking into the future, one hopes to see those new universities continuing to grow in stature and in wisdom as they are doing now at University College.

G. A. CURRIE,  
Vice-Chancellor

Curious Cove,  
24th January, 1954.