



CRACCU M

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE STUDENTS' PAPER

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COLLEGE

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We present below the text of an address by the Rev. L. C. Clements delivered recently to the School of Theology of the National Council of Churches. The Rev. Clements is Senior Chaplain of New Zealand Prisons and the subject of his address, the attitude of the community towards the criminal, forms a problem to which we are being compelled of late to pay more attention. The position held by the writer should make his opinions of more than ordinary interest to readers.

THE MYTH OF THE RIGHTEOUS COMMUNITY

My normal role is that of the preacher, and I am aware of the fact that with this paper I am moving into, what is for me, the foreign field of the lecturer. I hope you will forgive me if I make a poor showing in the unaccustomed role, and that you will try to follow the argument without paying too much attention to the presentation.

My subject is "The Myth of the Righteous Community."

The myth of inevitable human progress is one that dies hard. The myth of the infallibility of science is another popular twentieth century fantasy. Myths are not necessarily evil in themselves, and they often serve useful purposes. Some also are mixtures of good and bad. I want to deal with one such myth tonight, with the hope that I may provoke your thought concerning a subject that presses in upon me continually as I deal with prisoners—men and women who society says are unfit to live among them as free people. It is the myth that there exists within every country a community whose hands are clean and who are fit and proper people to stand over against another section of the community known as criminals. It is the myth that prisoners are so different from everyone else that it is altogether right that they should be immured behind stone walls and bars. It is the myth which I believe raises psychological walls between prisoner and free man more effective than the stone walls, causes cynicism and resentment, hinders much of the movement towards true penal reform, and creates a deadly apathy towards the need for social reconstruction.

I propose then to deal with the apparently good side of this myth, then with the bad side and finally say a particular word about the Church and her attitude.

Morally right to hate criminals?

First then to the good side: It is difficult to see how the processes of law, detection and punishment could exist at all if there were not a majority of people in any country, so sure of their goodness and the rightness of their judgments, prepared to declare that certain acts were permissible and others not, and that those who did not conform were bad citizens and those who did were good. Some one group must be prepared to set themselves up as defenders of goodness. And an important element in legal penalty is the expression of the moral disapproval, indignation, and even horror of this righteous community. Few today would be so blunt as a certain Justice Stephens who said in 1883, "The criminal law thus proceeds upon the principle that it is morally right to hate criminals, and it confirms and justifies that sentiment by inflicting upon criminals punishments which express it . . . I think the proper attitude of mind towards criminals is not long suffering charity but open enmity; for the object of criminal law is to overcome evil with evil." Few today, I say, would be prepared to be so blunt, but it cannot be denied that that view is still common among people and before it is rejected out of hand one must admit the truth embodied in it. It is simply this, that it is morally right and necessary for the righteous community to openly express its horror and hate of all badness. The criminal declares war on the community, therefore the reply must be war—and no quarter given. It seems to me that this attitude of mind is clearly behind the angry outbursts from press

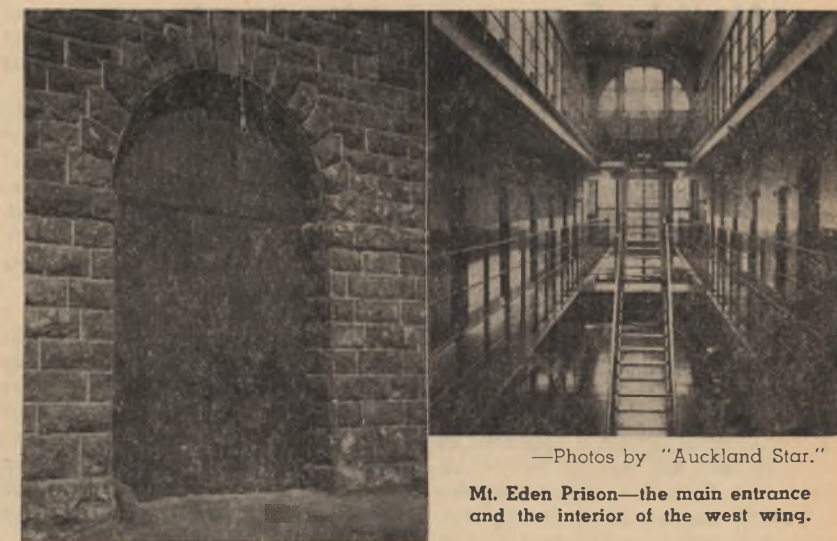
and public concerning the new approach to prisoners, which, to refer back to the statement just quoted is based more upon "long suffering charity" than upon "open enmity".

Sentimentality destroys law

Now I think we must admit that there is something here not to be lightly dismissed. It has been said that the present lenient and enlightened approach to prisons may not be so much a genuine desire to reform men, as a reflection on the weakened moral fibre of community. Indignation and anger at evil is a Christian virtue. Was it not said of F. W. Robertson that he would go white with anger and bring blood to his hands as he clenched his fists, when he saw an evil man intent on seducing a girl? We blur the demarcation line between good and evil at our peril. Mere sentimentality towards the criminal, on the watery ground that "there's so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it ill behoves any of us to judge the rest of us" destroys the majesty of the law, and makes no positive contribution to the rehabilitation of the criminal. Is not our Gospel the story of the ageless, relentless warfare between good and evil? Does not the Church exist for the express purpose of calling out of the community an elect people for the warrior task? Judgment and wrath are words too closely entwined in the Christian's vocabulary for us to easily dismiss the element of punishment from the question of crime and its treatment. It is obvious then, that the idea of a righteous community standing over against an unrighteous minority is not altogether unchristian, and there is some positive good in the existence of a conscious declared will of a majority that such and such an act, offends, and offends so deeply that it cannot be overlooked. Without some such conscious or unconscious scheme of thought it would seem to me to be impossible to maintain criminal law and prisons.

Society connives at evil

Yet there persists a serious doubt in my mind, for first of all, I am haunted by the fact that no such thing as a righteous community exists at all. Evil has penetrated the whole of society, which connives at its existence and encourages its growth. The cynicism of the average prisoner is a revelation of this truth. Seldom will you find a criminal willing to acknowledge that he is one whit worse than the average citizen. He declares, with truth often, that he knows others in the community who have committed and are still committing offences similar to that for which he is being punished. One of the reasons why men will "give it a go" even knowing the penalty, is that they also know there is a reasonable chance of going undetected. The homosexual knows that there are parts of the world where he could live without being



—Photos by "Auckland Star."

Mt. Eden Prison—the main entrance and the interior of the west wing.

imprisoned. He is usually well read and knows his offence, far from bringing scorn and contempt, in some countries in other centuries, actually brought peculiar honour. It is impossible for him to believe that a righteous community has condemned him.

Educated homosexuals and that means most of them, rather believe that they are victims of an ignorant prejudiced community.

The sex savage

And now that I have mentioned a sex offence, it is appropriate to look at others. Rape is a horrible thing, stirring deep emotional reactions in all of us. Yet it is becoming obvious that the "sex savage with bags of wild oats round their necks" are the products of a sex mad world, where film hoardings scream sex, and car batteries and tractors cannot be sold without the aid of near naked females. A boy, perhaps already off balance, stimulated by this super heated sexy world, and his inhibitions removed by alcohol, likewise accepted by this righteous community, receives a long prison sentence. But who is the criminal? "Society" someone has said, "gets the criminals it deserves". A reviewer of the recently banned book by Billy Hill, the king of Britain's underworld, said in conclusion: "The real villain is society which made such a career possible". How can we honestly dispute this? Common theft itself, now in N.Z. is not a crime springing from poverty and need, but a crime springing from luxury. Our society largely lives by greed. We judge success by material possessions. It is little wonder then that gripped by the prevailing fever, some impatient with the slow results of honest toil will turn to theft, large or small. And many a prisoner gives a knowing wink and says, "I could tell you a thing or two about so and so!"

Alcoholism and crimes provoked by alcohol offers an easy target in this criticism. Our country votes regularly and solidly for the retention of beverage alcohol. Let me quote:

"Alcohol turns respectable young men into raving maniacs. On December 7, 1955, the following appears in the report of the proceedings of the Central Criminal Court, Darlinghurst. Solicitor Bruce Miles appearing for a man charged with 'assault with intent to rape' finally con-

victed and sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, said in mitigation: 'It would be no excuse for a man to take a dangerous drug such as heroin, commit a crime, and say, 'I'm sorry that I committed this crime, I took too much heroin.' The taking of heroin is banned, rightly so by law. But not alcohol. In fact the very opposite. This young man has been invited, persuaded and enticed at every street corner to partake of alcohol. He was told that it would make a man of him and that it was a man's drink, that it would make him popular and make him happy. He has learned now, that instead of making a man of him, it has made him a monster and . . . destroyed every vestige of happiness he could have looked forward to for years to come. He has learned too late, that, what the law didn't teach before, is that as far as he is personally concerned, the taking of alcohol is a criminal offence."

And that particular case could be duplicated in dozens, if not scores of cases in our own country.

Again, in juvenile delinquency particularly the same old cause is seen again and again. It is becoming a theme-song sung by magistrates, social workers, psychiatrists, and every speaker on youth and its problems, that is the theme song of love. The deprivation of love is a grievous sin against children. But parental neglect is a common enough thing today through mothers working, through selfish living fathers and mothers too who seek their own pleasure, through alcohol again and many other causes.

Hypocrisy and the scapegoat

In the face of all this and much more that could have been said, the attempt to maintain a belief that society is expressing righteous indignation in thrusting a prisoner behind bars, is hypocrisy and humbug of the worst kind. It helps us to "camouflage reality and evade responsibility". We are playing the ancient game of the scapegoat, laying our sins upon the criminal we drive him to his cell or to the gallows and feel cleansed by the bit of play acting.

The extreme example of this of course is our retention of the gallows and the ritual killing of the murderer. The careful guard lest he cheat the gallows, the

(Continued on Page 4)



CRACCUM

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.

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Executive Discussion Must be Free

AT the last meeting of the Students' Association Executive, there was considerable discussion on whether the length of meetings should be curtailed.

The matter was raised by a motion of Mr Lang's that in future, Executive meetings should conclude at 10.30 p.m. There were some members in favour of such a step, but doubtless realising the cautious attitude adopted by the majority, Mr Lang made his motion less arbitrary so that it read, "that at all future Executive meetings, no business be taken after 9.30 p.m. that is not on the agenda."

In the ensuing debate it appeared at one stage that the motion would be passed, but then Mr Holdom spoke vociferously against it, pointing out that contentious issues frequently arise out of the implications of members' reports.

Finally the motion was put and the voting was even. The casting vote of the Chairman in favour of the *status quo*, however, resulted in the motion being lost. But it is a matter of concern that half of the ten members present were in favour of curtailing meetings come what may.

It should not be forgotten that the Executive is a body of people in whom the students have placed their trust to administer their affairs carefully and wisely. This axiom is further emphasised when it is recalled that the Executive control about £4000. of student money.

During the course of the year, there are a number of issues to be decided by the Executive which are by their very nature contentious, while others, if not likely to cause much dispute, nevertheless call for serious and careful discussion. Sometimes these issues appear in the form of motions on the agenda, but just as often they arise out of the implications of another motion, or out of the report which each portfolio holder has to present at every meeting.

If the object of the motion was to do away with irrelevant discussion, then it must be taken as an oblique censure of the way the Chairman conducts the meetings, for it is his duty to rule all irrelevant discussion out of order. The confidence in Mr Boag shown by the Executive makes this suggestion most unlikely, but this would indicate that the discussion objected to, no matter how lengthy, is relevant. This being the case, the motion, and the action of those supporting it, is to be condemned.

Every Executive member has the right to speak to any motion, to question other members, and to answer any arguments with which he disagrees. In other words it is the right (and indeed the duty), of every member that he should not have to vote on a motion before he is personally convinced of the arguments for or

against. To apply the "guillotine" or any other similar practice, is either to restrict that right, or to put off discussion of a motion until the next meeting, with all the snowballing effects that this implies.

The very basis on which democratically elected committees rests is the principle of freedom of speech. If this is curtailed, then one may as well not be elected to the Executive for it can no longer hold the confidence of the students and forgoes the right to administer their affairs.

If the discussion at a meeting is getting out of hand, the Chairman may rule on a point of order, or any member may move procedurally "that the motion be put" or "that we pass on to the next business." These are adequate safeguards devised by men showing far more wisdom than those supporting the motion voted upon at the last Executive meeting.

Danger of State Control through Salaries

JUST before the May Vacation, the Prime Minister announced the new salaries for the whole of the Public Service and included university teachers. As has been emphasised before, the importance for students of staff salaries lies in the vital effect they have on the standard of university education.

An obvious injustice in the salary announcement is that, the new salaries have been made retrospective only to April. Surely the implication of the Prime Minister's statement ten months before, that the claim could have been settled then "if it had stood alone," was that when the new salaries were eventually announced, they would be retrospective to June, 1955.

A further injustice is the increase in the number of stages within each scale, so that a lecturer, say previously at the second stage from the top of his scale, may now find himself in a lower position on the ladder. Moreover, the economic position of the Junior Lecturer is as precarious as ever.

In the light of these facts, and that the claim just met after so much procrastination is related to the 1954 cost-of-living index, the university teachers have every justification in putting forward the new claim now being worked out.

Further, however, there have been important principles violated by the Government. First, the salaries of our teachers are still 12½% below those in Australia, and consequently, our university simply cannot compete for the services of top academic men. There are still three chairs vacant in Otago and two in Auckland, and it will not be surprising if more vacancies occur through professors and lecturers taking up more remunerative positions overseas. If this tendency is not stopped and if we are to ensure that good men are attracted to vacancies already existing and those to be

caused by the increase in students, the salary scale must be given parity with that operating in Australia.

Finally, by linking university salaries with those of the Public Service, the Government has begun to put into operation the worst implications of the unfortunate position whereby the university in New Zealand is dependent on the State. The avoidance of these implications was one of the main reasons for the setting up of the University Grants Committee.

This committee was set up by statute "to enquire into the financial needs of University education in New Zealand, and to advise the Government of those needs." The statute also lays down that its members must not be officially associated with any of the constituent colleges and must be appointed only after consultation with the Ministers of Finance and Education. And yet despite these statutory functions and safeguards, the Government has now repudiated the committee by settling university salaries by the same machinery used for all state employees.

If the Government continues to associate university teachers with state employees, how long will it be before there is state interference in university development and policy. It is not too rash to visualise the situation whereby, through control of salaries if not more directly, government pressure is applied to university teachers in matters of what they teach. To those who doubt the validity of this prospect, it must be borne in mind that owing to the actions of the Government, the machinery is now in the hands of the State for this or any future government to translate what may appear a rather doubtful hypothesis into a startlingly real fact.

University 'Domination' of schools a fallacy

NOT only has the Government taken a step which could be interpreted as the first move to state controlled universities, but it is indeed alarming to find that the post-primary teachers are openly advocating state control.

In his presidential address to the annual general meeting of the Post-Primary Teachers' Association, Mr G. McB. Salt suggested "a full scale investigation by the Government to decide the pattern of University education best suited to New Zealand's needs." He added that he doubted whether that investigation could safely be left to the autonomous university, and that the decision of the Auckland University College concerning entrance requirements brought back "complete domination of the post-primary curriculum by the university."

The same impression is given by a recent correspondent to *The Auckland Star* when he wrote, "Parents might well ask themselves whether university domination over secondary schools, reminiscent of the divine right of

CRACCUM FOR 3d.

The good sales of the Anniversary Issue of Craccum clearly indicated that students are prepared to pay for Craccum if it has a reasonably high standard. It is our hope to maintain and, if possible, better that standard, but we cannot do this on Craccum's present income which, like grants to clubs, has been cut below last year's figures. The move to charge 3d. per copy will still make Craccum the least expensive student paper in the country (a charge of 6d. is made in the other colleges).

For the small levy of 3d., students will be able to ensure that the standard of their paper will not fall. To continue distribution *gratis* with the present high printing costs and low financial grant can only result in a sub-standard paper unworthy of the College.

COLLEGE LIBRARY

Some recent acquisitions

Arbo, Sebastian Juan. *Cervantes*; adventurer, idealist and destiny's fool.
Bourlière, Francois. *Mammals of the World; their life and habits*.
Craig, Gordon Alexander. *The politics of the Prussian Army, 1640-1945*.
Crocker, Lester Gilbert. *The embattled philosopher*; a biography of Denis Diderot.
Elton, Godfrey Elton, Baron. *General Gordon*.
Lawrence, David Herbert. *Studies in classic American literature*.
Malinowski, Bronislaw. *Crime and custom in savage society*.

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the next issue of "Craccum" will close on WEDNESDAY, 13th June, at 7 p.m. Please place contributions in "Craccum" box on Exec. Room door.

kings, should give way to a control in which a wider group of experienced teachers, enlightened parents and eminent educationists would have effective voice."

How anyone can conceive that the University wishes, or indeed would be able to gain domination over the formidable state education system as represented in the secondary school curriculum, is difficult to discover.

The clue to the whole matter is brought out, however, in a further passage from Mr Salt's address: "The pupil without academic ability for a university course was catered for immeasurably better now; those who did have academic ability would come safely through any education system if they had the will to work."

In agreement with this statement, the university would recognise that the non-academic pupils is being well cared for, but it is the academic pupil that the University has eventually to train, and thus in whom it is entitled to take an interest.

Is it the arrogance of autonomy that the University should be concerned that the academic pupil should not have to come through "any education system" as Mr Salt puts it so aptly?

It should be made quite definite, once and for all, that the university has no desire to dominate the secondary school. All that the new entrance regulations of the Auckland University College lay down, is that no matter what other courses there are, if a school wants to keep academic pupils then it must provide an academic course.

There is no wish to interfere with the courses schools offer those pupils who do not want to enter the university, but surely it is justified for a university to take an interest in the courses schools offer to those who do. This is not domination, arrogance or autocracy—it is common sense.

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Far from l the Executive

EXEC. MEMBERS REPORT ON:

Cafeteria Changes

Some years ago the Health Department advised the Association that the Cafeteria Kitchen did not comply with many parts of the Health Regulations.

The Executive at that time made extensive enquiries and found that if the Kitchen was to be brought to the required standard, it would be necessary to extend into the existing seating space. To compensate for this decrease in accommodation, it was decided to enlarge the Cafeteria by taking in two thirds of the Women's Common Room.

This proposal was then put before the College Council Building Committee as the official opinion of the A.U.C.S.A. Executive. This Committee has since considered the plan and referred it back to the present Executive for further consideration.

They did not approve Executive's proposal to make the partition between the Cafeteria and the Women's Common Room a moveable one and ruled it impracticable.

The present Executive accordingly debated this matter at some length and after extensive discussion, which included a comprehensive tour of the Student block, forwarded the latest proposal to the Buildings Committee.

It was decided that, provided suitable access could be made available to the Women's Locker Rooms, it would be of little use setting aside a small portion (say one third) of the present Women's Common Room for the exclusive use of Women students. Accordingly the existing Women's Common Room is to become part of the Cafeteria, while the Women's Locker Room and Reading Room and the Men's Locker Room and Reading Room are reserved solely for women and men students respectively.

The present Men's Common Room and original "Billiards" Room are to become a Mixed Common Room.

This solution overcomes the problem of the Cafeteria and makes fuller use of the Table Tennis Room, all so often a dimly lit junk room.

Clubs, however, which have been accustomed to using any of these three rooms will still be able to book them through the usual channels.

This decision had to be made urgently with no opportunity for reference to the student body as a whole, because the Buildings Committee wanted the Association's decision as soon as possible if the Cafeteria extensions were to be started in the "near future".

Both men and women students and some clubs particularly, will feel they have real grounds for complaint but we assure you that the matter has been keenly debated and that the present solution, until our departure to sites unknown, seems to be inevitable and reasonably satisfactory.

—P. W. Boag, President, A.U.C.S.A.
—L. W. Nash, Chairman, Men's house Committee.

—Janet Watkins, Chairman, Women's House Committee.

... and Finance

In view of the criticism levelled at the Executive resulting from increase in Cafeteria prices, it was decided that a report should be submitted for members' information.

In August, when this Executive took office, the financial position of the Students' Association was somewhat critical.

The Bank Overdraft and Creditors totalled over £1300 and it must be remembered that from July until the end of the year there is practically NO income.

Expenditure for the preceding year was approximately £1200 greater than income. The Cafeteria lost an additional £300.

Before December it had become necessary to cash reserves totalling about £2000. Bear in mind the difficulties had these reserves not been available.

A large portion of this reserve money must be put back this year. It has been the policy of this Executive to put the Association on a more business-like footing. Each Department has budgeted

more carefully and has accepted a much reduced spending allocation. Grants have been substantially cut for this year—many clubs and Societies being asked to use their reserves in preference to drawing on the Association.

Accounts drawn up at the end of December, 1955, showed that the Cafeteria would lose perhaps another £300 or £400. It was felt by the Executive that this was most undesirable in view of our overall position.

It is hoped that the increase will cover any loss that may have resulted had prices remained at the 1955 level. Any profit from the Cafeteria is Association funds and available for student amenities.

This is your Association and the Executive endeavour to administer its funds to your advantage.

—BARRY I. PURDY,
Treasurer.

CRACCUM'S ORIGIN
DISREPUTABLE?

Sir,
I was most interested to read the history of "Craccum" appearing in the Thirtieth Anniversary issue, as I was one of those originally responsible for the paper.

My recollection of the origin of "Craccum" does not, however, agree with the account published. The suggestion there made is that it came into existence at the wish and under the direction of the Students Association Executive but this is quite contrary to fact. The originators of Craccum were a self-appointed committee of three, Mr Mathew, Miss W. McNickle and myself. I think Mr Mathew (who was a journalist on the staff of one of the City newspapers) was the editor but all three of us took an active part in its publication. It was Miss McNickle who christened the paper "Craccum", the name being an anagram of the initial letters of A.U.C. Men's Common Room Club. (This Club was the predecessor of the Common Room Committee and flourished during the time when the College was housed in the Old Grammar School and had, of course, no connection whatever with the infant paper, but the anagram was a distinctive way of expressing policy of the paper.)

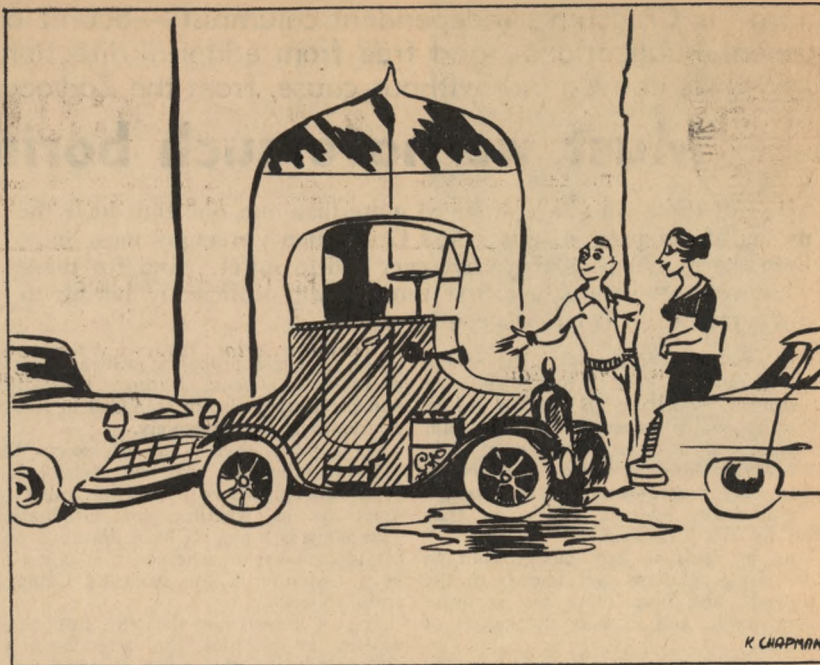
Far from being the favoured child of the Executive, the paper was deliberately

hostile to it, as a glance at some of the earliest numbers will show. One of the main reasons for publishing it at all was to provide a vehicle for the public criticism of the Executive. I was then in political exile, having unsuccessfully contested the Presidency, which possibly explains this aspect. I don't think any of us had any idea of contributing to the literature of the College and, as your contributor points out, in fact we did not do so. Our idea was rather a whip with which to flog the authorities, any authorities, and, to ensure circulation, we covered club activities and added a spice of topical scurrility. It was not until a year or so later that Craccum was taken over by the Students Association, became respectable and began to cater for those with literary aspirations.

I am sorry to draw attention to the somewhat disreputable origins of Craccum, but if, as seems most likely, it survives to celebrate its fiftieth birthday, someone may wish to know the true story of its birth. The passage of the years may then have so mellowed criticism as to enable the reader to smile indulgently at its rude beginnings. By that time, I fear, none of us who attended its birth will be capable of telling the tale, so it is necessary to put the record straight now.

May I finish by congratulating you on the very fine student newspaper which you are producing.

—Nigel Wilson.



"Oh, that! The Prof. bought it with his salary increase."

EXEC. NOTES

BY "GALATEA"

EARLY CLOSING?

Exec. meeting on May 28th not only ended early at 9.45, but also discussed several important matters. Members debated at some length on whether future Exec. meetings should close at 10.30, on the desirability of Hobson Bay versus Princes Street for the new university site, and on certain matters relating to the liaison between "Craccum" and executive.

In proposing that all future exec. meetings close at 10.30 Don Lang said he considered later sittings unnecessary, especially in view of the fact that some members nearly every meeting left early. Jim Holdom disagreed, saying that often contentious matters had to be debated at some length and that such a motion would hamper the effective working of exec. From the chair, Peter Boag pointed out this was an awkward point. He noted, however, the unfortunate but nevertheless very valid correlation that long meetings usually were the result of good work done by the exec. Eventually Don Lang moved that no business except that on the agenda be taken after 9.30, voting was five all and the chairman ruled in favour of the status quo.

Hobson Bay

Mr Piper, student's representative on the College Council, told members Hobson Bay had been decided upon by council as more desirable than the present site. It was his personal opinion, however, that Princes Street was far superior because of its historic position and because facilities had to be provided for such part time students as law and accountancy. Referring to the different opinions on the matter, Mr Piper cited the problems of the London University site which took 16 years, including two Royal Commissions, to resolve. The exec. were alarmed at the Prime Minister's statement during his visit to Auckland last week with regard to the siting of the university at Tamaki and passed a motion to that effect. In view of high yearly rentals which the Harbour Board was asking per acre for Hobson Bay, members also urged that investigation be made into the possibilities of multi-storied buildings on the present site.

Craccum and Exec.

Executive received a letter from the Editor of Craccum in which it was alleged that there was a lack of liaison between exec. and the editor on matters concerning Craccum which were discussed at exec. meetings. The editor explained that he considered the member whose portfolio included publications (Bob Roach) had made no effort to discuss with him the matter of Craccum coverage at exec. meetings which had been debated at a meeting in April and which had lately been the subject of some careful thought and planning. A long debate ensued on this matter and exec. felt that while they agreed on the question of consultation, they considered the manner in which it was presented was grossly unfair to Mr Roach. Peter Boag ex-

plained that the reason Craccum was asked to publish statements such as the cafeteria in addition to the normal write-up was to allay rumours which circulated from time to time. Important motions were often not fully enough reported in Craccum simply because the person concerned could not be expected to have the detailed knowledge of questions which culminated in a motion at exec. meetings. The question then was not a criticism of any particular individual, but rather one of principle. The editor firmly supported the idea of special statements from time to time on matters affecting the student body but could not see any principle which would support the idea of Craccum printing reports of executive meetings "prepared" by executive members.

Exec. then unanimously passed a motion that in future the editor be consulted before meetings on matters relating to Craccum. In also passing that the letter be not received, Don Lang noted that this was an extreme step but the only alternative the exec. had since the editor refused to redraft this letter. Dave Stone pointed out that although this was disappointing, his main criticism had been shown to be valid when it was answered by the previous motion.

Other motions

Other minor but significant motions were also passed. Janet Watkins asked members for opinions regarding the form this year's staff bun fight should take.

After humorous discussion, eventually exec. moved that the chairman approach members of the staff with a view to ascertaining the form such a function would best take. Exec. decided to support Canterbury's magazine exchange to the tune of one hundred books.

Jim Holdom was unhappy about the locking of Men's Common Room the third week of the holidays, which Lyndsay Nash explained the cleaner did without authority from M.H.C. It was decided that the secretary should write to the Registrar pointing out that it was desirable Common Room should remain open during term vacations. M.H.C. chairman also explained that greater enforcement of poster regulations would be the order from now on. Posters are not to be larger than 18 x 12, and must be signed either by Exec. members, the chairman of M.H.C., or the poster steward, and that notices not fulfilling these requirements will be taken down. Further, Lyndsay stated that club material which was not removed from the table tennis room by June 2nd will be destroyed.

"Libra" is Craccum's independent columnist—bound only by the Laws of Libel and Indecent Publications—and free from editorial direction. The pseudonym, we are told, is derived, not without cause, from the Zodiacal sign of the Scales.

Must we have such boring speeches?

For those who have attended more than one, and thus have the means of comparison, this year's Graduation Ceremony must have been the most boring they have ever had to suffer. And for those who were attending their first time, it was sufficiently boring to discourage them from ever coming again.

The graduands for whom the whole show is put on, have probably become accustomed from time to time to sitting out an hour of boredom from certain lecturers, but it is a pity that at this, the culmination of their university career, they were forced to sit through a "graduation address" such as that given by the Principal.

This in itself is bad enough, but to invite along relatives and friends of the graduands and bore them too is quite unforgivable, and in fact, the height of rudeness.

It would not be at all surprising to find an abnormally large number of next year's graduands wishing to be capped *in absentia*, and who could blame them? It was also apparent that there was a comparatively small number of the university staff present at the ceremony. It would be a useful suggestion that just as every obstacle is placed in the way of the graduand who wishes to be capped *in absentia*, so it should be made just as obligatory for staff members to be pre-

sent: it would probably ensure a rapid decrease of boring lectures thereafter, and certainly a rise in standard in future addresses at the ceremony.

It is more obvious to all except the college authorities, that the position has been reached where a decision must be made as to whether our Graduation Ceremony is going to be a dignified and grand occasion or whether it is going to be a highlight in the student's Capping entertainment.

It is a known fact that the authorities wished to prohibit the attendance of undergraduates this year as they have been causing too much diversion in the past. The Students' Association President managed to persuade the Ceremonies Committee to change its mind, but only on the express condition that he issue a statement to the students that they must behave themselves; if they didn't, they were to be excluded in the future. Consequently, Peter Boag issued his appeal and warning in the last issue of *Craccum*; a perusal of that statement reveals such

passages as "Auckland came off badly in comparison with the solemnity with which the ceremony is held in other centres", and "the treatment of speakers in the last few years had at times been frankly discourteous"; as a result of this, the fact that "Graduation Day is one of the biggest days in the lives of the Graduands . . . was being lost sight of in this College." And finally, "I appeal to all students who wish to attend the ceremony this year to respect both the speakers and the graduands."

One feels impelled to ask what sort of contribution to the "solemnity" of the occasion was made by the graduation address? What respect did it show for the graduands? Did not the address more than deserve some sort of diversion from the gallery?

One thing, the Principal need not feel alone in this matter, as the standard of graduation addresses over the years has been appalling. The address is usually given by one of the top three officers of the University of New Zealand, the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and rarely are they of a nature suitable for an audience composed of graduands, relatives and friends (let alone the undergrads). Is it too much to expect these august personages to deliver one good speech a year on a topic

which, although connected with the University, is of interest to a very mixed audience?

If there is not to be a considerable improvement next year, it may be wise for the students to revert to the days of wild ducks, cow bells, alarm clocks, reading papers, etc., and then perhaps there will be repetition of the oft recalled incident when the then Chief Justice and Chancellor, Sir Robert Stout, called the ceremony off and decreed that there would be none for several years. At least if there were no ceremony, there would be no opportunity for such a poor advertisement for the University as was heard last month.

TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA

No more applications can be accepted for travel to the Olympic Games, but the other arrangements still open are:

CHARTERED PLANE leaves end of December. Returns end of February. Cost £20 single. £40 return. You do not need to travel both ways by Charter e.g. leave by chartered and plane by group travel and failing that, ordinary Air or Sea route.

GROUP TRAVEL. Travel as a group (if we can arrange it). This means reduced rates. It also means that although you must travel with the group you can return any time, any how. Entries close June 15th.

VISIT AUSTRALIA NOW CHEAP. LY £40 return by chartered plane. **FORMS IN MRS CHISHOLM'S OFFICE,** or see PETER GORDON, EXECUTIVE ROOM.

We can only be glad that in N.Z. at such a time as this, the ecumenical movement made it possible for a full-time chaplain to be appointed to the Justice Department.

Lastly, the Church ought to be ready to receive the prisoner on his release. And here again the myth of the righteous community comes to the fore. An American "lifer" said in despair after his release "When is an ex-prisoner not an ex-prisoner?" When does society forget and forgive. An N.C.C. Committee in the U.S.A. studying the problems facing Probationers, Parolees and Ex-offenders says, "Prisons, by and large, have been struggling to change their operating philosophy from old style punishment only into a philosophy of confinement with correctional treatment. But beyond these points we find an area of dangerous neglect. Society's most grievous error in the correctional field is not the fault of the police, probation, parole nor prisons. It is the fact that citizens in general have developed a growing fear for all who have been convicted of a crime. And this fear has generated conditions which may well defeat the success of the best possible correctional systems."

It is so in N.Z. perhaps to a lesser degree, but certainly to such a degree that the days prior to a prisoner's release are often filled with real and justifiable fear. I know a Borstal boy who was asked to leave a Church soccer club because the parents of other boys might object! I have known an ex-prisoner who was sacked from his employment because his fellow workers petitioned the boss for his removal on the grounds that their watches might be stolen. I have known ministers to be too busy about their parish duties to call and see an ex-Borstal boy on his arrival home, but have looked him up some weeks too late.

The 'righteous community'?

But I have covered too much ground already. Where, in this tangled web of human relationships is the righteous community? Prisoners in a U.S.A. jail were kindly treated by a woman member of the staff. On release a prisoner had dinner with her and asked her why she was so consistently kind and considerate to prisoners. She paused a bit before replying and then said, "One must be awfully sure of one's own goodness to condemn anyone." Dorothy Day of New York Catholic Worker fame, met an ugly prostitute on the steps of the Catholic Worker building. She started back then conquering her dislike she kissed the red leering mouth. So did St. Francis with the leper. We may not agree with it, may not have the courage to do it, but few will deny that it is Christlike. The righteous community was founded by one who died between two thieves. It exists today, wherever His followers go without sinning among sinners, not to judge but to save.

'Prison is not for cursed and damned'

(Continued from Page 1)

medical attention so that he is as fit as possible to die, the ordered and carefully ordained steps of the act itself, all bear the marks of our chief act of community cleansing. We proclaim the sanctity of human life and then take a life with an act that expresses the ultimate in contemptuous disregard for human life. All this mass hypocrisy does not go unnoticed by the man in his cell. The criminal's hands are stained but he knows that the hands that have thrust him out of sight are hardly lily white either.

Evil has penetrated Church

What of the Church? We turn now to the elect community within the larger community. Surely here we shall find the clean hands and the pure conscience? There is certainly something to our credit. We have maintained some sort of witness to the totality of life, to the need for personal righteousness and social responsibility, and we have not been wanting in compassion. But here too we must admit that evil has penetrated the Church and makes nonsense of its claim to be the righteous community.

For instance, the church's witness against social evils has seriously weakened in recent years. Not so much in her official pronouncements I believe, as in the unwillingness of the rank and file to act upon them with any vitality. It is fairly obvious that specific Christian solutions and judgments on moral, social and international problems are more often than not treated with little respect by governments and populace alike. And why should this be? For one thing the disunity within the Church and its consequent inability to speak authoritatively and consistently earns it little respect. The trumpet sounds an uncertain note. For another thing the church will so often take her stand on the shifting sands of expediency and human judgment when she should stand on the rock of truth, drawing her judgments solely from her Gospel. For instance, it was pointed out to me with some force that a N.Z. Church statement on capital punishment did not mention the name of Christ. And furthermore the Church will persist in striking so often at the symptoms of society's sickness while neglecting the causes.

The juvenile delinquent

But I now turn the argument into another channel. The righteous community as we know it in the NT and in history

is not merely the witnessing and judging community, it is pre-eminently the redeeming community. Indeed its witness can only be directed towards the redemption of the sinner, and its judgments can only be the judgments of love and compassion. How does this apply to our approach to the sinful and to the worst criminal and how do we measure up to its demands in three ways:

(1) The redeeming community seeks out the very sinful, discovers the potential delinquent makes it easy for the sinful to repent and cast off the burden of sin and find new life. Without a doubt, there are churches that are busy about this work of redemption. No denomination has a monopoly here. The Holy Spirit works in high and low church, through liturgy and through no liturgy. But our failures are eloquent. Only on a few occasions, and these notable exceptions, have I discovered any evidence among boys coming into Borstal for instance, that they have been pursued with relentless love by Ministers or laity. Church connections there have been in some cases, but too often no hint whatsoever that the potential delinquent has received anything but moralising lectures. There are cases known to me of delinquents having been put out of Church youth clubs and organisations because of their bad behaviour.

Church abandons underworld

Child Welfare Officers tell me that they have the greatest difficulty in finding Christian homes for problem children. That is, there is a great deal of evidence that the Church, with its buildings in every village and town, and its paid servants and its thousands of devoted believers, barely touches the underworld. We are often told that the church has become almost entirely middle class. It comes home with added emphasis when you know the prison population. We have grown so respectable, and the passion to preserve our righteousness has become pharisaic. A modern congregation might sing:

Weep o'er the erring one

Lift up the fallen,

Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave,

but it is reasonably certain that few if any of the congregation have been slobbered over by an alcoholic, or have faced a rebellious youth proud of his sexual adventures, or have looked into the eyes of a murderer. And it is reasonably certain that few congregations would know what to do with an "erring one" who

came into their midst. That is, the "righteous community" has lost the passion for the real sinner. We rather like now to claim that prayer is the cure for tired businessmen's ulcers rather than the cure for dirty sins!

(2) And when a man goes into prison what does the Church do? Colonel Charles Pean, Salvationist, said at an international conference on Prisons and Prisoners at Bossey, "Those who are punished constitute a society from which the Church of Jesus Christ cannot be absent."

Chaplains need help

The Church has never been able to forget the words, "I was in prison and ye visited me." Our history in regard to prison and prisoners is not altogether glorious, but at least we have not entirely neglected the necessity to call to preach good news to the captives. But the prison chaplain cannot do his work in isolation from the church. He needs the support of the whole Church in prayer and active sympathy and support. He needs to know for sure that there is a community to whom he can recommend the prisoner on his release. He needs a community of love and compassion who will break the hardest heart by unremitting kindness to a prisoner's dependants. We are really only commencing this work in N.Z. Much has been done by voluntary workers, City Missioners, laymen and women alike, but what a task still waits to be done. It is right that I should repeat here what another speaker said at the Bossey Conference already quoted, "The prison institution is not a shelter for the cursed and damned of this world, neither is it hell on earth; it is the embodiment of one of society's most vital tasks. No imagination is needed to destroy men; but to rehabilitate and save men is a task which mankind has been struggling to solve for thousands of years." And again . . . "It seems providential that at precisely the time when leading professional workers in penology have become more receptive to the concept that changes at the mental and spiritual levels are critical if recidivism is to be prevented, certain developments within the Churches themselves are facilitating their participation in this vital work. The development of the ecumenical spirit and organism is one of these of paramount importance. A redemptive service for the hundreds of thousands of prisoners under an almost infinite variety of circumstances and conditions, is a task which transcends sectarian interests and requires an ecumenical church for its fulfilment."

Murray Cho

SKIT

In 19 Stragem" wrote: "T capping p you will g capping." cast fully in some pa humour f squeezed for good r

As always, of the show- humour. Auc adorned satiric alities, farcice delightful par revelly all coml effect. As a sophisticatedly moment and the aisles at a Horatio return his handkerch was literally a the house down commercial fr talking Graem This year singing talent ability of the pitch rarely a while the lyri- ing with you often being ur tunately the moments, but ances many eliminated. Th —John Young Wright—deser their "cosh ar while the Rus for their sard The first ac topics and p because of it: the front of st during set ch acts. The lat comments, as ripation thro They Really l skit on the m brand of cigar the first act- matter — the never allowed Old Tiangles' possibly becau been the butt Jan Copeland ; as the lover sufficiently m

A.J



THE J

Murray Chapman writes —

SKITSOPHRENIA WAS A WOW!

In 1952 Mr M. K. Joseph, when reviewing Farquhar's "Beaux Stragem" which had been performed in lieu of a student revue, wrote: "That this college is unable to produce the script of its own capping play is something which we regret; for that is the only way you will get the topical crack or family joke which somehow go with capping." That is just what this year's revue attempted, and the cast fully realised the possibilities of such a volatile script. Whereas in some past productions the students had not exploited the Zambucka humour fully, this year the last ounce of wit and pure foolery was squeezed from the original, with possibly a little extra of their own for good measure.

As always, humour was the keynote of the show—but what a range of humour. Auditorium hell raising, unadorned satiric thrusts at local personalities, farcical situations, sheer wit, delightful parodying and light-hearted revelry all combined to produce a hilarious effect. As a result the audience was sophisticatedly sitting in its seats at one moment and hysterically rolling down the aisles at another. The scene where Horatio returns to court after dropping his handkerchief in his lady's chamber was literally a riot of comedy and brought the house down. So too, were the cryptic commercials from the high powered sales-talking Graeme Nixon in the third act.

This year too, was notable for the singing talent which was revealed. Audibility of the opening chorus was at a pitch rarely attained in student revues, while the lyrics throughout were bursting with youthful vitality, as well as often being unashamedly ribald. Unfortunately the orchestra had its unhappy moments, but after two or three performances many of these faults had been eliminated. The three juvenile delinquents—John Young, Max Cryer and Hamish Wright—deserve the highest praise for their "cosh and bicycle chain" numbers, while the Russian Ballads drew applause for their sardonic irony.

The first act, a series of skits on local topics and perennial situation, scored because of its breathtaking pace, while the front of stage was used to advantage during set changes by front of curtain acts. The latter varied from newspaper comments, as on handy dying of constipation through passing a Swede, to "They Really Do Taste Better", a polished skit on the manufacture of a well-known brand of cigarettes. Consequently during the first act—the whole show for that matter—the audience's attention was never allowed to flag. "Odd Angles on Old Tiangles" was the most amusing, possibly because this situation has long been the butt of student satire. Here Ian Copeland as the wife and John Young as the lover were outstanding, being sufficiently melodramatic to emphasise

the scene's hilarity.

Criticism has been levelled at the second act as being out of place in this year's revue. It must be noted however that lack of time lead to the presentation of Sean O'Casey's brilliant one-acter, "The End of the Beginning". Not only was this a highly successful move but it also provided welcome relief to the breakneck tempo of the first act. The set was very well designed in view of the narrow stage while the intelligent use of lighting height-

ened its effectiveness. The three players, Charmaine Yock as Lizzie, Bob Carter as Danny, and Ken Loach as Barry gave sustained and extremely pleasing performances.

But the third act was the culmination of the night's bright and breezy humour. The cast here was exceptionally even as regards singing and acting ability, while each extracted the maximum out of his or her lines. Allan Coulam, Janice Copeland Alan Papesch, Graeme Nixon, Gabriele O'Leary, Carmel Lorrigan and John Young were all seen to advantage, while the dumb show by Wendy Ralls and Max Cryer was especially effective. The mosaic of satire, farce, parody, wit, foolery and sheer high spirits was such that the audience after the first five minutes just didn't quite know what to expect next. The humour then, was of an exceptionally high standard, with an easily identified 'Take It From Here' vein running through. It is difficult to single out any one person in this act, but Gabriele O'Leary as Lady Macbeth must be especially mentioned. Her fanatical slinking after Horatio in that form-revealing dress was a delight, as was also her rendering of 'Caliban Is My Man'. The effect was such that each night Gay was forced to give an encore. The last two bars showed her true singing ability and it seemed a pity that a tune could



Historic Surveyors in Queen St.?

not have been chosen which showed the range of her voice to advantage.

"Skitsophrenia" then was an outstanding success—all the more so because of the excess of teething troubles which the producers of each act had to overcome. The producer, Terry McNamara, and the script writers, Tony Courtney and Graeme Nixon are to be congratulated on their achievement. In establishing a precedent for studentwritten productions, "Skitsophrenia" has presented a challenge to future student authors.

Craccum in the Press

This year has been a momentous one for the University Press. Not only have such papers as *Craccum*, *Salient*, *Critic* and *Canta* by their comments continued to preserve in no small way the University tradition of freedom of thought and expression, but their impact in doing so received greater attention from the daily press than it has in previous years. The university newspapers today represent an independent body through which general comments may be made on any matter vitally affecting the student body.

It would seem from the interest shown in certain articles which have appeared in *Craccum* this year that not only the daily press but also members of Parliament are becoming more interested in what the University press has to say. No longer does Mr Holland's allegation of a lack of "objective thinking" in "certain university publications" apply. In fact the Attorney-General went so far as to say on May 3rd, that students on the whole were not as critical today as they were in his day. Speaking to the graduates of V.U.C. at their annual supper, Mr Marshall said, "It is good that students should be critical, even if they are critical of the government." I wonder if Mr Holland would agree so wholeheartedly.

The attention given by the daily press to the recent editorial quarrel with the New Zealand Government over the "shabby treatment" of the University, but Auckland in particular, was perhaps inevitable. The front page of the last

issue of 1955, which appeared on 29th September, attacked the inadequacy of the present bursary scheme under the heading, "Bursaries Sabotaged". This was reported in the *Auckland Star* and *Christchurch Star-Sun* under double column headlines, and when referred to in Parliament was reported by the New Zealand Press Association throughout the country. And the progress, or rather lack of progress, of the negotiations was covered in the *Student Mirror*, a fortnightly composition of university news which has a world-wide circulation. This issue therefore really startled the "powers-that-be" into a realisation that comments and articles on such grievances had to be taken seriously.

This year then has seen a wider coverage of *Craccum* articles not only in the Auckland papers, but also throughout New Zealand. Such features as 'Mr Algie Bungles Again', and 'What Price Education', were reported freely. But perhaps the widest press coverage any student newspaper has ever gained was when the Prime Minister replied through *Craccum* to earlier allegations concerning the government's education policy with regard to the university. The *Auckland Star*, *The Evening Star* (Otago), and *The Evening Post* (Wellington), all featured Mr Holland's answer under double column headlines, while the *New Zealand Truth* deemed the matter of significant interest to write an editorial upon it. The *Auckland Star* for instance, under the heading of "P.M. Denies Shabby Treatment", featured the reply in brief, but most important quoted *Craccum's* comments in full. This interpretation of both Mr Holland's and the Editor's letter in the Thirtieth Anniversary Issue was circulated throughout New Zealand via the Press Association, but no editorial comment from the daily press was forthcoming.

The *New Zealand Truth* on the other hand editorially commented upon *Craccum's* efforts, even though earlier it had printed neither the allegations nor the reply. From this it can be seen that by

now the issue of May 1st had become so well known that reiteration of them was no longer necessary. In noting Mr Holland's stout defence of the Minister of Education, *Truth* wrote, "The important point is not Mr Holland's opinion of Mr Algie, or Mr Algie's opinion of Mr Holland, but the opinion of the public on both of them," a statement which was later qualified with, "The ultimate verdict on Mr Algie could well be that he was a better advocate of education reform in opposition than he has been since he has been in power." *Truth* concluded by saying, "assertions by the Prime Minister that Mr Algie is 'one of the finest Ministers of Education this country has ever had' will not answer this dissatisfaction. It can in effect, be regarded as an ex parte statement which has still to be proved."

Here then was the culmination of press interest in *Craccum* articles, which it is true to say began with the feature on "Bursaries Sabotaged" of last September. Interested parties are aware that no harm can come of such publicity. The Auckland branch of the Association of University Teachers at an executive meeting in April passed a resolution expressing appreciation of the attention which *Craccum* had given to the "pressing needs of the University, including the salary question." In a letter of April 30th, to the editor the Hon. Secretary wrote, "it is felt by our Executive, that nothing but good can result from such demonstrations of support in matters which so deeply concern staff and students alike. It has been suggested in some quarters that *Craccum's* concern of such matters is bordering on the political. Let it be emphasised here and now that *Craccum*, along with other University newspapers, endeavours to print a selection of news concerning the student body both in Auckland and the constituent colleges. This policy means that articles dealing with general, political, literary and sports subjects appear in each issue which it is hoped will be of interest to the readers. In this case it was felt that the question of the Government's inadequate appreciation of the form and function of the University vitally affects every student. In this, not only is *Craccum* fulfilling one of the aims of the N.Z.U. Press Council, namely, to promote satisfactory relations with the commercial press, but also by these efforts is helping to raise the reputation of the University press in the eyes of the "outside world".—T.V.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bitter Complaint at Monotonous Meat Pie, Mince & Sausages

Sir,
I am afraid I am about to enter upon sacred ground—Our Cafeteria. Firstly, the menu (if it deserves such a name), and the 'variety' of this are, to say the least, absolutely sickening. I am one of the many unfortunates who, because of lecture hours etc., finds it necessary to endeavour to obtain sustenance at our Cafe. Four years at this College has given me long enough to study the various combinations of menus over the years, and I have at last come to the profound conclusion that they consist either of meat pie, mince, and sausages, or, mince, sausages and meat pie, or (on Fridays), fish, sausages, meat pie, and mince.

Now I am not saying that this is all that is put on the 'menu'. Certainly not! Sometimes, if you feel like rushing down for tea at the ridiculous hour of 4.30 you may be able to grab one of the few plates of corned beef, the indomitable stew, and occasionally beef or roast mutton—but I am sure that the great majority of students who eat regularly in the Cafe (after 5), will agree that the menu consists (often solely), of the three great old favourites mentioned above.—Really it does get awfully monotonous week in and week out, year in and year out. Surely the Cafe staff have enough knowledge to be able to gauge the demand for the various dishes and to order and cook enough.

Please Cafe Staff, please Exec., have

mercy on us miserable souls. Give us a little variety; we will put up with the often microscopic amounts, but grant us this petition. (And incidentally, though it upsets my digestive system to mention it, the fare offered at lunchtime is even worse!—It is just possible that something more attractive might mean more customers.)

To enter upon the second part of this dissertation, I would question the price charged for the 'meals'. Late last year a new price schedule was imposed. Many students thought that this was reasonable under the circumstances (of inflation, and the loss in the Cafe). So did I at the time. However this year we return to find that there has been imposed another price increase (without waiting to see how that first one was going to work out).

While I do not doubt Mr Purdy's figures, or the fact that over the past two years or so the Cafe has been making a loss, I do doubt the wisdom and the necessity for the more recent price rise. This I do for several reasons (incidentally perhaps Mr Purdy should study economics, and particularly demand elasticities). For several people I know are now taking themselves to certain Oriental establishments for their evening meal where they get a more substantial meal for a lower price. (So what our higher price may be gaining on the roundabouts may be more than lost on the swings).

Furthermore, it would seem to a person so simple as myself, that there is possibly something inefficient in the management, organisation, and equipment of our Cafe if it is capable of making such a loss. (These things seem particularly probable when e.g. a commercial eating house in Wellington can run a three-course meal for 3/- and still make a reasonable profit; or to take Auckland, at Oriental shops, a meal of greater proportions can be obtained for less than the cost of our meals!)

Do we really need such a numerous Cafe Staff (eight and nine people at tea-time?—And do we really need so many there all day? Does the Cafe have to close twice per day? Couldn't the Staff have their meals in shifts? Every little bit of cash helps you know, and you can't get it if you're not open.

And finally would it be possible to get something which eliminates the nice dirty brown ring around the top of the cups? Perhaps too those who serve out the tea and coffee could refrain from putting their fingers inside the cups when serving; and something in the form of fly control, and better covering for the food on display would be nice.

No doubt the pointing out of these matters will raise a hasty and caustic reply from the Exec. Well be this as it may, but might I suggest that the most effective reply in this matter would be to get something done! —"Ulcers".

was worn by people of another country, but because of the brutality of its wearers. In the same way the clothes of the groups excite criticism because of the activities of the people who wear them.

The second serious article is entitled "The Case against Corporal Punishment" but if this article represents the best that a University can produce then it would be a strong weapon in the hands of any group that opposed the present system of higher education. The most charitable thing that can be said about it is that Mr Strewe was probably motivated by good intentions. But it is most devastating to find Mr Strewe appealing to us to heed the edicts of science and then discover that he is committing logical errors which the average lower fifth former could detect. Indeed if Mr Strewe's brand of scientific superstition is the epitome of all that science stands for, then we are justified to regard scientists as cranks. The public might well ask itself, if university education aims at turning out thinkers who are at complete ease, when they quote rash generalisations that nullify their own case.

Mr Strewe quotes G. R. Scott as saying "Cruelty is inherent in mankind" and further on, that it is a mistake to think that mankind in the mass is becoming more humane. Now whether Mr Strewe's authority qualifies these statements I do not know but as they stand in the article it means that if Mr Strewe believes what he writes then he is wasting his time because cruelty is inevitable. Of course there is the possibility that the quotations have 'another meaning' for Mr Strewe but such an esoteric adaptation of language is most unscientific.

Also, the reader could not be blamed if he construed that the author was practising a form of flagellation and getting his "thrill" from writing to Capping Book. Mr Strewe accuses the advocates of flagellatism of getting a thrill from writing 'letters to the Editor'. He labels those who hold the opposite point of view as being either uninformed, emotional, or sadistic, and states that they should study the "law of causality" that applies to them. Evidently there is some dispensation that places Mr Strewe above the "law of causality" for he neglects to examine his own position.

As I see it the editors and students are faced with two alternatives. First, they can revert to the aim of earlier years and publish Capping Book as poor opposition to the "funnies" purchasable at bookstalls. Secondly, the editors can make some effort to encourage worthwhile articles from the students and the aim of my letter has been to try and present reasons why the students should do something to help the editors.

—I.C.

(Replies in next column)

Capping Relies on Work of Few

Sir,
I, along with a few others, have just emerged from the Valley of the Shadow of Death, to wit, Capping Week. I carry with me a number of mixed impressions. Capping Week this year was, generally speaking, a great success, but a number of impressions were gained which spoil the general picture. This year Capping was, as in previous years, organised by a very small portion of the student body. I think that it would not be far wrong to say that the bulk of the work was done by about 25-30 students, out of a total of about 3,000 or so students who attend the University. Furthermore, this small group were taxed to their utmost abilities in their work, largely due to the ignorance and thoughtlessness of the other 99 per cent of the student body. None of the organisers object to working hard; the realisation of a job well done is enough reward in itself, but this realisation has been spoiled by a number of things. The students who take part in Capping Week seem to think they have done a great job if they sit on a float for half an hour or so and then rush off to the Wynyard and shove themselves for the rest of Prochess Day. No one objects to people enjoying themselves over Capping Week; this is indeed the whole object of the festivities. Why, oh why, do they not think first? The main impression I and other organisers gained was that students as a whole have to be spoon-fed. The only way to get things done is to rush around and buttonhole people and almost force them to do a job. For instance, Capping Book this year is largely the work of one man, the editor, who had to collect all his material by personal canvassing. He told me later that he received contributions for the magazine from TWO students. TWO! in a total roll of 3,000! Don't the students at A.U.C. take any pride in their university? Don't they have any desire to put on a good Capping Celebration? It would seem not. This year was also marked by a period in which we received some of the worst publicity of recent years, and this was largely due to the efforts of some mental juveniles who thought that destructiveness and interference with public property was a substitute for humour. The University should be a great force in the cultural life of New Zealand, something more than a degree factory. It is my firm belief that the student activities, like Congress, Tournament, and Capping Carnival, can to a very great degree contribute to the cultural and social life of the University, but very little will be gained as long as the general attitude to these activities is one of selfishness. These things, and in particular, Capping Week, are organised not only so that students can enjoy themselves, but so that they can contribute something to the general activities. Capping this year was generally pronounced successful. Well and good, but will it ever be a real success as long as the large majority of the work is done by a very small minority of the students? To the organisers of next year's Capping, sympathy.

—WEARY.

Replies to Capping Book criticism

Sir,
Your correspondent I.C. has set down a criticism of Capping Book which is a decidedly negative approach to a subject which requires positive and constructive criticism if it is to be assailed at all. In reply I repeat a basic truth of student magazine production which carries the weight of success: to hell with critics—publish and be damned!

—A. Taylor,
Editor, Capping Book.

Sir,
I do not feel it incumbent upon me to regard as serious, assertions which are supported by no proofs.

Therefore I must believe that I.C. is attempting to supply some "poor opposition" to the "Funnies".

This being so I suggest he submit his letter in the form of an article to the editors of next year's Capping Book.

I see I.C. can't see what I can see. Perhaps he is the exception which proves the rule and 'wants' his bottom smacked.

—Odo Strewe.

Were Serious Articles in Capping Book Pathetic?

Sir,
By now the annual stocktaking of Capping Week will be well nigh completed and it only needs those who wish to criticise to contribute to the budget. As circumstances placed me among the spectators I would now like to exercise my prerogative and comment on Capping Book.

At Secondary School we heard much about University, and Capping Book played some part in forming our conception of students. When I came to Varsity I soon realised that anybody who judged the students solely on Capping Book was likely to be disappointed or gladdened according to the predilections of his or her personality. It was quite evident that Capping Book represented only one aspect of student activities. Whether the magazine was sensational, mediocre, clever, or lamentable was of no great concern as it was generally understood that it represented the students "letting their hair down".

However, efforts have been made to turn the magazine into something that presents a more general picture of student thought. Over the last two years the editors have included serious articles on a variety of subjects, as well as humorous items. Now the conspicuous feature of this year's magazine is that while its content has been broadened by the inclusion of serious articles it is ironical that the latter are pathetically comical. It might be erroneous to assume that compared with other groups the University numerically contains the best thinkers, but I feel that the public is partly convinced that it should. That we have done our best to mutilate this conviction is evident when one examines the serious articles.

Whether the writer of the article, "The Teddy Bogy", which first appeared in "Here & Now", is or has been a university student is immaterial. Even if he is a literate teddy boy it by no means follows that his point of view should be suppressed. What is unfortunate is that such a muddled thesis should be presented in a University publication as if it were the best that could be produced.

We read that the author is disturbed by our small appreciation of the need to defend civil liberties. An aspect of civil liberty is the right of the individual to dress according to his taste and the author attacks the newspapers, magis-

trates, and others who condemn the dress of the teddy boy. Yet on the same page the author admits that Edwardian dress was in evidence a year before it became associated with hooliganism because youths so dressed attracted notoriety. What he failed to see was that the anti-social habits of the teddy boys evoked the criticism. The clothes became regarded as a symbol of larrikinism.

A second statement is also rather interesting. Even if the author has some special insight into the problem of justice, he does not make it clear, for his statement that there is in New Zealand "a misplaced respect for summary 'justice' and an increasing trust in a police force which is always extending its empire", leaves the reader with the feeling that the author opposes any form of justice at all. On one hand, he opposes those who administer justice without recourse to the law and on the other he attacks those who leave it to the law. Perhaps he has a solution, but he does not indicate that he is aware of the difficulty of such an unqualified statement.

Furthermore, it seems from some painfully naive statements that the author's acquaintance with teddy boys, bodgies, and milkbar cowboys has been through the columns of the newspapers. For example, he writes that if the milkbar cowboys are a problem, they are simply a traffic problem. Secondly, he argues that it seems that most of the provocation seems to have come from the servicemen. After going to such pains to help us understand the teddy boys, etc., he makes no attempt to consider the attitude of many of the servicemen. One of the complaints of the servicemen was that larrikians made a practice of group ing together and intimidating a lone serviceman. Either the author knows so little about the subject that he was not aware of this allegation, or else he chose to ignore it. Also in the same paragraph, he mentions that the police put an end to the friction. Now, are the servicemen to be condemned for putting too much trust in the police?

Finally, the author reveals that he is unable to draw a simple distinction. He points out that people in conventional dress are also involved in trouble. But the difference that he fails to perceive is one between unlawful incidents and organised unlawful activities. Teddy boys, bodgies, and milkbar cowboys tend to act in groups with the result that their mode of dress becomes a symbol. The Nazi swastika became abhorred not because it

LET CHRIST BE KING

In the week 17th-24th June there will be a Christian mission organised by the Student Christian Movement. It will be an offer of what Christianity can give you and through you give others. The slogan is "Let Christ be King", because in that phrase—as in the symbol at the top of the page—is summed up what we want to explain to you.

The Kingship of Christ, symbolised by surmounting the circle of the world or life with the cross and that with a crown, means lordship over evil; that is, that Christ has shown the way for all of us to overcome evil. In more everyday language, this means that solutions to our problems can be found. Feelings of inferiority, insecurity, loneliness, frustration, and lack of unity among the purposes of our various activities can be replaced by wholeness and peace. To those with energy and "drive" is given a goal that includes and transcends present aims—just as the cross in our symbol appears to grow out of the circle like a plant fulfilling the potentiality of the seed. To the apathetic is given interest and energy. For social and political struggle too, a goal is shown, a conception of society in completeness and harmony more profound than any merely secular one. To these and other problems, the Christian life provides an answer in calling all activities and all men to co-operate in the one great purpose.

The appeal then is to doing more than to believing. The solution must be made actual, and the exact means of reaching it must be worked out afresh for each person and situation. The crown over the cross is composed of tongues of fire, and the arms of the cross point outwards—each person is challenged to commit himself to a transforming and outgoing work, in his 'varsity work, in his career, in all his relations with other people.

This decision like the initial offer is to the individual, but development and progress need the help of others. To give that help, in understanding the Christian faith and living the Christian life, is the purpose of the Church and of its representatives in the university, the S.C.M., the Evangelical Union and the Catholic Society.

These groups continue what a mission may begin, giving help to any who will accept it; for a mission is not a demand in the sense of demanding that you believe what we believe, nor is it merely a challenge to argument and debate. Discussion is a means to belief, and belief is a means to the fullness and abundance of life that Christ came to bring, and that through the mission are offered to you.

— J. M. Feist, M.A.
President,
A.U.C. S.C.M.



Introductory Talk

by
Professor Blaiklock

TUESDAY, 12th June, at 1 p.m.

LUNCH HOUR ADDRESSES

**1 - 2 p.m. in the College Hall.
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 18th - 22nd June**

Speaker:

Rev. J. G. Matheson, M.A., B.D.

Theme:

"Man and His World"

Monday:

Chairman: Mr. Cocker

"MAN ALIVE"

Tuesday:

Chairman: Prof. Simkin

"GOD"

Wednesday:

Chairman: Prof. Chapman

"H.M.V."

Thursday:

Chairman: Prof. Nalden

"ADAM'S APPLE"

Friday:

Chairman: Prof. Chong

"TAKE IT FROM HERE"

The Missioners

The N.Z. University Student Christian Movement is sponsoring a Mission to the Universities and Teachers' Training Colleges throughout the country.

In Auckland this will take place in the week from Sunday, June 17th, to Sunday, June 24th.

The speakers at A.U.C. will be:—

Rev. J. G. Matheson, M.A., B.D.

Formerly of Edinburgh, Mr Matheson is the new Minister of Knox Church, Dunedin, which is one of the largest student parishes in New Zealand. He is keenly interested in all that concerns students; he has given broadcasts on both religious topics and international affairs; he has addressed the Medical School on "Faith Healing"; he was a speaker at O.U.'s Student Congress and at other student gatherings. Mr Matheson will be addressing all lunch-hour meetings.

Rev. A. Allan W. Gray, M.A. (Cantab.)

Mr Gray is Assistant to Cathedral of St. Paul, Wellington, and is Chaplain to the S.C.M. at Vic. He has recently arrived from Tasmania where he was warden of Christ College at the University of Hobart and was also a member of the College Council. He acted as World Council of Churches Commissioner in Tasmania. Mr Gray will be sharing the evening addresses at the University and speaking to Training College students during the lunch-hour.

Rev. N. F. Gilkinson

Mr Gilkinson is Presbyterian Minister in South Dunedin. During his years at Otago University, where he took honours in English and Latin, he was Editor of "Critic", the O.U. student newspaper. He is a former General Secretary of the N.Z. Student Christian Movement and has attended international student conferences in Europe and Canada. During the Mission, Mr Gilkinson will be staying at O'Rorke, and will be speaking to University and Training College students.

There will be opportunities for meeting the missioners and talking with them over suppers in the W.C.R. and in private interview during the morning and afternoon in Room 4.

The staff of A.U.C. will meet the missioners at afternoon tea on Monday, June 18th, at 3 p.m.

Assisant Missioners: **Rev. K. R. Prebble**
Rev. A. F. Simpson
Rev. J. A. Cumming
Rev. C. C. Dicks

SUPPLEMENT

The Whole Truth . . if you have not life together

What a piece of impudence is social Christianity! The Church and this, the Christian attitude to that, Christianity and —, and —, and —. Surely the concern of the Christian is with a man's immortal soul — if he has one — and the rest is the responsibility of the individual; or if he is causally determined by the laws of the universe, the business of nobody in particular.

Is not the conflict between science and religion conclusive enough to force the theologians to contain themselves within their own ever-diminishing sphere? Science postulates laws which may not be as immutable as they were once thought, but which still successfully exclude the supernatural; and yet the theologian must speak of miracles, of a Divine Incarnation, and a Resurrection. But does not one German theologian even call these things the scandal of Christianity?

The Christian holds positions which are notoriously paradoxical. Take for example the problem of evil. Augustine's dilemma is still valid. Either God is not good or he is not omnipotent; if he is good how can he allow evil?; if he is omnipotent how can man be free to choose evil? What is the answer to that one? Add to it the problem of suffering — how can a good God allow so much which is manifestly cruel, painful and harmful?

But is there any need to consider these problems? Perhaps they are in reality linguistic absurdities which can be cleared up by the clear and proper use of language. Possibly Kant was right when he said that questions regarding the nature of the soul, of freedom and of God were illusions—part of the paraphernalia of speculation which bears no relation to real existence.

If we go from philosophy to psychology, we find a comparatively new science which analyses our emotions, our desires, our subconscious and explains them in terms of prenatal influence, childhood repressions, bad dreams. Doesn't all this make religion look rather sick?

Then in the field of everyday living doesn't the Church say don't do it, when the psychologist who after all is almost a scientist says that it is bad to repress one's appetites. If I love a woman why shouldn't I go to bed with her—why should I suffer night starvation because the Church says the marriage bond is sacred.

The Church preaches peace on earth and goodwill to all men, yet the Church is divided, and how can a house, divided against itself stand. If the Christian ethic is love your neighbour why don't Christians in this College do something about it?

So the arguments will rage in the College this term—these and many others. Often they are used as a facile cloak to cover someone's perplexity, or to keep him from honestly examining the Christian faith to see if it can answer his problems and resolve the many apparent paradoxes. Whether they are used as cloaks or not, the problems are real and must be faced. The Christian students in this College believe that they have a way of life which is harder and infinitely more worthwhile than any other—a way with which you fail to reckon at your peril. They want you to consider it in itself and also in relation to the difficulties we all must raise if we are to be intellectually honest. They are not little tin gods who know all the answers—nor are you—but they do humbly believe that their way is the way of truth—not of opinion or conjecture—but a way which has its foundations in ultimate reality. This is hardly knowledge in a scientific sense but is founded on faith.

But it is considered that scientific knowledge is the only truth—truth by experimentation and calculation. But is not it founded on faith too. Do we not believe—not know, believe in the consistency of the basic hypotheses of science; do we not have faith that the world really exists even if Dr Johnson did stamp his foot. And does not the Christian follow the scientific method in his every action—does he not accept the hypothesis of God in Christ ever present in the power of His Spirit, and experiment in the Christian life and honestly find such a way of living to be valid.

The Christian may not know the final answer to many problems but he finds

What life have you if you have not life together?

There is no life that is not in community

And no community not lived in praise of God . . .

And now you live dispersed on ribbon roads,

And no man knows or cares who is his neighbour

Unless his neighbour makes too much disturbance.

— T. S. Eliot.

Evening Addresses

7.30 p.m. in the Women's Common Room,
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 18th - 22nd June.

Monday

"INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS"

Rev. J. G. Matheson

Tuesday

"THE OPPOSITE SEX"

Rev. N. F. Gilkinson

Wednesday

"PSYCHOLOGY AND RELIGION"

Rev. D. O. Williams

Lecturer at Trinity Methodist Theological College

Thursday

"COLOUR BAR"

Mr. W. T. Roy, M.A. (Lucknow),

Adult Education Tutor.

Dr. Winiata, Ph.D. (Edin.), M.A., Dip.Ed.

Rev. R. L. Challis

Rev. A. Allan W. Gray, M.A. (Cantab.)

Friday

"PAIN AND SUFFERING"

Rev. A. Allan W. Gray, M.A. (Cantab.)

Discussion Time and Supper will Follow Each Address.

"(as I gathered from a bystander)

Their doctrine could be held by no sane man."

—Cleon, R. Browning

YOU Come — THINK For Yourself — DISCUSS With Others

Services

Opening Service

St. Paul's Church, Symonds Street,

7 p.m. Sunday, 17th June

Preacher: Rev. A. Allan W. Gray, M.A. (Cantab.)

Closing Service

St. David's Presbyterian Church, Khyber Pass Road,

7 p.m. Sunday, 24th June

Preacher: Rev. J. G. Matheson, M.A., B.D.

Devotions

DURING THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF TERM

Wednesday, 1.30 p.m. at St. Paul's — Rev. K. W. Prebble

Friday, 1.30 p.m. at St. Paul's — combined S.C.M.-E.U.

DURING MISSION WEEK

Twice Daily in Room 4 of University —

12.30 - 12.45 p.m.

7.00 - 7.15 p.m.

CONTINUOUS INTERCESSION

Continuous Intercession is being held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in St. Paul's Lady Chapel from Monday to Friday during the first three weeks of term. Members of S.C.M. and E.U. and other students are leading devotions for one half-hour during those weeks. Prayer for the Mission is being offered at Daily Communion at St. Paul's.

All students, presumably, are interested in civilization the art of living together. This century has seen the rise of new approaches to this matter. Individualism has played its part, and there is now making itself felt a desire to belong to something greater than oneself, a desire, in fact, to belong to a community.

Fascism and Communism are the two major experiments in government which exemplify this trend. Many of us would consider them inadequate solutions to the problem, but they have shown the inadequacy of a system directed toward the development of the individual man as an end in itself. Nearer home we have our new community centres and our mass sports meetings. Can we honestly feel superior to these attempts, and remain confident in our own ability to remain apart; to assert, ultimately, our independence of one another?

In the coming weeks an effort is to be made, in the college, to present to all of us a faith which can, in the belief of many whose lives it directs, provide the best solution to the problem of how we are to live in an integrated society.

The mediums of approach to this faith are as numerous as are the people who encounter it, for every person has his individual needs, and it is these needs peculiar to himself, which must be satisfied. The knowledge that Christianity can develop and broaden the whole personality of everyone makes of this religion a work-day affair, concerned with our taste in art, our work, our recreation and our politics.

To encompass all this, the whole faith must be presented, and this means the common life of all Christians in one body, the Church. The Church cannot be left out of account in any consideration of the faith as it is presented, for it is the framework within which Christians live their lives. Has it, seen historically and as an institution, failed to provide what has been demanded of it? Or is it perhaps, as Chesterton remarked, not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting, but rather that it has been found hard and not tried—?

Bookstall

There will be a wide selection of books — come, browse, and buy if you wish!

Closing Tea

At University,
4 p.m., Sunday,
24th June

OPEN FORUM

The Whole Truth? (continued)

his answer is more rationally satisfying and more purposive than any other that is presented. If you have found another way which commands the allegiance of your whole life then surely you are prepared to present it to us. A man is a proud bigot if he will not consider the merits of another case but condemn it out of hand.

In the evening discussions of Mission Week, therefore, we hope you will ask your questions, demand a satisfying answer and stick at it until you get one.

Finally, we may remember with Kant that, at the very last, questions such as God, freedom and immortality may be illusions, but they are concepts of practical reason which have to be accepted on faith if one is to be able to live at all.

—G. Ferguson.

BOTANY RESEARCH

MUCH BOTANISING IN THE MARSH

by Pat

Dominating the view of the University from the back of the Arts block is the severe and forbidding facade of the Biology block. Its blank walls give little indication of the hive of industry within. The lower half of the building is the stamping ground of the zoology student, about whom the less said the better, but the upper floors are given to the study of Botany, the Queen of Sciences. (This article is, of course, written by a Botany student; hence the bias.)

"What is Botany?" the Arts student may ask, conjuring up pictures of maiden ladies pressing dried flowers in their dictionaries, "There isn't much to it, is there, just collecting flowers and such-like stuff?" Well, the science of Botany has much more to it than "collecting flowers and such-like stuff." The plant kingdom ranges from the green slime that grows on wet rocks through the fungus, lichens, liverworts, mosses, and ferns, to the greatest of the forest trees. Its economic importance is very great; the largest proportion of our food supply comes directly or indirectly from plants, and from them also come many of our materials, such as timber and fibres.

On the debit side, the bacteria and fungi between them cause a large proportion of animal and plant diseases, and are also responsible for the destruction of many of Man's products, such as timber and fabrics. The study of Botany, is therefore a subject of very great importance and affects our daily activity.

A short review of the work done in the Botany Department and the methods used to give some idea of the complexity of botanical research. One student doing a thesis on the factors controlling the growth of seaweeds. He is doing this work with the aid of an aquarium which enables him to examine the plants *in situ* and study their habitats and growth. This involves the use of sub-marine light measuring equipment and apparatus for measuring the rate of photosynthesis at different depths. Another student, also studying seaweeds, is examining the use of two of the more common varieties as fertilisers. Already he has found some remarkable effects on the growth and yield of tomato plants. In the algae line, a member of the staff is preparing a classification of a group of the New Zealand fresh-water algae (those green masses which grow on wet rocks, and in ponds and streams).

Higher up on the evolutionary scale from the algae are the fungi. One particular group of them, the Saprolegniales or water moulds, which grow in fresh-water ponds and streams, is the subject of a Ph.D. thesis by one of the lecturers. She has found that the members of this group are extremely difficult to classify because they adopt such differing forms under differing conditions of growth. She is endeavouring, therefore, to grow them under rigidly standardised conditions in order that the relationship of differing forms may be better understood.

Still higher in the evolutionary scale are the ferns and allied plants. One honours student has just completed a thesis on *Phylloglossum*, a peculiar plant whose affinities and relationships within the plant kingdom are not yet fully understood. This tiny plant occurs only in New Zealand and even here has an extremely limited distribution. The best known locality in which it occurs is an area of only a few acres in extent near the Waikumete Cemetery, Glen Eden. Why it occurs only here and in a few other small areas near Auckland is not really understood, and its distribution, together with its peculiar and anomalous structure, make it a quite unique plant of great evolutionary interest. Another hon-



—Photos by courtesy of Dr. L. H. Millener.

The illustration on the left shows the denuding effect of grazing animals, such as wallaby and deer, on the vegetation on Rangitoto. That on the right shows vegetation as yet unharmed.

ours student is nearing the completion of his thesis on the classification of a New Zealand genus of ferns, the *Asplenium* or spleenworts, which form a very characteristic part of the ground and epiphytic flora of the bush. (An epiphyte is a plant growing above ground level on another plant, but not parasitising on it.)

Finally, at the top of the evolutionary scale come the seed plants (as opposed to the lower plants which reproduce by spores). These are what are generally thought of when people speak of plants in general. A considerable amount of research is being carried out on various aspects of their biology. One student is studying the factors controlling the growth of halophytes, i.e., plants growing under very saline conditions, as in salt marshes. Professor Chapman, who is one of the world authorities on salt-marsh vegetation, is carrying out research on the germination and growth of mangrove seedlings, a characteristic feature of New Zealand salt-marshes. Another honours student is trying to isolate the factors controlling the growth of pine trees in the Cornwallis Reserve, where

the growth-rate of pine trees is much lower than it should be. This may possibly be due to the presence of toxic substances in the soil. A member of staff has for some years been observing the factors controlling the growth of vegetation on Rangitoto; the vegetation of this island is quite unique, both in New Zealand and in the whole world. Finally, another member of the staff is engaged in work on the relationships of a number of the characteristic cultivated plants of the Pacific, such as the taro. Many of these plants are of great anthropological interest as well as of botanical interest.

Thus it can be seen that the work of the Botany Department covers many fields, and uses techniques borrowed from many other sciences, in an effort to understand more fully the nature and relationships of plants from salt-marsh and forest, from rivers and timber plantations, in order to appreciate the uses and relationships of the various members of the plant kingdom. Botany indeed involves something more than pressing wild flowers; it is of vital interest both economically and academically. —PAT.

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AUCKLAND'S FESTIVITY IS

Rich Contribution for Arts in N.Z.

The main difference between the 1956 Festival and former Festivals is the greater reliance on local talent. This aim is also an important part of the Edinburgh Festival—to produce work of British writers by British performers. If the Auckland Festival concentrates on this aspect it should make a rich contribution to fostering the arts in New Zealand. Too often do we Aucklanders let the South carry off the laurels accorded to musical, literary, or artistic success. Two years ago we had a Christchurch choir here; now we have our own which is even more progressive. With Finzi's *Immortality Ode* last year the Festival Chorus made one stride towards the more ambitious choral works. It says a good deal for the conductor and accompanist that this year the Chorus has been able to attack the extremely vigorous *Five Tudor Portraits*.

The National Film Unit has yet to try a full length feature, but its short documentaries have already gained renown overseas. We may expect equal merit of this year's features.

It is very pleasing that, in this Festival, all drama is of local production. The N.Z. Players have improved in their few years of existence, and their variety of plays shows clearly that they are not amateurs sticking to the fairly safe ground of Shakespeare, Restoration comedy, Sheridan, Wilde, and Shaw. *Salad Days* and the *Queen and the Rebels* are new attempts in the field of modern drama. The former, with Redmond Philips' versatility, and John Hunter's delightful agility, ought to provide excellent entertainment. The second play is more dramatic and may not go down quite so well, but it should provide more opportunity for acting. It is rather a pity Edith Campion has a leading role for she is too much Edith Campion in her parts, and too little Viola or Joan. This may be an unjustified personal dislike, but she seems to interpret her parts in the same way she interpreted *St. Joan*. For one who does not like *St. Joan* this is rather alarming to say the least. The *Tinder Box* provides child-entertainment which has hitherto been omitted from a Festival. I have not heard *Tom Jones* before, but knowing German's inimitable tunes, and the joviality of Fielding's novel the combination ought to be rewarding to hear. Of course in the field of drama John Trevor's readings promise much to all who remember his work with the N.Z. Players, especially in *Virtue in Danger*.

The Festival Youth Concert, which opened the 1956 Festival, was another powerful argument in favour of exploiting local talent. Heather Begg's presence here this year is naturally an important benefit, and her singing was most sympathetic, especially in the *Berceuse de Jocelyn* which she sang with the St. Mary's College School of Music. This choir was a little disappointing because of the lack of variety in feeling, and absence of that depth a fuller choir can give. David Bollard's choice of exacting piano works might well have been questioned but, beyond a little unsteadiness at first, he played them with unexpectedly mature feeling. Russell Channell's performance was creditably of the standard that can already be expected of him. Leif Hansen's violin work in Kreisler's *Praeludium* and *Allegro* was a performance promising much in the future. His sheer mechanical ability was worthy of recognition, to say nothing of his complete immersion in interpretation of the work. Of different merit, yet almost as delightful were Maree Sayers' songs. She has remarkable sense of pitch which is unusual in a girl of her age. Although the general standard was not first class, the concert was successful owing to the interest in local talent. It is doubtful if any member of the audience went away without feeling the spirit of festivity—even Mr Algie! I noticed him quietly amused at David Bollard's prolonged



Bridget Armstrong

adjustments to his seat, and genuinely impressed at his capability in performance. Perhaps he's human!

Some mention has already been made of Festival music, but worthy of particularisation is the Organ Recital. It is a great pity performance on the organ has become so neglected in recent years, seeing we possess a number of capable organists and excellent organs. In addition the Organists' Association puts on free recitals regularly. It is to be hoped that attention will be drawn to the organ through inclusion of the recital with the Festival.

One other aspect of the 1956 Festival which points towards local talent is the exhibition, Art in N.Z. Mr Towery has not been too ambitious in this selection, but it is of greater historical than artistic interest. The early coloured lithographs have great clarity and an interesting design effect. John Buchanan's *Milford Sound* is the most imposing of these. Poor Samuel Butler, though not a New Zealander, has been dragged into this collection in the form of a rather good *Selfportrait*. Like Mr Tomory, I have not much time for Lindauer or Goldie as artists, though mechanically and historically they are interesting. Lindauer in particular shows the fascinating application of European style to Maori subject. The first really outstanding painting is Payton's *Auckland Harbour from Mt. Victoria*. Of course the subject is one in which an artist cannot fail to excel, but Payton produces detail, colour, and life with great integrity. Rhona Hazard's *Spring in the Marne Valley* and Russell Clark's *Avon at Dallington* are both simple in expression, yet show experience and understanding in composition. Then, of course, there is Colin McCahon's *Angel of the Annunciation* which appalled many students in the college foyer last year. Its religious subject with grotesque hieroglyphic figures against a pitiful N.Z. background is so horrific I had hoped never to see it again. What squares, squiggles, and blobs

have to do with art is still a mystery to me for Wilfred Wallis' *Landscape* did not look any different from Michael Nicholson's *Still Life*. As Canon Blackwood Moore found at the Festival Church Service, surrealism is a perversion of beauty, and in years to come our amusing isms will afford even greater amusement. However, I have no objection to cubism provided it is in a likely context. Kennedy's use of colour in *Brickworks* is quite an effective cubic study, but cubism in Manchester's *Red Cliffs* is horrible. By far the outstanding piece of work in the exhibition is Jan Nigro's *Red Hat*. It is rather like Hogarth's *Shrimp Girl*, and the mingling of red and black shows as much ability. It belongs to no ism, for there is nothing like it painted as recently as 1951. It does, however, belong to a school—the school of great art. It is a pity more painters do not seek membership!

In this introduction I have been concerned only with a new tendency, but it should not be imagined that the visiting artists have no merit. Far from it, a certain number are essential in order to encourage local talent. We are fortunate in having Glenda Raymond and Witold Malczynski here for this purpose.

This promises to be an effective and rewarding Festival mainly because of its new trend which will give greater variety at less expense. The N.Z. Broadcasting Service is covering the events quite well, though with its habitual reserve towards its own Orchestra. In addition, Auckland stations have made an effort to produce more attractive programmes during the Festival. Everything is pointing toward increased success this year; which will be very profitable to both artists and promoters. Mr Holland was an attraction at the opening ceremony particularly with his thrasonic remarks on Christchurch. But will Christchurch ever have a Festival (or a Rangitoto)?

Personal Magnetism in Samson Agonistes

John Trevor's second contribution to the Festival was a reading of verse and drama selected on the theme "Man in Adversity". In the first half of the programme a poem by Donne, readings from Job, and several Shakespearian soliloquies represented the past, while from the present selections were taken from Eliot's plays, "The Confidential Clerk", "Murder in the Cathedral", and "The Cocktail Party".

Trevor's Shakespeare reading lacked the fire of Elizabethan passion. The Lear speech, "Blow, thou winds," opened a subdued and restrained atmosphere, though ended on a particularly tender note.

Most successful was an excerpt from "The Confidential Clerk". Trevor's cultured voice was much more at home in this.

The main piece of the evening, "Samson Agonistes," though abridged, fared much better than the earlier selections. The range of characters and the length of the work gave much more scope. Contrast between characters was good, and pointed out by gesture and movement. Trevor's rich voice proved ideal for Samson and never flagged though this reading lasted well over an hour without a break.

For one man to hold a stage bare except for lectern, table and chair, commanding the audience by his voice alone for over two hours was not an easy task, especially in the Concert Chamber. But in this Trevor with his experience in dramatic technique, was most successful.

To complete the programme, he turned to a much lighter vein—Ogden Nash—whose wit was admirably conveyed. —T.S.E.

Midsummer Revelries

by Murray Chapman

The performance of "Salad Days" at His Majesty's by the New Zealand Players scored because of its vitality, light heartedness, and sheer high spirits. There was here a farcical touch, there a witty thrust; now a glimpse of sentimentality, there a note of pathos. Contemporary light-hearted comedy overflowing with youthful exuberance—this is the fare which every Auckland, in fact every New Zealander, will enjoy.

The quick transition from Elizabethan to modern seemed to suit several of the cast admirably. Earlier this year I criticised Michael Cotterill's performance in 'Twelfth Night' as "stereotyped, stilted and inadequate". On the other hand, he played Nigel in 'Salad Days' in the delightfully carefree manner which was the keynote of the show. This production of the Players was outstandingly even. All from the leading lady down, gave complete and extremely pleasing performances. It speaks volumes for the company's organisation that Miss Bridget Armstrong, understudy to Eleanor Elliot, could have stepped in so effectively as to steal the show.

Special mention must also be made of the unashamedly farcical revelry of 'Salad Days'. The admirable scene in the Cleopatra Night Club where the Minister for Parks and Pleasures, Uncle Augustine, is all but ravished by an Egyptian torch singer, was literally "a riot of comedy" and almost brought the house down. So too were the extraordinary affects of "Minnie", the itinerant piano upon the strollers in the park, as demonstrated by the rubbery Constable Boot to his superior. The humour then, was such a mosaic of farce, subtlety, wit and pure foolery, that it left the audience wondering what was going to happen next.

The players had no pretensions to being fully trained vocalists, yet their singing was of remarkably even quality. Perhaps this is because the catchy tunes and witty lyrics are better suited to such a cast with its natural singing ability. Praise is also due to the well executed dance routines, especially to the comic effects of Minnie upon the bishop for instance, as he attempted to read a book in the park. Realistic sound effects, interesting set designs, and lavish costuming all emphasised the efforts of this extremely com-

petent cast.

Bridget Armstrong as the vivacious and charming graduate, Jane, was an outstanding and immediate success. Her unflagging performance was a lively, dextrous, and yet very deliberate one. As Troppo, John Hunter, played a difficult part well. The humour of his role depends entirely upon mime. Although easy enough to maintain for one scene, it is extremely difficult to hold the audience's attention by this method over two acts. For his success in this John Hunter deserves the fullest praise. Of the minor characters Redmond Phillips shone as the tramp. His delightfully carefree and enigmatic attitude life in general brought many laughs.

The New Zealand Players' performance of 'Salad Days' then was extremely hard to fault. If the enthusiastic reception which the company were accorded last Saturday is any criterion, this comedy-cum-musical will have a very successful tour. As Redmond Phillips explained, the chanegover from Shakespeare to Julian Slade in a matter of six weeks was not an easy one. What modesty prevented him from saying was that this transition has been effected extremely well.

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Choral and Orchestral Concert

was an evening of divided interest. That was ostensibly a choral concert, but the orchestra captured a large share of the limelight, with the performance of previously unheard works by the New Zealand composers, Edwin Carr and Thomas Lilburn. On this occasion the orchestra did justice to the music laid out for it, playing in a manner which only flatter these new works. The strings revealed none of their uncertainty of pitch or reluctance to give full weight to the rhythm. Carr's overture "Mardi Gras" is a European idiom and depicts a festivity uncharacteristic of this part of the world. He has employed strong rhythms, working against a fairly traditional melody to create an emotional tenor, vividly suggestive of the riotous elements of a pleasure-seeking crowd on the eve of Lent. Lilburn's "Song of the Antipodes" is, in interesting contrast, the work of a composer working in something of an original personal idiom, seeking to express an area of mood which might vaguely be called national. Lilburn's distinctive style lies in his use of the sweeping musical gesture, but here he fails to infuse it with meaning and so to lift it above the level of film music. The music really finds any form or musical expression, from which its long phrases are one newspaper critic cites as evidence of the composer's maturity) to derive some revelance. The choral section of the concert must have been disappointing for many people, even the performers themselves. They did the chorus show the decision and decisiveness expected of a festival or demanded by the music which attempted. The opening of Parry's "Farewell" was marred by a high pitch in the sopranos and ragged entries by the various voices. Never the rest of the performance did the "songs", which are really more of a musical approach the Handelian

Pianist had late start
Arnold Malcuzyński, the eminent pianist possesses a great musical gift, yet it was not until late in his life that he considered a career in music. A young man who was a protege and pupil of Paderewski and is now one of the world's great keyboard players, did not come from a musical background. He owes his success then to his fortune and to his own innate talent. Malcuzyński's family tradition was financial. His father, a member of the Warsaw Stock Exchange, was prominent in business and social circles. At two universities Malcuzyński majored in law and philosophy, for like Handel and Schumann, he intended to make his mark at the bar.

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grandeur which well practised choirs impart to them.
George Dyson's "In Honour of the City", a more melodic work and therefore one which is more easily singable, received much better handling, largely through the support of the orchestra. But here again there was a disconcerting lack of balance of volume between the sections of the choir, which approached near-chaos in the final bars of the work.
The evening's main attraction was the Vaughan Williams' setting of five poems by the 16th century English poet, John Skelton. On paper the "Portraits" are interesting, for their variety of characterisation and abundant vitality, grotesque pictures of the bustle and bawdiness of low life, juxtaposed with the mock-heroic lament for a dead sparrow, and the simple song of a lover for his mistress. Vaughan Williams' versatile genius has matched the poetry with equally exciting and witty music which makes most exacting demands on the choir and soloists. Happily these demands were well met. Bertha Rawlinson's voice has an admirable power and clarity which carries her part clearly over the orchestra and chorus to those members of the audience who are not following the printed words. Her only major fault which she shared with Donald Munro, was a slight formality which is unsuited to the character of these ballads. Both singers seemed more at home in the more "normal" atmosphere of "My Pretty Bass" and the Romanza.
However, against these criticisms there is a note of promise, for the Festival Choir is in its infancy, and, I think, still bewildered in its role as the choir in Auckland. Many of the problems of performance can be traced back to the nature of its organisation, and the Music Council is faced with the dilemma of establishing the choir on a year round basis, or to the detriment of the many Church and other choirs which provide the singers, of favouring the existing scheme and so perpetuating the poorer technical standards.

Even though there were no professional musicians amongst Malcuzyński's immediate ancestors, the love of music is deep in every Pole. As a child Malcuzyński had shown an extraordinary flair for the piano. At school and the university he gave more and more of his spare time to music. Finally he decided to give up law and take to the concert stage as a profession. He entered the Warsaw Conservatory, where his countryman Frederic Chopin had once been a pupil. When Malcuzyński graduated from Conservatory with highest honours, he planned to embark immediately upon his public career. But Turczynski, his teacher, had other plans for his pupil, and arranged for Malcuzyński to play a private concert for a small group of friends. Among the audience was the venerable Paderewski. The aging master was tremendously impressed with the music he heard that night, recognising a pianistic talent that was capable of carrying on the great traditions which he had inherited from Chopin and Liszt.
The result was that Malcuzyński was invited to become the pupil of Paderewski. This was astonishing, for Paderewski had always been averse to teaching and had accepted few pupils during his long career. The young Malcuzyński went to live at Paderewski's villa on Lac Lemane, Switzerland, where the master was then at work on the Chopin edition.

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SPORT

RUGBY

This season promised to be a real vintage one for the club from the playing point of view alone. We have six teams in the various grades and at least four of these seem capable of winning their respective competitions.
The Senior A's are co-leader in their competition and are playing attractive and at last a vigorous constructive type of rugby. They have already beaten Victoria 19-13 and hope to remain unbeaten again in their inter-college games. If the team can retain its form many of the players hope to gain N.Z.U. honours against the Springboks later in the year.
The Senior B team also leads its competition and have hopes of taking their championship. For many this could be their third championship win as most of the players are members of Gordon Gilmour's third grade championship winners of 1954 and 1955. Gordon Gilmour coaches this team, and the team spirit and enthusiasm for the game is evident both on the field and in the club rooms. Morrie Goodwin, John Scott, Merv Fairgray and Graham Wright are all playing solid football in the forwards, Morrie Goodwin particularly deserving his game for the Senior A's. Here he displayed his usual ubiquitousness by scoring two tries. Denver Carter and Des Slaney are both going well in the backs, but perhaps the outstanding performers here are two freshers, Lyndsay Gordon and Tony Edgar. Lyndsay has already played for the Senior A's and both seem assured of success in Varsity and Auckland Rugby.
Perhaps the big success in the club, however, has been the O'Rorke team. Usually a "social" team, they have reacted to some criticism of this aspect of their football by training several times a week with the result that they have lost only one game (and this during the holidays when their ranks were depleted and thus have a great chance of winning the Second Grade competition. With a solid ex-New Plymouth High School 1st XV front row and with old stalwarts like Arthur Young, Peter Fielding, Bruce Beathem and Ian Bangby are playing well and together with their usual vacillating sideline supporters, they have won many admirers both on and off the field.
Wins by default
The other Second Grade team had its first win last week, 9-0. The team appears to be coming "right" and with Nick Carter showing great form in the backs and Bob Mills, John Young and Ross Brown, the pick of the forwards last week, this team could still finish well up in the competition.
The Thirds have a young but fit and keen team. So far they have played only three games (two were won by default) and have lost only one game. Mack McElroy and Alan Eliot are going well in the backs and Rusty Poviaur, Hugh Caldor and Bill Foley are going well "up front."
The Fifts had their first win last Saturday. This team probably gets more fun out of its games than any other and this win will benefit them no end. Tony Smith is going well in the back and all the pack is playing good rugby. Coach Murray Valentine is doing a grand job here.
HARRIER PROGRAMME
The following is the Harrier Club programme for the rest of the season:—
June 9: Terry Russell's home (Auckland v. Waikato).
June 16: Hut week-end.
June 23: Owairaka C.C. Handicap.
June 30: St. John's College.
July 7: Ten men team, five men junior C.C. championships.
July 14: Varsity championships.
July 21: Peter Aimer's home.
July 28: Auckland C.C. Championships.
August 4: Ardmore.
August 11: Tournament; Onehunga Road Race.
August 18: Martin Smith's home.
August 25: Great Eastern Road Race.
September 1: Round the Harbour Relay.
September 8: Ross Rawnley's home.
July 15: Onehunga-Auckland.
September 22: Graeme Mossman's home.
September 29: Ten-mile Road Championships.

HOLLINRAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Executive of the Auckland Music Council (Inc.) has undertaken, at the suggestion of many people who held the late Professor H. Hollinrake in high esteem, to establish a fund to endow a Memorial Scholarship at the Auckland University College.
The University College Council has expressed thanks and appreciation of the project, and has offered any assistance within its power.
Professor Hollinrake was a national figure, and there would be a feeling of regret in thousands of homes if no opportunity were taken to provide a memorial to him. It is hoped that donations will come in from all who have felt his influence.
An appeal for funds is being made through the 36 affiliates of this Council, through the Primary and Secondary Schools and to the general public through the press. Any small donation from 2/6 to larger amounts will be greatly appreciated. It is hoped to raise at least £2000.
Receiving offices for donations in the City are:
Miss B. Brooke, c/o Messrs. Samuel Valle & Sons Ltd., 83 Queen St.
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CRICKET AND INDIA

The following awards for the 1956 season were presented by Mr Cooper, manager of the New Zealand cricket team which toured India and Pakistan, on Monday, April 24th.
Thompson Cup: R. W. McKinnon
Mlnogue Cup for highest score: R. R. Hart
Bell Cup for fielding: D. Hunt
McKenzie Cup for best all-rounder: J. Davenport
McKenzie Prize for best batting: J. B. Earnshaw
McKenzie Prize for best bowling: M. Batchelor
The captain of the second eleven, John Davenport, received a pennant on behalf of his team for winning the second grade championship.
Following the presentation, Mr Cooper spoke on the New Zealand team's tour of India and Pakistan, illustrating his talk by an excellent collection of slides. By means of these he built up for members of the club a much clearer picture of the conditions under which the team had played, than they had formerly held. Mr Cooper enlivened his talk with amusing anecdotes and vivid sketches of Indian life. The inside details were of great interest to those present, all keen followers of the sport.

—J.R.H.

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Craccum expresses its appreciation to the 'Auckland Star' for the use of photographs of the College in the Anniversary issue.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS

AN URGENT DECISION IS NEEDED ON COLLEGE SITE

By 'Craccum' Special Correspondent

Anyone who has been keeping an eye on the daily newspapers lately cannot have failed to realise that there has been an extraordinary amount of "goings-on" behind the scenes in the whole business of the future sight of the Auckland University College. But because politics is politics — and it seems that the university indulges in the game as much as anyone else — there has been a complete absence of anything approaching a comprehensive survey of the issues involved or of current developments. It seems high time that certain facts were made public in the hope that out of all the tangled melee, some reasonable method can be found for reaching a satisfactory decision, and a decision that must not be delayed indefinitely.

A few years back, the Auckland University College Council decided that the future site of the college would be at Tamaki. The main worry—that of access—was removed when the Minister of Works, Mr Goosman, informed the Council that the electrification of the suburban railway which runs adjacent to the proposed site was to be carried out in the "near future". Consequently the necessary block of land was bought by the Council. But since then the Government has changed its mind about the electrification and immediately, the Tamaki site—never one which gained very wide enthusiasm—lost its appeal even for those who originally sponsored it.

Prime Minister revives Tamaki

These facts are interesting in connection with the recent remarks of the Prime Minister. During the parliamentarians' tour of Auckland, the Tamaki site was pointed out to him by the Mayor. Mr Holland immediately asked what was wrong with building the University there, whereupon Mr Luxford told him that access was the problem. Back came Mr Holland saying, "Why didn't they think of that before they paid out all that money for the land?" If the Prime Minister had paid any attention at all to the needs of the University, or had the Minister for Education kept him informed, he would have known that the land was bought when the problem of access had been solved by the promise of an electric railway service.

The ultimate result of all this is that the Prime Minister has now got it in his head that the Tamaki site is still very much a possibility, whereas for everyone else at all connected with the matter, it has been completely put aside.

The next development in the story is the advent of the Fletcher Organisation. Last year, with the Kawerau project nearing completion, Fletcher, the biggest construction concern in the country, were doubtlessly looking for new projects, and it was then that Sir James Fletcher put forward his idea that Hobson Bay be reclaimed. In his original proposal, Sir James suggested that the proposed reclamation be used for the development of a second commercial area for Auckland. But when the scheme was publicized, he must have realised that he had misplayed his hand, for there was an immediate adverse reaction from business interests in the city who saw in the scheme a considerable threat to the existing values in the city's present commercial centre.

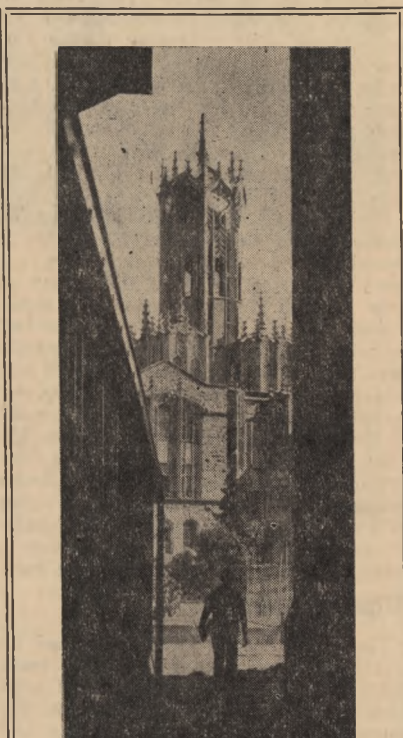
Sir James paints rosy picture

It was only a short while later that a revised scheme was proposed. Still bent on the idea of reclaiming the bay, Sir James suggested that the new area would provide an excellent site for the future university in Auckland. His tactics were first to win over the Auckland University College Council to his proposal and at first he appeared to have succeeded. Indeed, the scheme as outlined by Sir James did paint a rosy picture for the university's future—all the faculties and special schools of the college were to be housed on the one site; there were to be wonderfully spacious grounds and playing fields; and finally all this was to be comparatively close to the city and to command an excellent harbour view.

The reaction of the Council was at first favourable—or perhaps more accurately, superficially so, as there were certain members who refused from the start to be enthusiastic over the scheme until they had a full knowledge of all the details involved. But the proposal did have the full support of the President of the

Council, Mr W. H. Cocker, and a section of the Council which was won over to his point of view.

At the same time, however, there was growing within the Council a faction who were in favour of the retention and extension of the present site in Princes St. This scheme had its germ in a proposal put forward by Dr Toy of the School of Architecture, and before long it had won the support of a very large



"Close to the centre of the city, on the crest and the slopes of the land, a fine University could be built."

section of the staff of the college and had found most capable leading advocates in two members of the Council, Dr R. G. McElroy and Mr K. L. Piper, the former elected by the Graduates of the College and the latter the appointee of the Students' Association.

Thus began the war of factions—but it was a most one-sided battle, at least until very recently. The College Council, like any other administrative body, has the right of discussion "in committee". But there is a strong argument of principle against the immoderate or interested use of this privilege; and further, the College Council is largely an elective body—and elected on a mixed franchise. It thus has a responsibility to the public generally and to those groups who elected its members in particular.

It is arguable that the Council has tried to influence public opinion in favour of the Hobson Bay scheme by withholding—not merely of the views of its opponents—but also of the voting figures which clearly indicate the strength of the opposition.

When the Council recently decided "finally" in favour of Hobson Bay, it was never revealed that it was completely split over the decision which was only gained by 8 votes to 7. The accounts of Council proceedings have for some time shown an alarming willingness to distort the facts and to present a biased account of the comparative merits of the proposed sites.

In this, the spokesman for the Council has found a more than willing abettor in the morning paper, *The New Zealand Herald*, which has consistently put its weight behind the Hobson Bay scheme.

One wonders if that paper is only too anxious to see the university occupying the Hobson Bay reclamation if it materialises, not on account of any concern of the welfare of the university, but in order to protect the values of the existing commercial centre of the city; or possibly there is a significance in the rumour that the Council President is also a member of the *Herald's* Editorial Board.

The extent to which the comparative merits of the two schemes (Hobson Bay or present site) have been distorted is indicated in the speech given by the Council President at the College Graduation Ceremony last month. Mr Cocker told his audience that the costs of the development of the Princes St. site would be higher than those for Hobson Bay. But a week later when the information was requested by the Auckland Joint Priorities Committee, the College Council had to appoint a valuer to discover what the costs of the various schemes were likely to be. The data on which Mr Cocker's unequivocal remarks should have rested were not even in existence!

Further, the Joint Priorities Committee has plainly indicated by its requests for university valuations on Hobson Bay, Tamaki and Princes St. sites, that it regards the University project and the Hobson Bay project as entirely distinct undertakings.

It is only recently that the public have been made aware by the Auckland Star that there is an alternative scheme based on the retention and extension of the Princes St. site, and further that there is a large body of opinion that supports this proposal.

£175,000 annually at Hobson Bay

There are several more very relevant facts which have not as yet been publicized. First, even if the Government would undertake to reclaim Hobson Bay, the Auckland Harbour Board has announced its rates for the reclamation which would place the site far beyond the means of the University, i.e., £7,000 rateable value per acre. The Board is willing to donate a section of the reclamation to the University, but to carry out the present proposals, there would be an additional 100 acres required by the college. Thus at a rate of say 5/- in the pound, the annual Harbour Board rates for the Hobson Bay university scheme would be in the vicinity of £175,000. Can anyone imagine the Government after paying the enormous costs of the reclamation, then supplying the funds to pay these rates annually?

Further, there has been much made of the wonderful harbour views of the Hobson Bay site. The only "wonderful view" would be obtained by those citizens who live in the areas overlooking the bay; they would see a nicely laid out pattern of buildings, gardens perhaps and green playing fields. But if one cares to take a look at the view from sea-level (say at Shore Rd.) the view is non-existent,

especially when you have the sewer running right across the proposed site, an obstacle which is too costly to remove.

Then what is the alternative site, Princes St.? The area between the present College buildings and Wellesley East is either crown property or land in the university or City Council. A similar situation obtains in the east of Symonds St. from Whitby Place to Alten Rd. extending to St. Paul's, the Domain and Grafton Gulley. This area with the exception of the Central Police Station and the churches of St. Andrew and St. Paul is potential land for the university. By 1973 all leases for the area will have expired with no right of renewal.

Princes Street gaining in favour

On this area, close to the centre of the city and on the crest and slopes of the land, a fine university could be built. It would not be situated on a flat low-lying area, and could be composed of a series of multi-storeyed buildings, which because of the large area available would not have to be cluttered together. Further, it has been proved by architects that the cost of building vertically instead of horizontally is no greater, a fact which shows up as a fallacy another argument of the advocates of the Hobson Bay site.

These facts are now realised by a considerable number of the College Staff. A meeting of all staff is to be held tomorrow to consider the matter. In any event, most appear to be concerned at the issue of consultation. The Executive of the Students' Association, representing 3000 students now at the college, passed a motion at their last meeting which said *inter alia* "The Students' Association suggests that all efforts be made to see that consideration is given to multi-storeyed buildings on the present site." On the facts available at present, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the future site of the university in Auckland should remain where it is and extend from there, and there are topographical, historical and economic factors which support this proposal.

Is a Commission needed?

In any case it is high time that the whole business was straightened out and removed from the present atmosphere of factionism and childish politics. If the authorities cannot see their way to reach a decision in a proper manner then the only answer is to set up an independent commission to which the various organisations involved may make submissions. A decision reached by a body would have taken into consideration all the factors involved, and it is more likely to be the right one than taken under present circumstances.

With the knowledge that the student population of the college is to be doubled in the next few years, they simply cannot afford to play politics: a decision—right decision—has to be made soon.

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