



# CRACCUUM

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' PAPER

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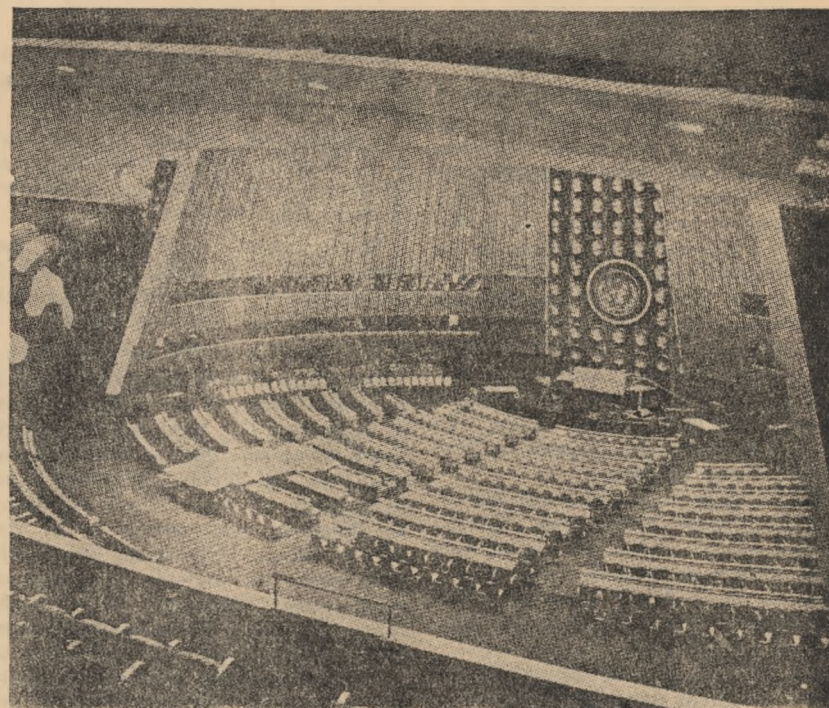
## ON YOKELS

—A.G.M.

People in Auckland, even those who have most cause to deplore it, seem resigned to the fact that our University should remain not merely a night school, but an extremely poor night school—a rotten moribund failing lifeless institution which puts "University" on its letterheads and bestows caps on its graduates, and approbation on the fools it nurtures.

It is obvious that one must work within the limitations imposed by one's material, and that a University in the accepted sense cannot be created with students as immature as they are at present. But we repeat that there is blame to be apportioned on both sides: if the students are unfit for higher education when they enter, that is the fault of the schools; if they are in no better condition when they leave, that is the fault of the University.

The average boy, or girl, leaves school in a state of almost complete intellectual (if that be the word) aridity. The secondary school, if it has successfully completed its mission will have instilled into the hearts of its pupils an inverted and meanly utilitarian sense of values, and a devoutly held belief that the All Blacks are the Anointed of God, and that drinking beer and mating are the chief pleasures that the world can offer. Above all is a firmly fixed determination to avoid using the mind, except in direct pursuit of financial profit. While this is undoubtedly not an ideal attitude, nor is it ineradicable. It is not yet too late for a good university to give its uncouth, raw material some semblance of civilisation by the end of the course and to save them from becoming, like the rest of the country, typical products of our educational system. What happens in actuality? A few are redeemed, a few are helped, and for the rest, the University produces a vast and turgid stream of learned men, blank minded and plump souled, featureless and undistinguished, uninteresting and uninspired. A turgid stream that meanders with mazy motion down the island and spreads across the land its miasma of contented, parochial, abjectly conforming bourgeoisie. And the wonder of it is not that so much mediocrity should issue from one institution, but that there is not more. For it would be hard to find anywhere more antipathetic to the spirit of inquiry which should be the hallmark of a University spirit of inquiry. It sounds dull, doesn't it? H. L. Mencken put it better: "The liberation of the human mind has never been furthered by dunderheads; it has been furthered by gay fellows who heaved dead cats into churches and then went roistering down the highways of the world jeering at the impotent God in his desecrated temple." That's all it means: that you have got the guts to ask, why the plague should I believe what I'm told? For that matter, why the plague should I think what other people think? It is this that is the greatest gift that any man can have: this is the difference between being a person and being an abjectly aimless automaton — a yokel, in fact. For man belongs among the more timorous docile, and unimaginative animals, along with the deer, the horse, and the sheep. The number of things that man will believe in are enough to make the judicious weep, and turn to mescaline and heroin. For centuries men have believed that God had created them expressly to work the skin off their hands for three-score years and ten, and then to give their every spare penny for the maintenance of enough people to stand over those who were working and see



Scene of the final yokel victory: the U.N. General Assembly. The world awaits annihilation as the reward for the nationalism, greed, and malice, which inspired the rejection of federation and the crippling of U.N.O.

they didn't stop. These parasites, taking inordinate care that their doctrine should not apply to them, instilled into the workers the idea that work is Noble, one of the most iniquitous doctrines ever conceived and which still exists in undiminished vigour today. Further down the list of How to Fool a Sucker comes God — take your choice, there have been about five thousand to date, all on the principle that you get a lousy deal whichever way you go, but you may get a better one if you come to Church.

And our rulers. In private life, anyone responsible for George III would have put him in the stocks and thrown turnips at him, or in a cage where picnickers could poke at him with a stick. But tell the herd that he is a King, and they will go to great trouble to put the affairs of the country in his hands.

Any University is completely worthless which does not fight against domination by fools with ideas of a comparable imbecility (and there are as many such notions as there are grafters with an interest in disseminating them).

The trouble is, as usual, that the herd is in its normal state of believing (wrongly) that it is eating the best possible grass and is taking its usual bovine steps to ensure that nobody who doesn't share its view and tries to do better can do so, and that anyone living a better life is made to stop promptly.

And this stultocracy is growing up, not only through the schools, but shockingly, in the University. The yokels here are staggeringly dull and have — as they have always had — a surprising facility for bringing all else down to their own level; they exert a powerful if brutish influence. Their main characteristic, apart from their mental occlusion, is a raucous sense of humour: they cling firmly to the delusion that they are the soul of wit (they are actually almost as humorous as a gangrenous limb) and prove this by a diligent avoidance of any

appearance of seriousness. While this cheery attitude is very commendable and keeps us all fat and happy, it is tiring as a way of life. The other (or an other) peculiarity is that while many students carry their obsession with sex as far as to feel it slightly improper to be found talking of anything else, they happily regard state-house marriage as the best life has to offer. Perhaps it is — for yokels.

Let us have a look at the temple of learning that is fighting to create a sane world. Where are the signs of a modicum of intelligent interest in something other than the physiological needs of life? There is no doubt about where such signs should be made manifest. There are nominally societies to cater for most interests; practically all of them are on the rocks. This unfortunately is partly the fault of the organizers—brave little souls that they are. For they are dominated by that Golden Rule of the Clubs; don't expect the members to do anything except sit in slack-mouthed admiration, without sensation, to be fed information. What do the organisers of this intellectual hot-house imagine that students do all day expect just that? While in theory, one would prefer to see these societies to be run solely by students, it is obvious that in the rare case where some staff member does give guidance, the club is much more successful. But apparently the others of the staff have their minds on higher things, and do not notice facts which seem patent to the lower orders. (Yes, I know the poor dears are over-worked and don't have a minute to themselves. Like Hell).

Lack of interest from above, apathy from below. Perhaps we must have these numberless yokels and oafs to keep the sports clubs alive and give New Zealand its doctors, lawyers, teachers, and lecturers. They run everything else; but sometimes in an occasional pensive moment I wonder, guiltily, do they need to run the University too?

### Students —

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# CRACCUM

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## WITHOUT UNIFORM

THE neutral, the man who won't commit himself, the impartial observer — who is he? In his rejection of at-hand values and prevalent prejudices, in detaching himself from his own society and speaking critically, there is a developed awareness. In his unwillingness to blame he liberates — himself and those who listen. Accused of avoiding responsibility, in his mistrust of causes, he is labelled the man who *does* nothing; arrogantly dismissed, Colin Wilson for one, by those who slip on their security easily. To quote a comment on the hero in John Wain's *Hurry on Down*:

'Their objection to him was that he did not wear a uniform. Charles seemed not to realise the sacred duty of playing a part. Even as an undergraduate he had not worn corduroys or coloured shirts. He had not even smoked a pipe.'

The Hedonists, the Existentialists, they are called, the Sagans, Osbornes, the Colin Wilsons; the artist and writer in the majority, whose seeking of self-knowledge is abased to an assertion of self-satisfaction, no longer preaching 'to thine own self be true' but 'to thine own desires be responsive'. So Ian Donaldson in an assessment of the Writers of the Fifties in *Melbourne University Magazine 1957* puts it. And, 'like Lucky Jim figures, a little bewildered and unsure of themselves, trusting to nothing but their own likes and dislikes'. Surely a natural enough reaction to *ideas* and the dangerous causes promoted by them in this century?

Donaldson points out the barrenness of this kind of artist, quoting from *Nietzsche*:

'His mirroring and eternally self-polishing soul no longer knows how to affirm, no longer knows how to deny; he does not command; neither does he destroy . . . But this is the tragedy of this generation, not the aberration of its artist. His self-conscious form of perfectionism born of insecurity and hopelessness might be resolved into: 'I will attempt nothing, because I can finish nothing'.

Professor A. J. P. Taylor argues that the fragmentation of modern knowledge into specialised compartments has resulted in a universal suspicion of all-embracing views of any kind. It follows that men will not commit themselves. Faced with complexity they hold fast to nothing, can not sort out values. They do not believe pro-

foundly in their own aims; unsure of themselves they do not know what to believe in or what to aim at.

A generation without purpose, that is the stage the *drifter* waits upon; at its most intense in *Waiting for Godot*. Back to Donaldson:

'The heroes merely drift and destroy; the only thing they assert is themselves; but even this is done with some hesitancy and indecision'.

The reaction of the conventional to James Dean and *Waiting for Godot* is typically foolish. They recognise them as symptoms but treat them as black sheep to be cast out; or finding them too close to home dishonestly and hysterically condemn. Their antipathy to diagnosis was vociferous in the Henry Moore exhibition; assertively they follow the majority definition of *what is real*. Mind shut-off by *conditioning*, society (ironically) thinking to protect itself, is actively reactionary to individual criticism. Such is the effect of conditioning that the world in the news, as much a nightmare jungle with its blazing headlines of nuclear annihilation as a child's horror comic, is taken with our morning cup of tea with no sense of incongruity; the borders of reality and insanity are never questioned. Thus conventional apathy, basing its security on deterrent, destroys the individual voice; and the West cries for leaders. Disillusioned, the neutral is doing no more than joining the age in making itself comfortable — how well the Welfare State encourages that!

Neutrality is a by-product of tension, of the cold-war balance of power blocs; in between is the neutral, faced with his inability to do anything about it, hopeless, divested of self-determination. The result is a wariness of *action* of any kind, anything that might explode the balance. The corollary, anarchy, is let loose in James Dean; self-destructive, pushing life to its limits, to annihilate the sentient, deprived, demanding self. This is far more than a search purely for self-satisfaction. It is the symptom of a generation threatened and without security. Jimmy Porter in *Look Back in Anger* is another:

'I suppose people of our generation aren't able to die for good causes any longer. We had all that done for us in the thirties and forties, when we were kids. There aren't any good, brave causes left. If the big bang does come, and we all get killed off, it won't be in aid of the old-fashioned grand design. It'll just be for the Brave New-nothing-very-much-thank-you. About as pointless and inglorious as stepping in front of a bus . . .'

Belief in the perfectability of man may no longer hold, but the substitute associating maturity with uncovering individual aberrations is less inspiring. An unashamed recognition of kinship will get man further than self-righteous ridicule.

D.R.T.

## Letters

IF the modern student is to claim some justification for existence, and some title to the traditions of many of his intellectual forbears, he must be interested in what is true, and oppose what is untrue. If we do not assume that responsibility, the time will come when we no longer have the opportunity even to look for what is true and what is not true, much less to support or oppose it.

But in our fight against the triumph of controlled thought, against the values of the lowest common denominator, against the Hidden Persuaders, we must keep our weapons clean and sharp. The written argument, one of the main weapons in our armoury, must more than ever combine conciseness and precision.

For this reason especially, and also because University students are supposed to have some ability of expression, a protest must be registered against the verbosity, prolixity and diffuseness of the style, and the all too frequent wooliness and repetitiveness of much of the argument, that has appeared in the correspondence columns of this paper. The days when mere length impressed are gone and the writer of a too-wordy letter to the Editor convinces no-one but himself. The Editor is quite within his rights in murderously abridging, distorting the correspondent's argument either accidentally or deliberately, or of simply rejecting any letter above the normal size. If a student cannot present the main points of his argument in two or three hundred words, he should not be at a University. One thesis in a lifetime is enough.

P.R.K.

## Around the Campus

The Modern Languages Dept. has been divided into two departments, — those of German, and Romance Languages. Dr Asher is now Senior Lecturer, and Head of the Department of German, while Professor Keys' full title is now "Professor of French and Romance Philology."

Students wondering what is going on on the fore-court of the Science block will be interested to learn that the Maintenance Dept. is erecting four new staff rooms. The rooms will only be one story high, and should be completed in a few weeks.

The University Council is a little upset about the vandalism of the person who did the work on the tower recently. Oil paints were used, and this means that the plaster will have to be chipped away and the whole thing replastered. This is estimated to cost about £30 or £40.

In spite of the damage done to the tower, the Council have seen fit to make a grant to our Students' Association of £20, to defray the loss made on Congress. This is surely an excellent gesture, for which we should be very thankful.

## Gonna Be a Party Doll ?



Coke and Aspirin Gal

Yes, Capping starts in exactly one week, with Revue dress rehearsal. And our present state of student response compares unfavourably with that of Canterbury at Easter Tournament time. The success of Capping, socially and financially, depends on full participation by students. Here are a few notes from those directly concerned with organising Capping Week activities.

### CAPPING BOOK

The book looks good this year, but every available man and woman will be needed to sell the 20,000 copies printed. (Canty sells 35,000 every year.) Dress up and TAKE OVER THE TOWN!

Clubs and societies are this year being granted a 7½% commission on sales by members registering in their names—18/9 per hundred, a fair sum.

Prizes are plentiful, including dinner at the Trans Tasman for the first 20, with a further choice of prizes for the best seller, and many minor prizes.

Books may be collected from Capping Committee room between 5 and 10 p.m. on Tuesday, or from 7 a.m. on Wednesday, which is selling day. Further booths will be situated in Customs Street West, Victoria Street and at the foot of Grey's Avenue.

### PROCESH

Register floats NOW!

Before this year we had Collection as a good excuse for holding a procession—and we needed it. Now Process must stand on its own merits, so it better be good—the community chest scheme has wiped collection.

For this reason we are encouraging a theme—import restrictions (or export restrictions, or anything in the import-export line). There is nothing compulsory about this, of course.

New too is a panel of architects acting as an advisory body in the hope of improving design and finish of floats.

So be in!

### TRIPTOMANIA (Review, to you . . .)

The 1958 Revue is, from all points of view, the "most" there has been for many years. Graeme Nixon's smooth script, combined with Gabriel Prendergast's expert production, an enthusiastic and talented cast, and a vast amount of preparation all round, is ensuring that this year's show will be as good as any that have ever been presented to the public of Auckland.

"Triptomania" will be presented at the Playhouse from Saturday, the 3rd, to Saturday, the 10th of May. This extended season of seven nights is two nights longer than last year. The "House Full" sign was put out on four of the five nights that the show was presented last year, so this extension is justified.

### Student Concession

Student concession sales will be for Saturday, the 3rd, only, and these will be available in the cloisters on May 1st and 2nd.

## COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the next issue of "Craccum" will close on TUESDAY, 29th April, at 7 p.m. Please place contributions in "Craccum" box on Men's Reading Room door.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



RACIAL PREJUDICE

Sir,  
We wonder after reading Mr Peter Gordon's letter in your last issue, how many students rushed forward to congratulate Mr Broughton on the marvellous job he did in exposing racial intolerance in the University? However, we feel sure that many students were amazed to find within their midst there lurked a band of dedicated fanatics "whose insulting conduct towards the non-European students of this university is intolerable."

We wonder if Messrs Gordon and Broughton, filled with their "social maturity" quite in keeping with a University, know what the word intolerance means? It is defined by Chambers Dictionary as: "Not enduring difference of opinion," "persecuting," and as a noun, "one opposed to toleration." The first part of the definition must hit rather close to home for these gentlemen's liking; while the whole tone of both letters, reminds one of two prematurely aged "angry young men" who have found in the Letters to the Editor column a marvellous means of self expression.

We "racial intolerants" have decided to cite examples of our persecuting "offensive remarks, comments and actions" to help Mr Gordon "prove" his case.

The first example we choose to cite is one of our South East Asian students who is at present studying advanced Zoology. This student last year worked next to one of the "racial intolerants" in the laboratory and found, as did the "intolerant" a feeling of mutual respect and friendship between them. They had meals together and he actually ate a meal next to the "arch racial intolerant" before, during, and after which he suffered no racial indignation or persecution.

Several Maori students whom no doubt Mr Gordon will label under the embarrassing title of "non-European students" are personal friends of the "intolerants." One shares a flat with a "racial intolerant," another is a regular drinking companion of theirs; while yet another has been a friend of theirs since they were freshers. The "offensive remarks, comments and actions" which these students have had to undergo is no doubt indicative of the rampant persecution carried on behind the walls of A. U. Penitentiary, and also the reason for the friendships between these students.

Two Chinese women students will, we have no doubt, rush forward with cries of "Prejudice, Persecution, Save us, Oh Father of 'Visitors,' Oh, Uncle Gordon." The friendships shown them by these "intolerants" over a period of four years is the factor causing such an outburst.

We submit that any action or comment that Messrs Gordon and Broughton have seen or heard were in jest, and a club based on "Little Rock Rules" has not been started in our University. Furthermore, we state that no offensive comment or remark has been made against the foreign students to them, nor were any intended to be made; and the lack of humour and tact shown by these two gentlemen in this matter is indicative of the general "sense of humour" shown by the executive.

We suggest that next time, these gentlemen do not like a jest, the socially mature thing to do is to leave the offending party; and not try to brand them with a label of "intolerance."

We lastly suggest that both gentlemen should consult their Bible, Matthew, Ch. 7, v 1-5, and think on what they have written.  
R. L. SINCLAIR,  
R. M. S. HAMILTON,  
B. KENNEDY.

Sir,  
I have found it impossible to disregard the unfortunate wrangle which has developed between members of two factions within the University, on the subject of racial prejudice. I feel that this dispute is most regrettable, and both groups concerned must have the intelligence to know better.

Non-European students have resented remarks made, possibly in a jocular fashion, by Mr Hamilton and certain other students. Their annoyance is most justified, for, even if the intent was humorous, the taste has been execrable. With their customary dignity, the non-European students have disregarded the insults, until Mr Gordon summed

up their attitude in an admirably restrained reply. The general opinion seems to be that the matter has been thrashed to death and any further comments would appear to be redundant.  
R. A. RIDDELL.

WORLD GOVERNMENT

Sir,  
I challenge your correspondent, Richard A. Benton, to quote any part of my article on World Federal Government in which I advocated that "we of the West are to be masters of the world." The World Government I propose would have one house elected democratically by the peoples of the world, on population basis, and another in which the nations of the world would be individually represented: neither could act without the consent of the other. The World Government would not be dominated by any one ideology, unless there was an overwhelming popular support for that ideology. It could not, of course, act to relieve poverty in underdeveloped countries unless the policy had been democratically sanctioned; but the overwhelming numbers who live in the underdeveloped areas would ensure that democratic sanction. The World Government might fall into the wrong hands; but that is a danger that might equally well befall any national government.

It is perfectly true that only through the embracing of one world-wide system of ethics we can obtain lasting peace. World Government cannot prevent wars fought for the sake of ideas; law, however strongly enforced, has never prevented civil wars over issues of principle or clashes of economic interest. But, nevertheless, world government can eliminate some kinds of wars, and, therefore, is a step forward. Once we have taken this step, an essential one in the political development of capitalist society, we can stride forward towards the solution of the remaining problems which confront us.  
O. J. GAGER.

SPONTANEITY OR SPIRIT?

Sir,  
I feel inclined to query Dr. Matthews' statement, reported in the first issue of "Craccum" that spontaneous generation is the only theory for the origin of life which science allows today. Does he mean that the evidence favours this theory? All that has been shown is the possibility of the formation of the dead protoplasm of primitive cells under the conditions that existed on the earth in its earliest period. Anything further requires the assumption of an essential continuity between living and non-living.

However, I think Dr. Matthews meant that the philosophy on which modern science is based excludes from the start the possibility of divine intervention in the order of nature. If we are theists, certainly if we are believers in a personal God, might we not as well deny the possibility of human intervention in nature, e.g., in the creation of life?

Surely this attitude arises from the attempt to carry over into biology principles which apply rightly to physics and chemistry. But even in physics and chemistry, the assumption which makes these studies possible—that "miracles" will not occur—cannot decide the question of whether miracles do in fact occur. The origin of life is as unique an event as any miracle.  
J. H. MAINDONALD.

TOO MANY SIRENS SING

Sir,  
Auckland is capable of much—except making up its mind. Perhaps an ex-student could help. N.Z. university colleges cater in the main for great numbers of part-time students living at home or boarding privately, and for a much smaller number of full-time scholarship and bursary holders, mainly from families of modest means. Late afternoon and evening lectures make it possible for thousands of young New Zealanders of average ability to pursue a degree course and, through industry and perseverance, to win their way to graduation.

This is part of our traditional and democratic pattern of education; it cannot readily nor radically be changed. Not for young New Zealand the campus, nor leisure hours amidst dreaming spires; it is out for its units, its degrees and what these will bring in

the way of a good job with good pay—and the sooner the better. In the land of the Philistine, one must expect Philistines.

The Princes Street college, so conveniently situated, fits perfectly into this educational pattern and can continue to do so if more and bigger buildings are erected to shelter the increasing number of students and lecturers during the few hours of those few weeks when lectures are given. A huge eight-storied structure towering from the grounds of what is known as "Government House" should satisfy University requirements for all time unless, through automation and a continued lowering of entrance standards, the University one day replaces the post-primary school as the last compulsory stage in the schooling of our young. The sentimental may shed tears when Government House makes way for something of greater immediate value to a greater number of people, but N.Z.'s Vice-Regal home is permanently and safely set in the Capital, well away from the threatening tentacles of university expansion. There seems greater need for an adequate university in our four great centres than for vice-regal residences occupied for even less time than university lecture rooms.

There need be no concern over loss of rates from private properties coveted by the Auckland College. A suitably large structure in Government House grounds would make the acquisition of these private properties quite unnecessary. "Harley Street" need not be hurt; doctor and saint could surely live side by side without great argument. Many of the greatest universities of the world are merely scattered buildings close to the heart of a city but they have tradition, spirit, and a passion for passing on the best that has been known and thought in the world. If our University College retains its present site and sends a lusty shout skyward from Government House grounds, it will be in grand company.

To satisfy those who look askance at "glorified night schools," one full-time, residential University could be built somewhere in New Zealand. There, the brilliant winners of generous scholarships and the sons and daughters of the wealthy could all gather and as a social and cultural "corps d'élite," live that satisfying life of elegance and ease that we others only dream of. But surely, those thousands who cannot afford the money and time for such a life mid academic bowers are entitled to the next best thing—a part-time college handy to work and home. Princes Street is all this and more. It has permitted and encouraged thousands of ordinary Aucklanders to gain a foothold on Parnassus and less academic slopes. May it long continue to do so, for is it not written—and repeated and practised among us:—"Equal educational opportunity for all?"

Handy, homely Princes Street must stay. But, alas, too many sirens sing—and Auckland dithers.  
W. MITCHELL.

DEBATE?

Sir,  
The staff-student debate is, I am told, an outstanding event during the university year; but the recent one was an outstanding exhibition of bad taste and irrelevance—the general approach being more suited to a third form in a grammar school rather than a debating society in a university.

The subject ("That the Arts faculty does not live up to its high ideals—ahem!") did not seem to concern either proposers or opposers. The three lecturers representing the staff—and who were, I think, for the motion—acted in a fashion that did not befit the dignity of their profession. One stooped to near-indecency by discussing the "call of nature" and (I quote) "the miry contents of an old fashioned W.C. which I had never seen in New Zealand before." His French companion charged the audience with her accent and spoke, at length, concerning the problems of the University of the Sorbonne; her other comments included blatant criticism of the English custom of driving on the left. Most interesting; but what bearing did these no doubt eloquent observations have on the subject being discussed?

The student team was little better: the first spokesman gave the most appalling exhibition of poor taste I have ever seen in any university debate. He took the Bible and quoted from the first book of Kings—using his quotations for humorous purposes. Whether this student considers the Bible of divine origin or not, he could, at least, have shown a little good manners, breeding and respect by making his quotations (if he had to use the Bible—although the quotations used had no bearing on the subject of the debate) in a manner befitting any sensible person reading from the most respected book in the world.

The other students in the team did little to redeem their primary spokesman's poor debating. A rather futile exposition on the intersection "ahem" was followed by a fairly reasonable speech which was, wonder of wonders, on the subject.

The chairman, I am afraid to say, did very little to keep this farce of a debate in order. The length of his gown was far more impressive than his authority. What he was writing during the time the debate was in progress is a mystery; perhaps he was correcting tutorials.

This was the first debate I have attended at this university; and while comparisons are odious, the university at which I was a student before coming to New Zealand regarded its "Union" (debating society) very seriously, and those who participated—both staff and students—never resorted (even as a last measure) to the banal methods apparently employed by the Debating Society of this university.  
PAUL CALLAN.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORNER

Sir,  
In your last issue of "Craccum," I discovered a rather remarkable letter on page 2 of your "letters" column. Apparently at this University there exists a veritable Socrates or Plato or else a crank. Just who is A.G.M.? This master mind draws some remarkable conclusions and it is a wonder that the New Zealand Government have not yet called on him to be a special adviser, a "man in the know," on foreign affairs.

A.G.M. regurgitates with supreme confidence such phrases as "the island (Cyprus) should be ruled by Cypriots . . . the problem is not a complex one." Am I unimaginative and unintelligent, A.G.M., when I suggest humbly that if the British did leave Cyprus, there would be a civil war between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots? But perhaps you, sir, with wisdom heretofore unperceived, could answer that question.

The other statement that I have the temerity to glance at is this—"Britain could learn much in the art of civilised behaviour from the U.S.A." Has A.G.M. forgotten the refusal of the U.S.A. to join the League of Nations; the behaviour of "the gangs" during the Prohibition Era; the fanaticism of a MacCarthy, and the reaction of the U.S.A. to the Russian Sputnik achievement ("Our scientists must be blamed for not winning the race.") Are these acts of maturity? I like to think that the British are more mature and civilised—at least they congratulated the Russians on their achievement, and, also, and here I dare to disagree with A.G.M., the paragon of wisdom, I believe that the British are striving honestly to achieve a workable peace in Cyprus.  
J. L. HUNT.

CONSERVATISM

Sir,  
How does D. A. Hamer find it reasonable to criticise what he thinks is J.L.H.'s dogmatic attitude and then to lay down himself that " . . . Conservatism should have no place in a student's life"? Who sets the criteria as to what the student may and may not think? Even more importantly, in his sentence, "We do not want to 'conserve' but to advance," Mr Hamer displays the very ignorance of the force he is criticising for which he castigates others in regard to socialism. There is surely no contradiction in wanting to conserve and advance. True conservatives fervently want their world to be a better place. A small section of right-wing opinion thinks this would be achieved by re-introducing features which were formerly part of the world picture: they are cursed in the highly emotive term "reactionary" by those who do not sympathise with their yearnings.

The great majority of conservatives want to move forward, as do the sincere socialists. They prefer to do so, though, without so much noise and fuss; without talking loudly and in inflated language of Brave New Worlds created overnight by sweeping revolutions; without sneering at Petty Bourgeoisie who doubtless are doing and will continue to do more to help their society than their haters; and without howling "Bigot" or "Deviationist" or "Monster" at all non-sympathisers. These latter tactics they find not very sensible, not very mature, and not really very constructive. They are not as prone as their opponents to confuse progress, which is good, with change, which simply may be. They are not apathetic or ashamed of their politics merely because they are not always spouting them. The heart of conservative belief is that existing institutions have not generally risen haphazardly or just through cussedness, but for real purposes, and that one should be careful to make certain that these raisons d'être no longer exist or are now inadequate, or that their advantages are considerably outweighed by those of their proposed replacements, before they are discarded. They think gradual development is preferable to a more dramatic, sudden switch of systems, being worried lest the latter process lead to something which is found in practice to be undesirable, and hard to get rid of. If of British stock, conservatives view with pride and rather sentimentally the Commonwealth as showing just the slow evolution to something fine and noble they admire.

Their numbers ensure that their creed "is still a great force," as J.L.H. says, and will remain so. Every major English-speaking country save our own is at present governed by a conservative party; since the last "Craccum" issue Diefenbaker's Progressive Conservatives have won in Canada the greatest electoral victory in that country's history, gaining over twenty-five times as many parliamentary seats as the socialists. Conservatives are virtually certainly the majority in this University, and would enrich student life if they followed J.L.H.'s suggestion to form their own society.

May I add a word to the remarks of Messrs Broughton and Gordon on racial prejudice. I have not heard the type of remark so rightly taken exception to among students, but it does seem worth mentioning that not too many moons ago one professor here employed at least a dozen times in one lecture the term "nigrah," which for him seemed to cover suitably everyone of non-lily-white complexion.  
T. J. POWER.

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ARE YOU?



ASHISHAE THOUGHSH FER SHWEEK:

EXEC. NOTES



FACETIAE

# Keffull

## COMPETITION — AN I.Q. TEST

Decide from which of the films listed below this scene was taken. Prizes will be awarded in the form of Pixie Stars, 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class, according to merit. Please send your entries to P.O. Box 410, Novaya Zemlya.

- |                                  |                                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Beau Brummel.                | (n) The Man Who Never Was.            |
| (b) The Prince and the Showgirl. | (o) Trapeze.                          |
| (c) The Enemy Below.             | (p) Love is a Many-Splendoured Thing. |
| (d) The Student Prince.          | (q) The Night of the Hunter.          |
| (e) My Man Godfrey.              | (r) The Joker is Wild.                |
| (f) East of Eden.                | (s) Doctor at Large.                  |
| (g) A Kid For Two Farthings.     | (t) Friendly Persuasion.              |
| (h) An Affair to Remember.       | (u) Gunga Din.                        |
| (i) Rebel Without a Cause.       | (v) Appointment With Venus.           |
| (j) The Little Kidnappers.       | (w) Goodbye Mr. Chips.                |
| (k) Giant.                       | (x) Whisky Galore.                    |
| (l) Lady Chatterly's Lover.      | (y) The Bolshoi Ballet.               |
| (m) Desiree.                     | (z) The Greatest Show on Earth.       |

(dredged from Hobson Bay).

Answer: The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms



## Tirade

### Personal

How much does the Dean of the Faculty of Maintenance pay?

The Head of the Harbour — lost . . . It is rumoured that the Women's Rowing Team will be ineligible for the Maiden Fours at the next Easter Tournament.

### Bored . . .

Judging by the number of pears in Albert Park during the lunch hour, it would appear that there has been a continuation of the jam-making season throughout our Indian summer.

Common belief amongst fresher "men" — a troll is a fishing lure, and — a certain dumb fresherette was heard to express the opinion that "un sang impur" was an off-colour Varsity ditty.

### How Bored?

No matter how many women are auctioned or towers painted, the Executive will always maintain that students are a responsible body of adult people.

Even the Rowing Club is shoving its oar in for a transfer to Hobson Bay. What could be more pleasant than lunch in a boat for two, instead of having to share a park bench with the invariable three or four?

Varsity Life: to begin work in the first term is too early, in the second it's too cold, and in the third it's too damned late.

### Oh Well . . .

## ... and revelry by night

The unmistakable outlines of a wine bottle concealed in brown paper nestling at Mr Gordon's feet at the last executive meeting gave promise that this could be a conference with possibilities. It turned out, however, that the bottle contained sherry to be used for strictly official purposes — a toast to Mrs Ritchie. The President, on behalf of Exec., presented the retiring manageress of the cafeteria with several pieces of Wedgwood china as a parting gift. He thanked her for the work and effort she had put into the administration of the cafe and proposed a farewell toast to which the members of the executive responded eagerly. Later in the meeting the new manager, Mr White, was welcomed to his new post. Mr White said that he would constantly try to improve the cafe for the benefit of students and stressed that he was willing to give catering advice and assistance to any club or society using the cafe for social functions.

The meeting was given to the settling of the policy to be adopted by the Auckland delegates at the N.Z.U.S.A. conference. Owing to the scanty information available on most of the items on the Conference agenda, decisions were generally left to the delegates' discretion.

However, one question on which Auckland is decided is that of the establish-

ment of the Arts Festival. Mr Maidment outlined the general opinion of A.U.'s clubs and societies who, owing to the lack of time for rehearsal and preparation before Easter, favoured the holding of the Festival in the first week of the August Vacation. Victoria University, on the other hand, favours the middle of the second term, during their study week, as a suitable time. This opinion was set out in a report from Victoria University read by Mr Freyne. The same report also mentioned the possibility of including participants from outside the Universities; such as members of the National Orchestra. Mr Chapman commented that the proposed Universities' Festival seemed to be developing into a Wellington Arts Festival.

The organisation or the production of this year's "Kiwi" seems very sound. A. Gurr and M. Richards were unanimously elected Editors. They outlined their plans in a commendably comprehensive letter of application which set out to propose size, scope, and financial outlay of the magazine — all of which succeeded in putting Exec. in an amiable mood for the eventual granting of a generous subsidy. The meeting closed at what the President asserted was a relatively early hour.

## OFFICIAL VIEWPOINT

# Who loves Who?

Tournament, apart from being an important event in the sporting year for the University, is also a great occasion for making comparisons between the six Students' Associations throughout New Zealand. Here are some of the more interesting conclusions drawn by your Delegates as a result of discussions at the recent Easter Tournament in Christchurch.

### Firstly Auckland's Stud. Ass. has to its credit:

(1) The Auckland Stud. Ass. fee is far lower than that of any other University. The highest is at Canterbury, where a committee of seven people including the Rector and Registrar determine the fee annually—at present it has a maximum of £4.

(2) The Auckland Cafeteria with its 1957 turnover of £10,000 is the biggest business proposition run by any Students' Association and our profit of £300 compares rather favourably with Canterbury's £29 (last year a loss of £850!) and Massey's £4.

(3) The cheapest meals in the University of N.Z. are sold at Auckland, but this is somewhat offset by the fact that at the other institutions, individual items such as tea, coffee, cost less.

(4) Auckland gives the largest financial contribution every year to its National Union.

(5) Auckland's student paper CRACCUM is far ahead, in quality of material and articles, of any other student paper.

(6) CRACCUM is also one of the cheapest student papers at 3d. Victoria charges 6d for its SALIENT, and Otago 9d for CRITIC (which by the way has no permanent Editor at the moment).

### Now let's have a look at the debit side:

(1) Our overall financial position is

not nearly so favourable as that of Victoria, Canterbury or Otago — all of whom have large reserves, particularly Otago. Two of the former have Student Union building projects, involving expenditure of over £150,000 each, well under way.

(2) Auckland is simply not in the running as far as the popularity and sales of Capping Books go—and these are an important item of revenue. Canterbury is printing 35 thousand this year, Victoria 21 th. and Otago 22th. Canterbury in particular makes huge profits from sales.

(3) Victoria's annual revue EXTRA VAGANZA, is touring to Napier for three nights, and Canterbury's is so well supported that there is never any fear of financial failure.

(4) While food costs more at Canterbury's Cafeteria, they have a far greater variety of courses and desserts—ice-cream always figures in the last item.

(5) Existing student amenities at Canterbury are fantastically good—the comprise everything we have, multiplied by ten, and then extra fal-de-lals like Billiards Room and Student Health Clinic room and gymnasium.

There we shall stop. Suffice it to say that your Executive is gazing at its Student Block (designed for 600 and accommodating 3,500) and is wondering which is the quickest way to make an end to all.

## FAN MAIL

Dear Mr Facetiae,

I am a regular reader of Craccum, because under the tree where we wee pixies live there is a nice, rustic garden seat where people come to eat their fish and chips. Imagine my horror and disgust when I saw, on page 4 of that soiled, greasy newspaper, a slighting reference to our most High and Noble Order of Merit, the Pixie Star. Three months ago, I gained my Pixie Star, 4th Class, and part of my task to gain my 3rd Class Star is to stop insensitive humans like yourself from dishonouring our revered institution.

Therefore, I must warn you to stop using the term "Pixie Star" in your column or else, the wee folk will have no alternative but to appear for a wee visit

in the wee small hours.

Yours, etc.,

Hoblin P. Gnome,  
The Elm Tree,  
Grafton Gully.

We pay no attention to this type of threatening letter. Also, although Mr Gnome has earned 5 points, he may think again if he hopes to get awarded a Pixie Star, 1st Class, from this source.

## THE AUCKLAND PLUMBERS' AND DRAINLAYERS' UNION

Members are cordially invited to attend the Annual Picnic and Swimming Sports, to be held at Orakei on Saturday, April 26, 1958.

The True Owner of this Keffull, being  
Sed.B.Aul.



# WHY CHRISTIANITY IS THE TRUTH FOR ME

## I am a Christian

What does this statement mean? The Oxford Dictionary states that a Christian is one "believing in, professing, or belonging to, the religion of Christ". But this apt description may be further extended. What is "the religion of Christ"? That Christ lived nearly two thousand years ago is a fact not seriously disputed by historians. Even if no evidence existed, Christ's work and teachings would have to be postulated because of the influence he has had on subsequent history.

A Christian believes that this intruder into history, who was so different and so contrary to, above, beyond, and outside the human race, was the Son of God.

I am a Christian because I cannot disregard the existence of the New Testament records — of how Christ taught of a way of life for all men, of how he was crucified by the jealous Pharisees, aided by the inaction of the first Agnostic, Pontius Pilate, and of how, on the first Easter Day, he "rose from the dead".

I fail to see how these documents could exist if they had not recorded events unique in the human story. Christ possessed a tremendous personality, goodness no human being ever aspired to, and a character without blot or blemish. If these attributes are joined to a calm assumption of sinlessness and worthiness before a holy God, then Christ was a Being quite different from a man — a Being indeed, who could only be what He claimed to be.

Before this, His miraculous birth, His miracles, His unparalleled effect on history, fall into place.

The Resurrection also can be seen in this light. The records of the four different gospel stories show a remarkable

consistency not found at other great events in ancient history, for example, the death of Socrates, or the murder of Caesar.

Why is Christianity the truth for me? In the 19th Chapter of St. John's Gospel, Pontius Pilate asked that most common of all questions, "What is Truth"? Men have strived for the answer to it, and many have been convinced that they have found the answer, but some small thing causes the castle they built in the air to tumble down ignominiously. But in that same chapter is, I am convinced, the answer to that very same question — answered by the accused Christ — "for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice". What was this truth that Christ bore witness to in His life, death, and resurrection? In St. John, Chapter 3, Verse 16, Christ was speaking to a student of law and said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." This is the essence of Christianity and for me it is also the essence of life — it is truth.

Yes, I am a Christian, because I

believe that there is no acceptable alternative. And indeed it is true that the alternatives which many favour require more vigour and displaying of faith than the Agnostic usually is prepared to admit. If you are not a Christian, you need enormous faith — faith that I who write this article am a conglomeration of molecules put together by mere chance; faith that no God exists; faith that the Bible, with the same streak running through the whole work, was assembled fortuitously, faith that Jesus Christ was insane or evil; faith that all the best men of all the ages were wrong, and the

rogues, who have committed nameless iniquities in the name of the rejection of Christ, were right. Has anyone at this University this kind of faith?

## The Ultimate Decision

Christ claims to be "the way, the truth, and the life," and this is a claim which every person must face up to. I have indicated that there is only one way that you can prove his statement. The question which remains is one that only you can answer. Are YOU prepared to test Christianity?

J. L. HUNT.



The Focus of the Faith of a Nation.

# WHY CHRISTIANITY IS NOT THE TRUTH FOR ME

## I am not a Christian

Such a declaration leaves a number of possibilities open to any person who still desires a philosophy which will answer for him the universal questions regarding moral and ethical standards, relationships between the individual and his society, and the place of man in the universe.

The statement that one is not a Christian therefore presupposes an alternative, which alternative may be perhaps the adoption of another religious creed, or subscription to a form of purely materialistic ideology that may range from Paine to Nietzsche or Marx. Alternatively the non-Christian may choose to declare a belief in a divinity, but, admitting his inability to comprehend this force, he may adopt the name of Agnostic, or he may consider that his acceptance of the world in which he lives does not demand a divinity or a supernatural force — in other words, he is an Atheist.

Here I shall adopt this latter term to define my standpoint. Since the view I state here is a personal one it must of necessity lay itself open to criticism from any other who chooses to adopt the same title — in this, as in most matters dealing with belief there is little unanimity beyond rule-of-thumb definitions. Equally, though the form of this article may suggest a negative attack upon Christianity, it is more intended as a form of personal credo, and I do not claim that the views here are necessarily antithetical, either in part or in whole to those of the Christian. I seek personal

absolutism, and any comparisons are quite incidental to my arguments.

A basic premise of many religions is that the soul is eternal, since life is felt to stem from God and to return to its maker after death. Here the first tenet of Atheism is found. Though science is yet only on the threshold of knowledge of this topic, it can be believed that the basis of life is a chemical and not a spiritual force. The theoretical proofs have already been established, and suggest most conclusively and reasonably that the origin of physical life at least is materialistic, and not the result of the will of any so-called "Higher Being" as the superstition bred of ignorance which we call religion has up till now suggested.

## Does the Soul Exist?

From here, two points arise. Firstly (and this does not require the proof of the above assumption since it is readily observable to all) all life is homogeneous to the extent that its very existence makes it so. Why, therefore, should it be concluded that Man for one reason or another possesses a claim to spiritual im-

mortality more than any other creature? Life is created and dies — that is all. The Christian would say in answer that one must consider the "soul," since this is a spiritual and not a physical factor, and so must be considered separately. But is this necessarily so? Does the soul in reality exist? It is not too difficult to perceive the link between the physical aspects of our existence and the mental faculties of perception, reflex and memory, as the brain records them. Taken one step further we find the evolution of the mind, using the above attributes to form those subjective facilities that we call "the intelligence." Yet this world created by the mind is a purely subjective one, and as the problems of the mind are more fully explored it becomes more and more apparent that personal reality, as we might call it, is never more than a subjective thing distorting the truth of a world that is in fact existentialist, by superimposing upon it the impressions gained through the viewing of objective reality by the subjective medium of the intelligence. Through such distortion comes, among other things, the belief of man that because his powers of intelligence are, to the best of his knowledge, the most highly developed among the forms of life which he knows, he must therefore be the result of a Divine Creation and hence a being of special interest to the Deity. Similarly we find the concept of sin formed by the comparison of man with his own impression of the "perfect" deity, and hence the necessity for a theory of salvation, and of a "second chance" to attain to the hypothetical perfection of the man-made standard of goodness that he calls God. In every case that I know of where a religion has at its head a Deity, that Deity has been modelled upon the pattern of man, who has endowed his God with attributes which he, in his own individual case, believed embodied perfection. Having elevated his anthropomorphic creation to a position of power Man has then sought through superstition and ignorant belief in the supernatural (which he, himself, has created) to evolve a doctrine of salvation to console himself for his inability to live up to the standards which he feels his "perfect God" demands.

## After-life?

Similarly I feel that any belief in the afterlife is merely a result of Man's egotism, and the refusal of his mind to accept the fact that he is nothing more than a temporal life-form with a com-

plex and highly-subjective intelligence, just as his concepts of good and evil are the result of conditioned reflexes based on the patterns of society which he himself has evolved.

I do not believe that there is a God, and nor do I believe that Man is spiritually immortal. Such concepts are surely the result of Man's thought, coloured by the subjectivity which his way of thinking involves. I believe that he is nothing more than a thinking lifeform, living under self-imposed patterns, but with no more valid reason for taking the "importance" of his existence for granted than has any other creature, simply because there is no "standard of importance" except that which Man has himself created.

## The Ultimate Decision

These views are personal. They may be called blasphemous or heretical, according to the pre-conceived opinions of the reader. For me they are the views of an Atheist, perhaps subject to future changes, but at present held firmly. They are the reason for my initial statement that "I am not a Christian."

W. S. BROUGHTON

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# TONY FACES LIFE

By Ed. K. Saul

This is a book of philosophy — one man's philosophy of design in the Universe. It is a brave attempt to grapple with this familiar issue, but Mr. Avenel's conclusions, like those of so many before him, are probably more satisfying to himself than to anybody else.

To look for design in the Universe and Life, and to decide whether they are still controlled, the author has treated his evidence, drawn from all branches of science, in a broad way — from the dispassionate viewpoint of an observer on Venus, Orbit II, he says. But, although this laudable broad view should integrate the various scientific studies into a perspective, it fails because of the oversimplification and inaccuracy of Mr Avenel's popular science.

Irrelevancies and ignorant inaccuracies march down the pages of this book, brazenly claiming their legitimacy! And a peculiar characteristic of all the irrelevant passages, including three articles reprinted from 'Reader's Digest,' is that they are written in a flowery, emotive style, almost as if the author were trying to win support for his arguments by playing the reader's emotions! This is the 'bludgeoning-belief-with-wonder' technique. Do you consider it a fair method, when Mr Avenel sails under the colours of a broad view, for him to give us a broadside from this cannon?

'Birds (developed) from the gliding fish...' This statement is typical of the ludicrously wrong assertions which the author makes all too frequently. I need say no more about inaccuracies.

## Evolution

The 'chance' theory of evolution (that of natural selection, etc.), says Mr

## MANUSCRIPT EVENINGS

The University Literary Club has arranged a series of informal Manuscript Evenings for 1958. The first of these has already been held, and students interested in writing, especially those thinking of writing for this year's *Kiwi*, will be welcome, with or without Manuscript, at any or all of the later ones.

The evenings will be held as follows:

- ★ Wednesday, April 23—Room 34, O'Rourke Hall.
- ★ Monday, May 12 (first Monday of vacation)—At No. 5 Richborne Rd., Kingsland.

## 'Nucleus' Improves

The second issue of *Nucleus*, which appeared a week or two ago, seems a reasonably encouraging effort, and, if only because of its novelty, has sold well.

The immediate achievement of this issue has been a notable improvement in printing and layout. Typographically *Nucleus* has now reached an acceptable standard. It is to be hoped that the intellectual and literary standard will approach it before very long.

## Heath of Copy

As the editors imply in their opening speech, *Nucleus* suffers from a lack of both volume and variety. Seven short pieces of verse, three pieces of prose and a couple of notes, two advertisements and a cover, constitutes the whole of the issue. It is still good value for a shilling but not yet big enough to ensure a confirmed public. Students who have hesitated to contribute before should certainly be encouraged by the pleasant appearance of the cemetery in which their work is to be interred.

Avenel, is untenable because, he maintains, reproduction is not an evolved process. To ask him to study the subject more closely would perhaps seem in opposition to his broad view, but study more closely he must before he will obtain an undistorted image. He will find an evolutionary transition in reproduction from the simplest types of fission to the most complex types of sexual reproduction, in both plants and animals. Again, he reasons that, if chance can produce a fantastically intricate organism like the horse, it can also produce mechanical contrivances, yet nowhere do we find machinery in the wild. Mr Avenel does not realise that Life itself is an opportunist 'fixer' of chance because of its capacity to reproduce itself more or less true to form. The reason, Mr Avenel, why we find no fossil motor-cars is because motor-cars cannot reproduce and fix their variations. In the end, reproduction itself must have depended on the chance splitting of the 'right' conditions for it to rebuild and split again. There may have been many other similar types of molecules which, given these conditions, might have become the first reproductive Life.

## Scientific View?

The conclusions reached in this book are these: both the Universe and Life are designed. The Universe is still controlled, and Life is controlled genetically by 'creative rays.' Since Life is controlled, it has an Aim, and conflicting aims denote the presence of two Creative Powers for Life, God and the Devil. There is a separate Creative Power for the Universe, unnamed. I disagree with these conclusions because Mr Avenel

Of the items in the issue the prose ones are perhaps the better. Generally the writing, including the editorials, is too broken and fragmented. The piece *Fishing* by B. J. Faville is perhaps the least at fault here.

Of the verse, W. S. Broughton's comes the nearest to showing some evidence of construction and worth, but even here the picture is false and the verse slightly soured by long use.

A. J. Gurr gives a trivial enough piece which might have been pithy, and the others needed a great deal more care and effort before they were embalmed in print.

Of the contributions by R. A. K. Mason, of which there are two, one can only say that they are obviously written in a practised hand, but they are not very good and quite dated.

PAUL KEMP

finds design where I find order alone.

How are we to look at 'View From Orbit II' alongside the scientific work of today? Superficially, I think Mr Avenel stands in relation to the scientists of this century where Samuel Butler did to those of last. Both offer an uninformed

## KIWI . . . .

Copy of an intellectual, literary, or academic nature is required for KIWI 1958. For details consult the editors, via Literary Society letter-box or M.H.C.

A. J. Gurr, M. E. A. Richards.  
Editors.

type of argument upon which both are apt to be carried away by masses of logic, based on false premises and clumsy analogies.

But . . . well, there is a little nagging question that keeps on recurring to me. Is 'View From Orbit II' a serious work, or did Antony Avenel write it with great gusto, as an edifying personal exercise in dialectics, which he then decided to serve up, spiced with some in-

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interesting extracts, to a gullible public, just to see how it would go down? ('View From Orbit II' by Anthony Avenel. T. Werner Laurie; London, 1957. 18/-).

## 'Pygmalion' (sniff)

Perhaps the most important thing about this latest offering from the Players is that their new producer Stafford Byrne has managed, with the support of a very capable cast, to inject a much-desired and long-awaited professional polish into the production. But we must face up to the sad fact that "Pygmalion" simply is not the great play it used to be. Audiences of a generation ago may have been delightfully shocked by Doolittle's tirades against middle-class morality and Eliza's famous line; the play may have been daring, amusing and very much to the point — thirty years ago. But now Shaw's jibes have become blunted, angry young men stand today where angry old dustmen stood before them, and although the reason for their anger has not changed, the expression and context of it definitely have. For the world of 1958 "Pygmalion's" only attraction is a certain curiosity value as the book of "My Fair Lady."

The Players, however, fashioned the best they could from such decayed clay, as could be seen from the performance of Leon Sinden, Antony Groser, Barbara Leake and Ethel Hobbs. Mr Sinden put reality into the utterly incredible character of Shaw's irascible Professor. With gesture and voice he managed to

bring out of the script an understandable human being — remarkable perhaps but at least genuine. Mr Groser as Doolittle had a somewhat easier task in this respect, for Shaw himself had already created a character here. Mr Groser, however, managed the part with an accomplished ease and a sustained sense of comedy. Brigid Lenihan was only partly successful as Eliza, her interpretation of a Cockney was more suited for an ill-educated cave-woman than for an illiterate flower-girl, but as a society lady she gave us dignity and poise. Others worthy of praise are Barbara Leake and Ethel Hobbs who performed with an assurance and finesse that was a pleasure to watch. Charles Walker's Colonel Pickering was too negative and uninspired to be wholly satisfactory as a foil for Higgins.

The sets, designed by Joan and David de Bethel, were excellent with the exception of the first scene in front of Covent Garden which could have been more imaginative.

As far as Shaw is concerned, the effect of this production was to hammer another nail into his coffin, but it was a masterly piece of carpentry on the Players' part.

—N.M.

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# A look at the Chem. Dept.

In the Chemistry Department, as in every other department, there is overcrowding — worse in the Chemistry Department because of the need for practical work. The lab. facilities, moreover, are strictly limited. However, as the department is probably the largest of its kind in the country, and because of the wide interests of the staff, there is wide scope for Honours research.

The lecturers, in addition to teaching, do research along their favourite lines. These may range from a study of plant products (Mr Cambie) to x-rays (Mr Maslen). The student to lecturer ratio is low in Stage I but it gets progressively better as the higher stages are reached.

It is in the labs. that the crowding is most felt. The Stage I Lab. can only hold 60 students out of over three times that number. In a lecture-room it is always possible to squeeze in more students than the room was designed for, but in a lab., there is only a limited number of fixtures (gas and water taps, etc.). There are 4 hours a week of lab. periods in Stage I. Lab. work becomes increasingly more important in higher Stages, the Stage III labs. being open for 40 hours a week. In Stages II and III, however, there are no set lab. times, students going in and out more or less as they please. There is, however, a certain number of experiments that must be completed for a pass. These are chosen from a given list of experiments. The demonstrators are usually PhD., Honours, or (occasionally), Stage III, students though these last are only in Stage I labs.

Examination papers are set and marked within the College, but from Stage III up, external assessors view, and comment on, the papers. In addition, the lecturers set and mark three tests (and sundry exercises) per Term.

In the higher Stages also, there is overcrowding (no news to this department!). As one student put it, "It's not conducive to the best work, but we get along".

The Chem. Department has its own library, run by the College Library. It contains back numbers of chemical journals and reference books in several languages. Journals not subscribed to by the Dept. may be obtained on interloan from other N.Z. Universities. If the books are not in N.Z., they may be obtained in microfilm form.

## Student Research

Beyond Stage III level, students are free to choose their own research topic. For example, John Hawthorne is 'investigating isotopic exchange relations of transition elements in acetyl-acetonates.'

The Transition Elements manganese, iron, chromium, cobalt, nickel, vanadium, titanium, and scandium (and also copper, as a boundary element), will form complexes with acetyl-acetonates. The bonding between the metallic atoms and the atoms of the organic group are in doubt, hence the research. John Hawthorne working on apparatus made by Mr Barr, is doing this by first allowing boron trifluoride to react with acetone and acetic anhydride. This will, with a transition

element, form an acetyl-acetonate. Now, by using radioactive carbon, ( $C^{14}$ ), (from Harwell, England) contained in the acetone, the time taken for the radioactive acetone to replace the normal acetone from the acetyl-acetonates throws light on the nature of the bonding within the molecule. This could conceivably have a practical application in the separation of iron from some of its ores.

The two main objects of this research, however, are:—

- (i) to clarify the nature of the bonding in these compounds and
- (ii) to 'learn the method of attack' i.e. training in radioactive techniques.

The two prefabs. directly behind the Botany-Zoology block and alongside the Junior Physics Labs. contain the labs. where this work is being done. One hut caters for the Physical Chemistry students, and the other, is the Inorganic Chemistry Lab. Both are used by Stages II and III.

There are about twenty-five experiments in the laboratory, students being allowed three days to complete an experiment. Not only is the demonstrator in this lab. himself a student, but the equipment used was made by senior students.

In this lab., Stage II and III students experiment in order to find:—

- 1. (i) the relative proportion and (ii) the arrangement of atoms in molecules.
- 2. the nature of the structure of compounds e.g. as in the Raman Experiment.
- 3. The rate of reactions — how rapidly will a reaction occur?

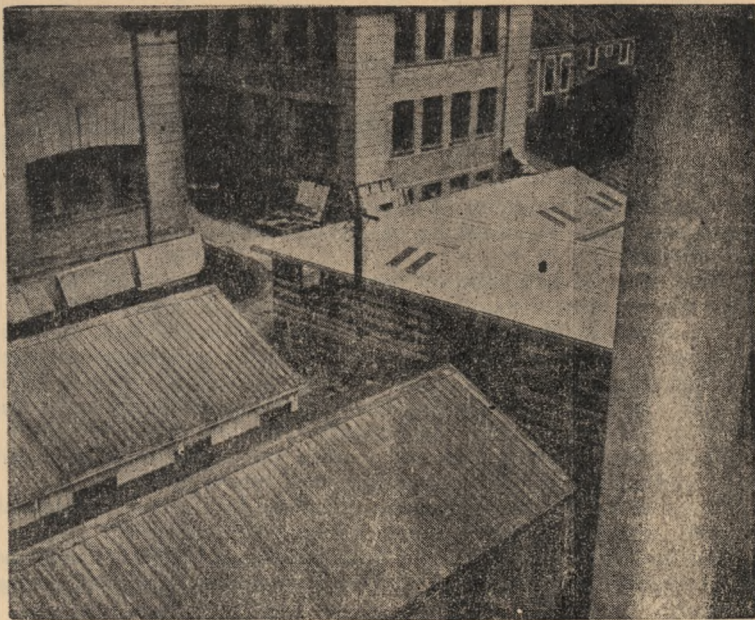
Some reactions are instantaneous, others (especially in Organic Chemistry) take longer, perhaps days, to complete.

Stage III students choose an experiment, look up the available literature on it, and then write an essay on it. This usually takes a week to do, so there are only ten experiments to be done in the term.

In charge of this section is Associate Professor Bloom, whose interest is Physical Chemistry, especially the behaviour of molten salts, their structure, electrical and thermal conductivities. Mr Welch also does research on molten salts, but specialises in the study of their vapour pressures.

Study of ionic liquids (molten salts) should lead to a theory relating to them. Although this research is also being done in the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and the U.K., this is the only place in the Southern Hemisphere where this particular research is being carried out. However, there is correspondence between A.U. and foreign universities on aspects of research. Most students eventually go overseas either to the U.S.A. or Britain either through fellowships or permanent appointments.

MICHAEL GROGAN



Chemistry Department Facilities overtaxed by snowballing enrolment

## FURTHER LETTERS —

### APOLOGIA

Sir,  
I realize now that my finite, staid brain is quite inadequate for the task that I undertook. Mr Hamer obviously has—  
(a) a "restless, inquiring, critical spirit"; (b) he has been to meetings of all institutions such as the Auckland University Socialist Club; (c) he attends coffee evenings fairly regularly; (d) he does not rely solely on review of books and films before tasting their flavour; (e) he is a member of the professorial board, whom from their lofty seat may disdain righteously my humble critical efforts — in short, he is a genius.

But allow me, Mr Hamer, to ask you just one small question. In the next issue of *Craccum*, could you please tell a "complacent conservative" like myself, about these activities that you patronize? I am eager to taste the fruits contributing to your apparent success, as many other students, including freshers, must be.

J. L. HUNT

### THE EARLY, EARLY DAYS

Sir,  
One constantly hears the claims that students are apathetic, or that student life is dying or dead. Although it would be virtually impossible to support this claim statistically, or to lay the blame at the feet of any organisation or group of people, I feel that if a comparison is made with the period between the wars, when student life was very vigorous, and made an impact on Auckland as a whole, the post-war period is shown up as a rather dull period in general. There were peaks and depressions in the pre-war period, but on looking back we see that it produced some of our most outstanding undergraduates. Of course, although there were fewer students, they were recognised in a smaller and less commercially-inclined community outside.

Students were in general, however, far poorer, particularly in depression periods, yet it was in these periods that life was most virile and productive and students generally fashioned their recreational and cultural interests around existing clubs and life here. Some observers will attribute contemporary trends to the large numbers of part-timers, yet, despite the fact that some part-time students, although no poorer than the average full-timer, attend merely because the facilities here provide for the gaining of extra qualifications, their share is often very generous.

Full-time students at present are more affluent than their counterparts in 1920's and 1930's for today there are a wealth of government bursaries open to students. Now these are a necessity if more graduates are to enter national life, but too often the opportunity to gain professional status becomes an end in itself. Though these people find a place in the social life of the University they frequently deny the cultural demands made by the cultural and political clubs.

The last two years have seen a rejuvenation of capping activities and it hoped that this points to a rebirth of the vigorous life for clubs, societies and general student life which abounded in the 1920's and 1930's.

IAN POOL.

### SITE AGAIN!

Sir,  
The Ministry of Works' report on the proposed reclamation of Hobson Bay states:—"The total building programme of the university on the proposed basis would cover about seven acres of the proposed reclamation, while for blocks of six storeys, the building area would be three acres.

Adjoining the south-east end of Hobson Bay, there is a twelve acre block of land (at present being dry-filled by the City Council) which is bordered by Shore Road and Portland Road. I propose that the University should construct its building on this site which has the following advantages over Hobson Bay:—

- (1) No deep pile foundations would be required; the Ministry of Works estimates that the cost of piled foundations for the university buildings on the Hobson Bay site would be at least £250,000. The piles would have to be, on the average, 25 feet deep.
- (2) The area can be dry-filled at a low cost.
- (3) Settlement of the filling would not take long.
- (4) Building could start in a relatively short time.

Land required for recreational purposes could be gradually reclaimed from the 100 acres of Hobson Bay that the Harbour Board has generously offered to donate to the University.

About three acres of Hobson Bay (a recreational reserve at the bottom of Ayr Street) has already been reclaimed. Another 17 acres could easily be dry-filled, at a low cost and in a relatively short time, to increase this area to 20 acres. The problem of filling the remaining 80 acres of Hobson Bay at a reasonable cost, I suggest, should be left to the engineers at Ardmore. However, these 80 acres would not need to be reclaimed immediately, but could be left till later (say 1980) to be filled. This would mean that the University would always have room to expand, which is a very important fact, that should be taken into consideration, when deciding where the University should be situated.

PETER NE.

## UNIVERSITY BLAZERS

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### A.U. DISTRICT GRADUATES ASSOC.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at A.U.  
April 28, 1958.

An address will be given by Professor Miller, of the Department of Music, A.U.  
All graduates and graduates are cordially invited to attend this meeting.



## EASTER TOURNAMENT:

## Head-Hunters Decapitated

This Tournament might possibly be remembered for a small incident that occurred on the train when for the first time on record, students complained about the drinking of non-students, who were sharing the same carriage.

Two days of concentrated sport, which left Auckland second to Otago did not in any way diminish the activities of Aucklanders off the sporting field. Besides the official dances, Barbecue and Ball, there were numerous unofficial activities that enjoyed their never-failing popularity. Highlight of the sport was the match between N.Z.U., Australian Universities and Canterbury Province at Rugby Park in which Auckland *Barry Robinson* was particularly outstanding (Mention might be made of friend *Riddiford's* performance of another sort in the three mile event, which undoubtedly added to the afternoon's entertainment!)

Proof of the pudding is perhaps illustrated by a certain incident that occurred at the Ball, when Sports Delegate *Graham M\*\*\*\** had to be awoken from deep slumber by the Junior Delegate before he could make slow progress across the floor, to receive what trophies Auckland managed to acquire.

Be as it may, visitors departed from Christchurch wondering why on earth anyone is ever host at Tournament and possibly left their hosts with the same sentiments. At the same time Christchurch must be congratulated on an excellent and well-run Tournament.

Final Results: Otago, 42; Auckland, 24; Canterbury, 18; Victoria, 10; Lincoln, 4.

## Tennis

By winning both the teams event and the two singles championships, Auckland established itself as the outstanding competitor in at least the tennis section of the Easter tournament played on the Wilding Park courts in fine weather.

The general standard was very high particularly in the men's singles, where there were a number of upsets before Aucklanders *B. Woolf* (No. 1) and *G. Roberts* met in the final.

One of the surprises of the tournament was undoubtedly provided by Auckland fresher *Joy Little* (No. 3) who, after disposing of the top Canterbury player *Judith Buxton*, reached the semi-final before falling a victim to *Jill Glenie's* powerful strokes.

Auckland is well represented in the 4 man 4 woman University tennis team chosen to tour Australia next season. *Jill Glenie*, *Brian Woolf*, and *Bobby Wong* all N.Z. Junior titleholders, were obvious choices, while *Joy Little* and *Graeme Roberts* gained selection on tournament performances. Perhaps unlucky not to be chosen was *Gay Baigent* who failed to strike her best form at the crucial time.

## Athletics

A.U. scored top points for the shield due to a large extent to the efforts of the fairer sex.

*Barry Robinson* proved a veritable one man team. He was in smashing form breaking the 220 yds and 220 yds hurdles' records equalling the 100 yds, and being responsible for the record in the 4 x 110 relay.

*Ngair Westbury* had a field day with javelin record and shot and discuss titles. Other A.U. titleholders are *Pat Moffit* (high jump) and *Andy Divich* (high hurdles). *Elizabeth Babbage* and *Judy Johnson* spent the time collecting minor placings, which helped A.U. to an easy win in the women's shield.

The test between N.Z.U., Australian Universities and Canterbury Province provided some outstanding athletics. "That machine" Robinson captain and key man of the N.Z.U. team won all his events. This team lost to Australia by 18 points to 21, but won a classic 4 x 440 relay in N.Z. record time.

*Ngair Westbury*, *Judy Johnson*, *Pat Moffit* and *Elizabeth Babbage* competed in the Women's team which defeated Canterbury Province.

## Swimming

The outstanding section of the swimming was undoubtedly the water polo,

which Auckland won by beating a strong Canterbury team, holders of the title for several years. At half-time Auckland was down 4-2, but at the recommencement of play, Auckland shot three near perfect goals in quick succession. Although two Aucklanders were ordered out of the water for infringements, brilliant defence by the remainder of the team allowed A.U. to retain its one goal advantage to the end. Three Aucklanders were selected for the N.Z.U. team, of which Auckland *Graham Leach* was captain.

Mainly through the efforts of the women's team, Otago was able to win the shield by an 11 point margin from Canterbury. Two records were broken; one by Otago's *Lynley Orbell* who broke away in the 100 yds breaststroke to touch



Struck the Double

in 23.7 sec., about 2 secs. better than her old record, and the other by *Graham Leach* who broke the butterfly record for the third time. He certainly deserved the two blues he was later awarded.

## The Big Shot

Nostra Culpa! We failed. Auckland came third in Tournament shooting. Shooting at this Tournament was not of the high standard that it had been in the past, because, we think, of the lack of time to practise. Only one Blue was awarded, and this to *Bob Kingsley* of C.U. *Dave Hoyle* of Auckland, was also nominated. *Graham Ward* and *Ian Andrews*, both first year students at A.U. were in the N.Z.U. team. It was noticeable that the newcomers to University shooting were, on the whole the most successful.

In other spheres of Tournament activity few shooters were successful. The post-N.Z.U.-shoot, 5 gallons record was

not broken and only one shooter was awarded a drinking blue.

## Basketball

By winning the very close match against Auckland, Otago's lead in the basketball was fairly well established on the first day of play. This was confirmed in a match against Canterbury, which Otago won by 12 goals to 9. Consistently good play by Aucklanders *J. Dick*, *D. Colgan*, and *P. Brand* left Auckland second.

Fine positional play and impressive combination gave Auckland a half-time lead of 9 goals to 7 in the Otago match. However Otago rallied in the second spell and gradually assumed control. Otago took the lead at 15-14 but Auckland quickly retaliated and scores were even at 15 all and 16 all. When the Auckland throw-off failed at this point, Otago scored from the throw-in and in a final move, Otago scored to win by 18 goals to 16.

All but two of the Auckland team played for the North Island in the North versus South match which was won by the South, 22 to 17.

## Wooden Spoon

After a preliminary round, the two winning teams, Victoria and Canterbury played each other to determine the winner of the competition, while Otago and Auckland played each other for the wooden spoon. This Auckland unfortunately succeeded in acquiring. Only *J. Davies* (49), *M. McElroy* (40), and *Nicol*, who took 5-62 and 2-34, gave performances up to the usual high Auckland standard. In the play off for first position, the excellent Victorian team beat the Otago team on the first innings. The New Zealand University then played Canterbury. It included one Auckland, *McElroy*.

## Sink or Swim

A small but undoubtedly important part of Tournament, is the yatching, which was this year conducted on a change boat series of four races. The first three races were sailed in a steady N. E. breeze or a light wind. A.U. was well away in the first two races, but in the first was overtaken by C.U. and, when a spinnaker-boom guy broke, by O.U. and in the second by O.U. For the third race A.U. and O.U. were the only two in the running for the first place, but just before the finish, O.U. picked up the breeze and went on to win by 30 secs.

The fourth race was started in a very hard and gusty S.W. wind. A.U. was first away followed closely by C.U. but soon after, the mast was carried away in the A.U. boat forcing it to retire. V.U. capitalized and C.U. also had to retire, so O.U. was the only one to complete the course.

## Booze Blues

The curtain is about to go up on the great sporting event of Easter Tournament, 1958. It is 1.30 p.m., and the crowd here in the Public Bar of the Clarry is thickening rapidly. Stopwatches are everywhere in evidence, with pots of grog disappearing with rapid regularity as elimination (?) trials progress. There is a little talk of great performances of the past, but as 2.30 approaches, a tense silence sets in, broken only by cries of "On your marks; get set; GO!", and a continuous roar of "More beer!"

But enough of this. The stage is set, the lights are lit; my glass is full, I'm talking rot — 2.30. A lusty steward lets forth a full-throated roar, and silence falls. So does the first casualty. After a display of the trophies to be won, and an explanation of the rules, the first two competitors are called. A.U. versus M.A.C. A further quarter hour's practice ensues while A.U. tries to drag up a team, and then battle is rapidly joined.

Competition was marred by considerable spillage, with towels and waterproof coats being well put to test, but resulting times were disappointing.

Now a vast crowd making numerous attempts on the individual times, with the best six, as listed, to receive blues at the ball tonight.

Boswell, A.U.	2.1
Beyer, V.U.	2.1
Williams, O.U.	1.8
Rikys, C.A.C.	2.1
Dempster, O.U.	2.1
Allen, V.U.	2.0
Jacobsen, O.U.	2.1

Strange, there seem to be seven! I'd better quit!

The Blues Panel has announced the following N.Z.U. blues:

**Athletics:** Misses N. Westbury (A.U.) and A. MacDonald (C.U.), B. Robinson (A.U.), J. G. Hawkes (O.U.), B. H. Kerr (C.U.), R. Irwin (V.U.W.), L. Miles (C.U.), D. Beauchamp (C.U.), A. V. Hill. Cup for athlete nearest to winning a blue: M. Stephens (O.U.).

**Swimming:** Miss L. Orbell (O.U.), F. Strange (O.U.), I. MacDonald (C.U.), O. Snoep (C.U.), G. Leach (A.U.).

**Water Polo:** G. Leach (A.U.).  
**Shooting:** R. W. Kingsley (C.U.).  
**Tennis:** Miss J. Glenie (A.U.) and B. Woolf (A.U.).

**Rowing:** C. Hurring (O.U.), M. Winter (V.U.W.), F. Crotty (V.U.W.), P. Preston Thomas (V.U.W.).

Held over from Winter Tournament, 1957:  
**Fencing:** R. J. Binning (V.U.W.).

Held over from hockey tour of Australia in 1957:

Misses S. M. Comer (C.U.), R. Reo (O.U.), M. Edwards (C.U.), L. Harry (O.U.), J. Doull (O.U.), Messrs. B. Maunsell (O.U.), K. Pater (O.U.), J. Cullen (O.U.).

## Dry those nappies

Conditions for the rowing were far from perfect and after several attempts at starting, the eights race was abandoned until the afternoon when it finally got under way at 4.30 p.m. The water was by then calmer but still quite rough and Auckland's inexperienced crew was unable to handle the rough water as well as the others. At the mile mark, O.U. were out in front with V.U. challenging strongly. C.U. were third with A.U. 1½ lengths behind them. V.U. weakened towards the finish and O.U. went on to win by 2 lengths. A.U. took advantage of the calmer water in the last third of a mile to pass C.U. and gain two lengths on V.U.

The other races were rowed in the morning. Lincoln won the men's four from O.U. and C.U. with A.U. No. 1 raised fifth. Lincoln were again successful in the double sculls winning the event by six lengths. The A.U. crew, *B. Williams* and *R. Jones* sculled well to catch O.U. on the line, thus coming second equal.

A.U.'s only winning crew was the women's four. It is perhaps unfortunate as far as Auckland is concerned, that owing to strong opposition from the deep south, the women's rowing has not been granted full Tournament status.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

In two respects at least the Rugby League Club started the season in the semi-fit condition: extremely fit financially, and not so fit numerically.

Last season could not be called an unqualified success as regards results of matches played but the games did serve to initiate the novice and found a spirit of co-operation. Highlight (or was it?) of last season was the Otago University v. Auckland University match at Carlaw Park. Those who were there saw us miserably in the first half and witnessed a scene of redemption in the second.

Still, experience is all, and feeling optimistic this season we affiliated for administration purposes with Ellerslie and were duly entered in the Senior Second Grade competition.

The training runs are at present being held at Carlaw Park on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. and any relevant information can be viewed on our notice board in the cloisters.

Remember, gear is provided and there will be a trip either to O.U. or the Tournament University this year.

Prospective members can contact either Murray Smith — Ph. 49-670 or Bruce Pert, via notice board.

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