



Price 3d.
Vol. XXXII, No. 6.
Auckland, N.Z., Wednesday, 18th June, 1958

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' PAPER

Decadence !

SON, your not taking your washing and shaving gear into the bush, are you? I wouldn't if I was you. It's dangerous to shave or wash in there. You've got a heavier pack, you waste a lot of time, and you run the risk of starving. I'll tell you why so's you can see why I don't no more.

It was quite a while ago now, when me and a coupla other jokers was deer-culling for the government in the Lower Tutaekuri Valley. In the Urewera, y'see. It was a sweet enough lurk, this culling, but after a while we'd cleaned out all the deer in that part of the world, so we packed up what was left of our hard tucker and headed off up the valley on foot, 'cause the bush was too damn dense for horses.

The jokers I was with was called Jake and Bert; Jake never washed and had a dense, long curly beard, — a real bewt. He had been a pie-picker at the freezing works, and the smell of it was so ingrained that he said it was a waste of time for him to clean himself up. Me and Bert washed most days and shaved sometimes, when things got a bit out of hand. Being a bit finickity, we was always careful to stand upwind of Jake.

Well, after a while we come out in forest so clear you *could've* rode a horse through it. A great swag of deer had eaten all the low branches, bark and undergrowth clean out of it. And seeing all that sign, we sez, poor hopeful bxggxrs that we was:

'Cripes, the place must be crawling with deer!'

'Too right, it's a record tally for us this trip.'

So we followed the sign for a few days, but saw not a sterriick of a deer. Damn all else either, 'cept supplejack chewed into cows' tails.

At the end of six days, we got hungry. In that time we had shot one half-storved goat, which we et, and five pigeons, which we didn't, since the three-ohs blew them into five little clouds of feathers.

Next day we got cunning and went off in a wide half-circle to get ahead of them. By this time, we was all feeling the pace a bit. Bert had gone starey-eyed, and kept on muttering something which sounded like: 'Nill carborundem illegitimmy nil carborun-

dem . . . ' Me and Jake asked him what it meant and he said he was jiggered if he knew but it was Latin and his mother had told him as a kid to remember it 'cause she was sure it'd help him later on in life.

I was just about shot, and Jake had taken to chewing his beard and smiling to himself.

It was evening when we got back to the river. We knew we'd got there before the deer, 'cause the undergrowth we hid in was pretty dense. We was all of us ready to eat a deer apiece, hoof, horn and hide.

We waited. Then, from way down the valley, we hear a noise, like lawnmowers of a Sundy morning, getting closer. I sez to Bert: 'The deer're here! 'I'll (carborundem) the (illegitim-mies),' he sez.

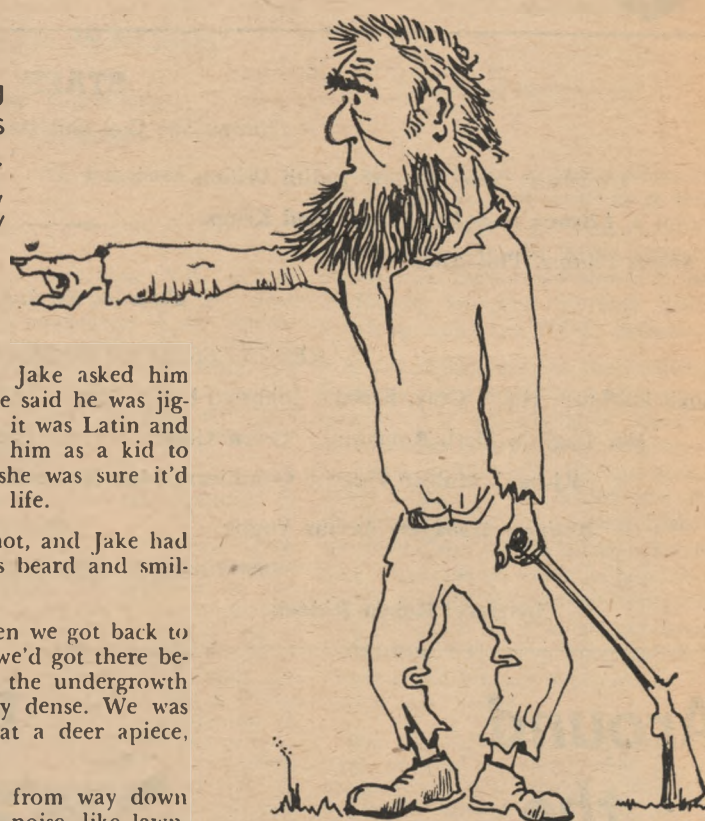
As the noise got closer, I thought of all that lovely venison eating its way towards us, on the hoof. Me guts got a bit excited at that thought! I 'spose the others' guts did too, 'cause, like we was one man, they all started to grumble and gripe, yelling for their tucker. Well! The sound rumbled off down the valley, gathering strength and speed as it ricocheted off the walls, 'till the echoes rang like thunder above the clacking chomp of the deer.

For a couple seconds there was silence. We swore. Then, an utter shambols as the deer stampeded off over the river, headed straight for Mt. Puketiwingo, going for the lick of their lives to get away from that awful clap of doom. They probably didn't stop 'til they hit the coast.

Then we had our work cut out — ten days in a game-barren piece of country — to get out. Next morning, when we started back down the valley, we was right out of tucker, and right out of luck too, 'cause we didn't find any that day. Bert and Jake started to moan, so I had to tell them to stop bellyaching and look for tucker. So Bert sez: 'What d'you expect me to do to find us some tucker? Take the elastic out of my undertrous to make a shanghi to skittle pigeons with?'

'It'd be a plurry good idea, but none of us wear undertrous in the bush, and you know it,' sez me.

'Well,' sez Jake, who was in better nick than the rest of us, 'at least I'll never go hungry as long as I've got me beard. It's so dam full of gravy and fat and pog and guff that it's a



'Shame' sez Jake

food in itself when I chew it. I reckon I could live off it for a month if I could get at the rich bit under me chin,' and he stuck the end into his mouth — the slintering cow!

The next day was a real scorcher, and by what'd have been smoko time if we'd had any tea or smokes left, we was all dry and rattling, so we had a drink out of a deep, clear pool in the river. Me and Bert cupped the water up in our hands, but Jake lay flat on his belly, drinking noisily. His beard floated out in front of him like a coir mat, and you could see little bits of guff drifting out of it down into the pool.

Suddenly, he let out a yell: 'Cripes, the taniwha's got me! Help!' and, arms flailing like mad, he started to slide into the water. 'HELP! Do something, you jokers'

Me and Bert both managed to grab an ankle just as he was going right in. After quite a struggle, we dragged him on to the bank, half-drowned and blowing like a grampus. Strewth, he was heavy, and no wonder, the taniwha still had its teeth firmly tangled in Jake's beard! It was a dirty big eel, five feet long and thick as your leg. Bert sliced its body off with the slasher, then cut the head out of the tangle with his knife.

'Well I'll be jiggered,' I sez, 'Jake's caught us some tucker for lunch,' and I grabbed the body, skinned it, lit a fire and cooked it, quick as a wink.

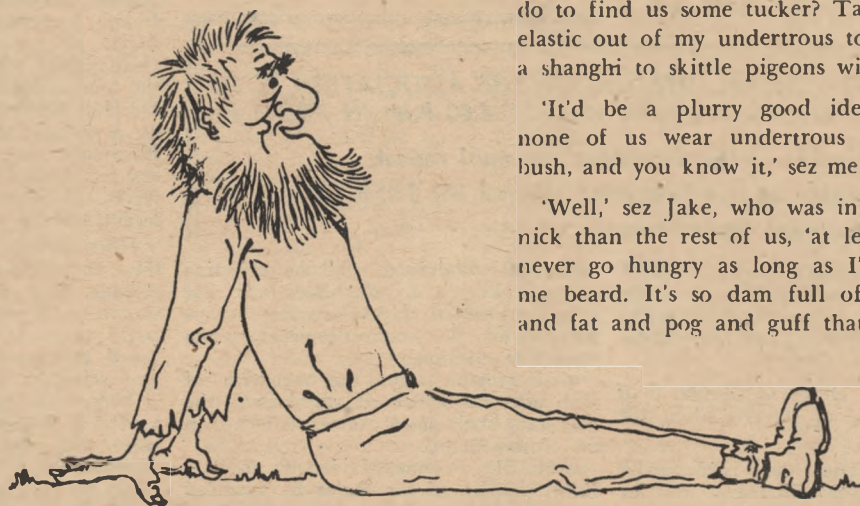
When we came out at the road a week later, we wasn't starving, but Jake's beard would've caught us only one more eel, there was that little of it left. It was only 'cause he didn't wash and didn't shave that we got out.

So don't you young jokers go taking soap and razor in to the bush. It's not worth the risk.



This felony was perpetrated by E.K.S., and abetted by the illustrious A.G.M.

With apologies to the Editors of Wide World Magazine.



' . . . could live off it for a month . . . '



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 or the A.U.S.A.

Hakas Fracas

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Around the Campus

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Mr K. J. Maidment, is to attend the 8th Congress of Universities of the Commonwealth at McGill University, Montreal, in August. After the Congress Mr Maidment will visit Universities in the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. Also at the Congress will be Professor Cumberland and Dr Rattenbury, who will be on sabbatical leave in Canada at the time.

Tenders for the new Science block, which will house Physics, Geography, and Geology facilities have been received by the Government, and here again we are waiting for the 'go-ahead' signal. Unless someone (and that means the Government) does something pretty quickly, we will still be in the same cramped position in 1968.

The Mt. Pleasant Hospital has now been vacated by the previous tenants and the disposal of all the Hospital facilities (operating tables, hack-saws etc.) is now being conducted. When the 'go-ahead' signal comes from the Government alterations will be commenced, to prepare the building for the administration department.

Both the Council and the Football Club are worried about the administration of the football shed, and for this reason they are holding a joint meeting. Apparently the Club is not willing to entrust it to the Students' Association and the Council wants to keep staff control of it. But until Stan Brown returns who will look after it?

These who knew Stan Brown before he went over to the United States in 1956 will be pleased to hear that in about four months he is returning to the Auckland University Staff as Physical Education Instructor. Just what facilities will be at his disposal is unknown, but we shall all be pleased to see his face around the place again.

Executive Swan Song

Report on the meeting held Tuesday, 3rd June.

A term of office has done wonders to this Exec. In what probably will be their second to last meeting, they showed that in a year, they have moulded from a group of relatively inexperienced individuals into a very capable Executive. We had four and a half hours of the meeting and a ton of work was got through.

Best news for the financial column was Capping Controller, 'Specs' Julian's report that Capping had made a clear profit of about £2,000. Quite a little nest egg. On the subject of Capping there was also quite a long natter about student participation in Capping Ceremony. At the moment Exec. seems pretty divided on the issue. Some would like to see the Gallery opened again next year. Others wouldn't.

Cafeteria Report from Woman Vice Bev. Snook brought the usual moans; it appears that the meals are too small, and they lack substance, that the caf. staffing is insufficient at peak hours, that tea queues are getting longer, that there are not enough chairs, and the price of milk is too dear. The only bright spot was when Mr White was applauded for the courtesy he was showing in trying to run the cafe. When will Exec learn that you can't have your cake and eat it too.

On a higher plane, it was pleasing to see Man Vice Michael Freyne (recently re-elected for a second term of office) nominated by A.U.S.A. for the S.E. Asian Students' Seminar in Ceylon from July to September. Nominations are coming from other Varsityes and N.Z.U.S.A. will

have to decide the two who will make the trip. The other Auckland nomination was Mr John Marchant of V.U.W. Come to think of it we have not done badly as far as overseas trips go. President Peter Gordon and 1957 President Peter Boag went to Ceylon as N.Z.-U.S.A. delegates to the 7th I.S.C. Next year President-elect Arthur Young will be off to represent N.Z.U.S.A. at the 8th I.S.C. in Rio de Janeiro. We hope Mick will be added to this long and illustrious list.

In fact it was Mr Freyne who made the biggest faux-pas of the evening, when he mis-read a letter from N.Z.U.S.A. — but you better ask Mick about that one.

Two other things that were brought up were firstly, a report from Ian Pool (Student Liaison Officer) and a bright suggestion from Murray Chapman (Social Controller). Ian has knocked some shape into the machinery of Student Liaison in the form of a new schedule which will be presented at the next A.G.M. Murray had prepared a report putting the case for a Public Relations Officer to be appointed by Exec.

Apart from general chaos which reigned from time to time, everything on the agenda was accomplished, and with a few deep murmurs about elections we all packed up at 10.45 p.m.

The Editors invite applications for the position of Advertising Manager of Craccum.

THE WINTER GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 19th, AT 8.00 P.M. IN ROOM 19.

- Presentation of the President's annual report.
- Declaration of the Executive elected for 1958-59.
- Constitutional amendments.

MOVED: Young/Cowley: THAT the following proposed Constitutional amendment be put before the forthcoming Annual General Meeting as a recommendation of the Executive.

"That there be added to Section 3 of the 2nd Schedule of the RULES, the following:—

iv. Any nomination duly made under these Rules may be withdrawn only by notice in writing to the Secretary given and signed by the nominee whose signature must be witnessed by at least one other member, PROVIDED that no such

notice of withdrawal shall be effective unless delivered to the Secretary not later than the 7th day before the day appointed for the commencement of the respective election.

v. Forthwith after the reception of such effective notice of withdrawal, the Secretary shall put a notice thereof upon the Notice Board.

MOVED: Young/Maidment: THAT Rule 36 (iii) of the Rules be amended by the addition of the following: "and shall assist the Treasurer in his duties and shall be Secretary of any Finance Committee appointed by the Executive."

It has been noticed that far too many students don't seem to realise that there is a Maori Club at Varsity. In fact it is one of the biggest and most active clubs, and here is a short summary of its activities.

The club, as usual, is short of girls, but the ones we have certainly make up for it. (It has been said by overseas visitors that Maori Club has some of the most beautiful girls at Varsity).

The first term was extremely busy for the club as there was a big increase in membership and all the new members had to be taught hakas and action songs and also the 'old hands' needed some polishing up. Because of this there were two practices every week — on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons, plus a special class for pakeha members.

Early in the term the club gave a big concert at the Maori Community Centre and later concerts were given at the R.S.A. and in the College Hall, with a dance following. Besides these concerts the Maori Club has also given items at Overseas Students' evenings and other functions. The biggest event of the year (so far!) was the Concert tour to Whangarei and Otiria during Capping Week-end. Many people have asked why the Maori Club did not have a float in this year's Procession. The reason is that we were saving our voices for the concerts the following night.

This term should be very busy too, as the club is preparing for a concert tour to Wanganui, a big Coffee Evening, and the N.Z. Maori Students' Conference to be held in Auckland.

In case some people think that the Maori Club gives only concerts, it can be pointed out that this year we had three graduates — Pat Hohepa, Peter Gordon, and Margaret Sampson.

A + B = D

New ideas on scientific research in the University were aired at a meeting of the Scientific Society on June 10th. A panel of representatives from all departments in the Science faculty, with Dr D. Hall as chairman, answered questions such as "Why are you personally interested?" and "Are New Zealand scientists just being trained for 'overseas markets'?" Miss Cranwell, from the Botany Department, justified her appointment to the staff with a frivolous opening gambit that the financial returns alone could arouse her personal enthusiasm for the scientific rat-race. Mr Bayly, exhibited an unexpected interest in the psychological reasons for his own research work: however such "mystical nonsense" as this cannot be treated seriously: "In my case," said Mr Bayly, "my interest can probably be reduced to my early environment, my relationships with my parents, and ... the functioning of my endocrine glands!" Dr Hall attributed John Aggett's interest as a chemist to the proximity of the Kiwi and the Grand. However John assured those present that in fact he preferred the former, as the return trip only meant a short walk down-hill.

More serious discussions were held on the various advantages of research schools, and whether or not research should be directed only towards immediately practical uses. An undergraduate asked the panel whether or not N.Z.'s best scientists were being lost overseas, a matter on which the members were agreed, although it was pointed out that some did return. It was then asked whether, as a result of this continual drain on our best brains, N.Z.'s were becoming a race of morons? The staff members of the panel agreed, but the remainder stared into space, in silent, significant incomprehension ...

ALLAN COULAM

Nominated by: D. Taylor
J. Firth
J. Boyley

As Vice-President of the Stud. Assn. 1956-57 and acting President part of that time, Allan has a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of Stud. Assn. affairs enjoyed by few others.

By virtue of his office he has served on Grants, Capping, Travel and Exchange, Orientation, Education and Social Committees. In Stud. Assn. affairs therefore we know him to be an excellent all-rounder-qualified to discuss and implement the administration of societies in all their various ways.

A senior student completing LL.B part time, Allan has participated widely in student activities — he has represented this university at Tournaments 1953, 54, 56, and 57, he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Debating Society 1953, Debating Controller at Winter Tournament 1953, A.U. Bledisloe Medal contestant 1953 and 1956; and has active interests as a member of the Law Students committee, Drama Society, Ski and Fencing Clubs. He has represented A.U. at N.Z.-U.S.A. 1957-58. He is perhaps best known to students generally for his parts in Revue 1956-57-58. A capable chairman and having a deep interest in grants to cultural societies and clubs, Allan is we consider, one of the most promising candidates to stand for Societies Rep for some time. He would bring to Exec. a wealth of experience.

Despite his recent defeat in the elections for President Allan has shown, by allowing himself to be nominated for this position that his interest in Stud. Assn. affairs is sincere and undiminished. Accordingly we commend his nomination to you.

NEIL MAIDMENT

Nominated by: M. Freyne
M. Chapman
A. Young

Neil Maidment came to A.U. in 1956, and has been a full-time Arts student until this term. He was elected to the Executive in 1957 as Societies' Representative.

Neil's club interests are very strong: Committee-member (1956) and Secretary-Treasurer (1956-57) of Debating Society, Treasurer of Modern Languages Club (1957-59). Other activities include Drama Society, Revue (1957-58), Social (1956), Orientation (1956 and 1957) and Home Tournament Committees (1957). Also he has been member and leader of University Debating teams (1956-58) and debated for A.U. at Winter Tournament 1956. He has proved his administrative ability as Billeting Controller for Winter Tournament last year, and again as a Delegate to Easter Council Meeting of N.Z.U.S.A. this year.

As Societies Secretary and an active club-member, Neil has acquired the experience and knowledge necessary in a Societies Representative. As an Executive-member he has acquired a comprehensive grasp of the Association's affairs, and has shown initiative and common sense. I commend him to you as Societies' Representative for another term.

One for All and All for Two!

DINAH FAIRBURN

Nominated by: G. Mansergh
C. Regan
P. Sinclair

Dinah is a third-year student majoring in English and French this year, with an impressive record of participation in student affairs. Since her first year she has taken part actively in Revue, two Tournaments, (in Hockey and Swimming), two Congresses and several clubs; including Goethe Soc., Field Club, and the Committees of Debating Soc., Literary Soc., and Modern Languages (of which she has been successively Secretary and Chairman). For the last two years she has reported for *Craccum*, and this year was also an observer to N.Z.-U.S.A.

Altogether there must be few students in the University who have wider experience of student activities than Dinah, and this, with her proved willingness to accept responsibility and her pleasant personality, has convinced us that she will make an excellent representative on the Students' Executive.

PETER WATSON

Nominated by: P. Crookes
V. Parsalt
W. Broughton

Peter is a third year B.A. student majoring in mathematics. He has been active on the committees of the Society of Independent Intellectuals, Modern Languages Society, Socialist Society, and is at present on the Committee of Literary Society. He has also been associated with Mathematical Society, Drama Club and many others.

Thus it is obvious that Peter is well qualified to represent the interests of Societies on Exec.

But this is not all, for Peter has strong views on many topics vital to students such as student representation on the Senate and improvement of staff-student relationship within the college. He has a wide range of interests outside the University embracing both the cultural and the scientific and has taken part in drama productions for the W.E.A. and also the revues *Skitsophrenia* and *Triptomania*.

In my opinion Peter is well qualified to put forward a fresh point of view on Exec. and I cannot urge too strongly that you should give him your vote.

JON HUNT

Nominated by: W. Broughton
D. Taylor
P. Andrews

Jonathan Hunt is a student whose election to the Executive would be of benefit to the University as a whole. A full time third year student, he is this year completing B.A. Degree and intends to major in History and take up Post Primary Teaching under the P.P.T. Scheme.

In his candidature for the positions of Societies' Representative his previous interest and administrative experience here at the University are perhaps his strongest qualification. He has taken an active interest in the S.C.M. and E.U., the Historical Classical and Debating Societies, the International Relations Club, *Craccum*, of which he is a Section Editor and the Progressive Conservative Club of which he is at present engaged in forming. His other interests include Literary and Musical appreciation, Table Tennis and Cricket.

We who are nominating him know from personal association that Jon is a conscientious and capable worker, with a genuine interest in student life both academic and cultural. He is a student possessing the courage of his convictions and, if elected to the Executive, he can be guaranteed to devote himself not only to his Portfolio but also to the interests of the student body as a whole in the many problems such as representation on the N.Z.U. Senate, and Staff Student co-ordination within A.U. which are essential parts of the Executive's machinations.

We recommend him to you as the right man for this important position.

SOCIETIES REPRESENTATIVES**RICHARD MULGAN**

Nominated by: V. O'Sullivan
J. Orbell
C. Lorrigan

Richard is a full time student studying for a B.A. in Classics, who will bring to this position a balanced background of experience and ability. He has been an active member of several Societies including Classical Historical Music and Debating, of which he was a Committee member.

An Executive member is not only concerned with his own portfolio but with the general policy of the Association and for this, Richard is well qualified. He has experience in Capping through Capping Book distribution — in Tournaments through being a member of Billeting Committee and in Orientation through being Secretary of the Orientation Committee. He was also Secretary of the Student Liaison Committee and Editor of Freshers Handbook 1958.

Richard is genuinely concerned at the tendency of the Executive to become out of contact with students and their views on how affairs should be run. We are convinced that he will represent the interests of the most students and be a valuable asset to any Executive.

CHRIS GILLIES

Nominated by: R. Hay
B. Adams
L. Maingay

We have the utmost confidence in nominating Chris Gillies for he has shown his competence and intelligence to be ample qualification for a responsible position on Executive.

Chris, a full time M.O.W. bursar at the School of Architecture, will remain at Varsity for another two years. An active member of the Architectural Society he was appointed to its Executive in 1957 and became its Secretary this year. In this position he has shown a capacity for clear and impartial judgment combined with enthusiasm and concern for student affairs.

His interests are wide, including — Managing the Grammar Magazine, Playing Badminton, Tennis, Golf, Rowing, Backstage slave in Revue, Keen interest in Drama and stage design, Member of the Junior Symphony Orchestra Committee 1957-58, Now member of the Buildings Committee.

He believes in and will work for greater co-operation and integration in the student body and its relations with the University Council and A.C.C.

BARRY GUSTAFSON

Nominated by: G. Black
B. Snook
D. Taylor

Barry Gustafson — Prefect, Capt/Coach 2nd XI and 2nd 9. President or Secretary Debating Club 4 years, Secretary Crusader Union, Drama Club, Macky Cup for Oratory 3 years. Leader Debating Team 3 years. Auckland Rep. N.Z. Public Speaking 1956. Herald Award for leading article. Editor School Magazines Committee.

Softball Player, Roskill Major Reserve, A-Grade Umpire, Captain Auckland 3rd Reps. 1956. Publicity Officer and Executive Auckland Softball Association. Treasurer Auckland Union of Christian Endeavour Societies. President of Inter-Branch of Junior Labour Party, Church Deacon.

Served on Executives of Evangelical Union, Historical Society and Debating Society, I.R.C. Member.

2nd year on P.P.T. studentship, 4 units last year, English and History II and Economics I at present.

Policy aimed at welfare of whole Association first and fair representation for all clubs. Will try to attend on invitation, all annual general meetings.

Reason for nomination not merely in qualifications or administrative experience. Mr W. H. Cooper, Head of Auckland Grammar School in Barry's testimonial says "Most courteous and pleasant in his dealings with people. He has impressed everyone by his sincerity and dependability and his great willingness to help others." It is for this reason we nominate him for the position of Societies Representative.

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BUSINESS MNG.

JOLYON FIRTH

Nominated by: D. Taylor
N. Maidment
P. Crookes

Qualified accountant, member of the Institute of Management and a part-timer finishing B.Com., Jolyon is a company secretary — to a large Auckland firm—and he has wide connections in the Auckland business community.

Since leaving school he has already held high office in several civic organisations and around 'varsity is best known as Business Manager of the highly-profitable 1958 Revue "Triptomania," 1957 Tournament Drama Festival Business Manager, Golf Club committeeman, Rowing Club treasurer and Debating Society adjudicator.

Jolyon wants to continue the sound business administration started by Arthur Young, give more consideration to part-timers, get better public relations, student discounts at city shops (these are long overdue), a more profitable capping week, etc.

Above all, he wants a lot more definite and effective "action" by exec. With the above record, his personal drive and extensive business experience, we feel he is well qualified for the job of Business Manager.

DOUG THURSTON

Nominated by: A. Holman
R. Moorhead
I. Pool

For Business Manager you need a man with vigour, clarity of thought and wide business experience, because the Association now is "big business." Douglas Thurston has all the qualifications.

B.Com. A.R.A.N.Z. — business experience includes —

Public and Legal Accountancy — three years as Company Secretary At present he is engaged on economic and cost research for the Auckland Hospital Board.

During his 6 years at University (all part time) Doug has been a member of Photo Sec. Auditor for this Club for two years as well as playing a prominent part in the Club working parties.

For long a staunch member of Field Club and at present Business Manager for the Club's Publication "Tane". He has also been Treasurer for Catholic Society and is now its president.

Doug attended Congress 1958 and was on Front-of-House for this year's successful Revue.

Some of his other interests include — Film Society, Cars and Music. This impressive record must convince you that Doug is the person best fitted for Business Manager.

EXECUTIVE

WOMEN'S HOUSE

JUDY WILSON

Nominated by: M. Chapman
S. Cox
J. Orbell

Women's House needs to be more than a committee of supper organisers and posy makers. Judy, a full time, third year Arts student, who has taken part in various aspects of student administration, would enlarge and consolidate this portfolio to enable University women to take a larger and more tangible part in Association affairs.

Judy has gained wide knowledge of Exec. business as *Craccum's* Executive reporter this year. She has been a member of *Craccum* (1957-58), Front of House committee (1956-7-8), Capping Band (1956-57) and Literary Club committee (1958). She has represented Auckland in Drama at Winter Tournament (1956) and is a member of Drama, Historical, International Relations and Literary clubs.

Exec. is in danger of becoming a collection of portfolio holders and Judy intends to cultivate closer relations between the Executive and the student body. With this aim, together with her wide experience, willingness to work and personal initiative, Judy will bring to Women's House Committee the new ideas that it so obviously needs.

MARIE FARMER

Nominated by: M. Stewart
R. Julian
G. Mansergh

As a present member of Womens House Committee and a student of very diverse interests, contacts and experience, Marie Farmer seems to me to possess the qualifications necessary for the competent handling of the portfolio of Chairman of Womens House Committee.

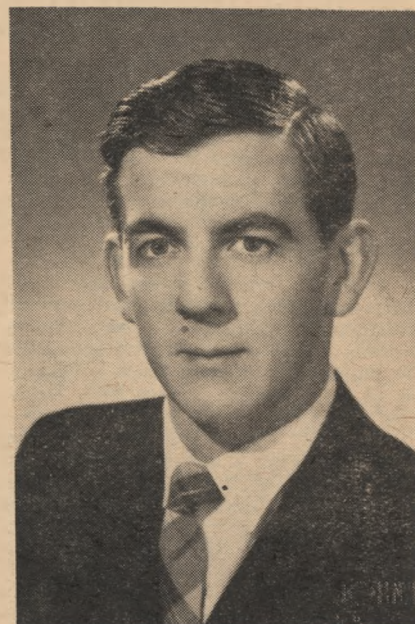
A full time student, in the third and final year of her B.Z. she will have adequate time to devote to her position on the Executive.

Marie came to A.U. in 1956 and since then her interest in all student activities has been manifest. She has been a well known and active member of Catholic Society 1956-57-58, Classical Society 1956-57-58, Modern Languages Club 1956-57, International Relations Club 1956-57-58, Literary Society 1956-57, has been connected with Revue and taken an active part on Process and all Capping Activities 1956-57-58.

Finally she went to Australia on Travel and Exchange 1957-58. And this, combined with her other activities should give her the broad and mature outlook needed by a member of the Executive.

Marie has been in charge of the Social Portfolio on W.H.C. and has thus the experience necessary for the organisation of and budgeting for the social functions which comprise a large proportion of W.H.C.'s duties. The portfolio demands that its holder be, firstly, a member of the Executive, secondly Chairman of a Committee and thirdly a member of Social Committee and I feel Marie is completely capable of handling these duties. With complete confidence I nominate her for this position.

ARTHUR YOUNG



Well done, Arthur!

Sports Reps.

David Robinson and Barbara Skudder returned unopposed.

MEN'S HOUSE

ED SAUL

Nominated by: A. Gurr
N. Maidment
R. Julian

Ed is a full-time student, now in his third year, pursuing a B.Sc. in natural science. His University record includes service on Men's House Committee 1957-58, Section Editor of *Craccum* 1958, Billing Committee at Winter Tournament 1957, Field Club Committee 1958, and membership of several other clubs.

M.H.C. is a standing committee which demands a full-time student for chairman, and continuity of tenure and policy. Ed, a full-timer for many years to come, has undertaken to complete the programme of renovations commenced in the past year, and to expand the Committee's activities where practicable, particularly in the social sphere.

I have worked with Ed on M.H.C. throughout the past year, and have never known him at a loss. His qualities as a conscientious, ingenious and thoughtful worker make him well equipped to fulfill the duties on Exec. and M.H.C. required of him in this portfolio.

TONY HOLMAN

Nominated by: O. Miller
G. Nixon
I. Pool

Although Tony was forced to withdraw from the Vice Presidential elections through an error, we nominate him for the other post for which he is most qualified.

His capabilities are more than suited to the post of M.H.C. Joined M.H.C. in 1955, became Secretary 1955-56, Treasurer 1956-57, Acting Chairman 1957.

Other fields are Assistant Returning Officer 1955, Capping Committee (front of House Manager) 1956. He attended Congress 1956 and 1957 and was appointed to the important and onerous task of organising this for January 1958.

He has also attended two Tournaments to give reports to N.Z.U.S.A. and knows most of the workings of that body.

Other interests include — Field Club, S.C.M. and I.R.C. (Committee 1956-57-58).

Formerly Division U, Tony this year is in the Grad Section at Training College I doing Economics III and Statistical Method towards completing B.Com. He has been both full time and part time and knows the problems of both. We recommend him to you.

PORTFOLIO SHAMBLES

Sir,

Surely the number of nominations for Societies Representatives on Exec. shows a dreadful weakness of the portfolio set-up. It must be obvious that several of the six candidates whose offer of service will have to be declined by the student electors will be men whom we cannot afford to be without on our governing body, and who are even more urgently required than others elected for easier to obtain positions, this being said with no disrespect to the latter. The only way found of avoiding this senseless cutting of noble throats is the you-stand-for-this-seat-and-I'll-go-for-that method so successfully undertaken last year, and that answer, depriving the mass of students of all say, is worse.

Let us get back to electoral sanity viz. a single list from which students may choose the ablest of themselves offering to administer their Association's affairs.

The whole present system ranks with the Fourth Republic as a classic example of able individuals being defeated by an over-mathematically logical government compartmentalization, and similar wind-ups for the two are to be expected.

—T. J. POWER

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ELECTIONS

WANTED

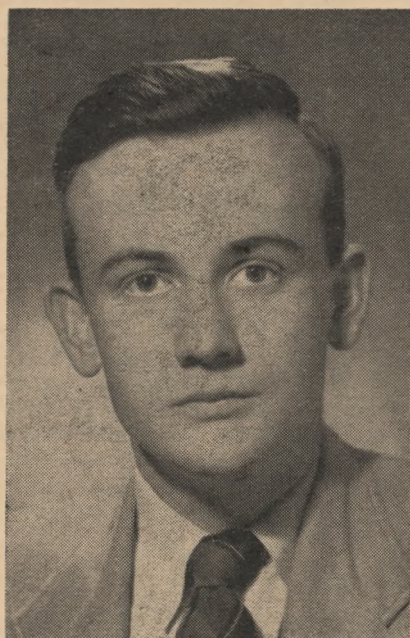
DELINQUENCY

Ascends President's Chair legally underage. Saved tyrannicide by advent of elections. Outgoing tenant collects rake-off from Bookies.

VICE—

Charged with Popery Mick strenuously denied anti-Papist activities. Will make a great Vice-President.

MICHAEL FREYNE



'Arrh, a faine fair foight it was!'

Social Controller

JOHN BAYLEY

Nominated by: A. Coulam
D. Taylor
J. Firth

John is probably best known to Students as Uncle Reggie of 'The Children's Hour' in last year's Revue, and as the Announcer in 'The Diggers' Session' in this year's Revue. He came to A.U. in 1952 and is a part-time Student doing History II this year to complete B.A. He has been President of the Debating Society and an active committee member of Drama Society, and has represented A.U. at Winter Tournament in both Drama and Debating. He is a keen tennis player and skiing, golf, and flying are some of his other interests.

John showed his interest in Student affairs in 1957 when he stood unsuccessfully for the position of Vice-President of the Students' Association. By offering his services again this year as Social Controller he has shown that his interest has not waned and he is keen to improve the organisation and variety of social activities at A.U., particularly Coffee Evenings. He feels that Students should be given more chances to meet each other and mix together more freely and he hopes to achieve this by a more imaginative and efficient organisation of social events.

We know that his likeable personality and wide experience of Student activities make him an ideal man for Social Controller and we urge you to support him.

RAY MOORHEAD

Nominated by: M. Chapman
J. Strevens
B. Snook

As Secretary of Social Committee, organiser of Freshers' Dance and Social Representative on Men's House Committee, Ray is well qualified for the position of Social Controller. A senior B.A. student with only one unit to complete his degree, he has both the enthusiasm and the willingness to work which is so necessary for the position of Social Controller.

Every Exec. member must have a knowledge of more than one aspect of student administration. Committees on which Ray has served are Social (1958), Men's House (1957-48) and Front of House (1957). Capping, too, is another interest — he was Advertising Manager, Capping Book (1957), Co-Controller Auditorium Acts (1958), member of Capping Book distribution committee (1956) and has taken a keen interest in Revue since 1955.

He has had Executive experience as a member of the Post Primary Students' Union at Training College. Club interests include tramping and Field Club.

Although Social portfolio has expanded this year Ray has several ideas for further widening its scope. He plans to run a 'Jazz Comes to College' based on that of the American Universities, and will organise block bookings so that students can get concessions to down town shows.

As outgoing Social Controller, I commend Ray and am confident he will prove an able portfolio holder.

EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

The election of executive portfolio holders will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 18th and 19th. Pelling will take place between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on both days. Booths will be located in the main foyer of the Arts block, in the cloisters, and at the School of Architecture. The electoral roll is posted in the cloisters and students are requested to ensure that their names are on it. Students whose names are not on the roll should see Mrs Chisholm immediately, otherwise they will be ineligible to vote.

John Hawthorn.
RETURNING OFFICER.

Student Liaison

OWEN MILLER

Nominated by: A. Holman
J. Whitelaw
D. Taylor

Owen's most important qualifications for this position are his likeable personality and his impressive administrative and academic record B.A. 1956, M.A. 1957 all within four years. House Committee 1955, Secretary of M.H.C. 1956, Chairman on Executive 1957, Committee Modern Languages Club 1956, Student-Chairman 1957, Orientation Committee 1957.

Owen has attended Easter Tournament 1957, Congress 1956 and was on Congress Committee 1958. Other interests include E.U. Catholic Society, Debating Club, Classical Society and Revue 1958.

Previously in Div. U now in Div. C Training College, he is on the P.P.T. Union Council. At Varsity he is doing Experimental Education for Dip. Ed. and Psychology I.

If elected, Owen intends to continue special assistance to Overseas students, to establish better relations between the student body and Executive, to press more firmly for the needs of students, investigate high fees, especially on behalf of part-timers.

We commend him to you for his well known honesty and his ability.

MURRAY CHAPMAN

Nominated by: I. Pool
P. Gordon
J. Wong

Murray has proved himself as an efficient Executive member (1957-58). This, added to specific experience on Student Liaison Committee (1958), as Freshers' Handbook Editor (1956), as organiser of the Overseas Student Concert this year and his ability to get on with people provides the pre-requisites for an able Student Liaison Officer. A part time, fifth year, Geography Honours student, Murray will be full time in 1959, which is essential for a successful Freshers' Fortnight.

Murray was Craccum Co-Editor, delegate and Vice-President N.Z.U. Student Press Council (1956-58), and Associate Editor New Zealand University Students Association (1956-57) and Congress (1958) supplements. He has been a member of Social, Capping, Orientation, Arts Festival, Winter Tournament, Students' Concessions, Congress Management and Front of House committees.

As Social Controller on Exec. (1957-58), he demonstrated his sound knowledge of Executive procedure and New Zealand University Students Association affairs.

With all this experience plus willingness to work and a sound policy, Murray will undoubtedly consolidate and expand this portfolio. As outgoing Student Liaison Officer, I recommend him to you.

CAPPING CONTROLLER

MAURIE TETLEY-JONES

Nominated by: W. McLennan
A. Morley
C. Judd

As past members of Capping Committee 1956-58 we are nominating Maurie because of his experience and ability in all phases of Capping. A Law student, Maurie came to University in 1955, the next year taking part in Revue and Procession.

Maurie was Assistant Returning Officer for the 1956 elections, that year helping with Procession organisation. He was Collection Manager for Capping Committee in 1957 and this year as a senior member of Capping, he was Revue Director and Chairman of the Committee that organised the successful Student Revue.

Maurie's interests are wide as his record bears out. He has taken part in Drama Club, Table Tennis and Golf and is a member of the Law Society. Other interests are Classical Music, Swimming and Skin-diving.

Capping Controller must have an extensive knowledge of Capping activities as well as tact and breadth of outlook. As an Executive member he must have interests in other fields and must have provided his ability in organisation. We believe Maurie has these qualities and we recommend him to you.

JOHN EWING

Nominated by: J. Tulloch
D. Currie
M. Atkinson

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to nominate as Capping Controller, John Ewing. Unfortunately John's extraordin-

ary organising ability is not as well known among Varsity students as it might be. Although one might be led to imagine that John is a quiet and reserved chap, his ability as a dynamic and enterprising leader has long been obvious among his associates. As a part time student for the last year and a half, John has had to devote all of his spare time to study, thus excluding him from partaking in the normal University activities to which a man of John's natural talent would find a compelling attraction.

Having worked side by side with him for the last eighteen months, I can fully recommend John as the candidate with whom your vote would not be wasted.

DAVID BINDON

Nominated by: R. Mulgan
B. Snook
G. Mansergh

In nominating David for Capping Controller, we are confident that, if elected, he will be an excellent administrator who will effectively co-ordinate the many Capping Activities.

This confidence is due largely to the unequalled success David made of Capping Book Distribution — he almost doubled the previous record of profits! Moreover, David has a personal contact with a large number of students. He is on Selwyn Society's Committee, a member of Swimming Club (playing Water Polo for Varsity), Modern Languages Club, Debating and Historical Societies, a past member of the Law Students Society, and a Craccum reporter. Outside interests include squash racquets, Auckland Choral Society, and he is on the Auckland Cricket Association.

A member of O'Rourke Hall, David is a B.A. student in his third year. He is a full-timer, which we consider a necessary pre-requisite for this portfolio. We are sure that if elected David will be a first-rate Capping Controller, and a valuable Executive member.

STANDING ROOM - 10 ONLY

THE REAL WAR

"I'll Soldier No More"

Some men go to war, serve in an army, kill when they are told to, and for the rest of their days look upon that time as the finest in their lives. The dull ones talk about it. The clever ones write books about it. A few take up commissions in the regular forces, and never grow out of confusing victory with glory. But there is another type. The man who does not look at the beauty of a gun, but is appalled by the corpse beside it; who is not taken in by the memories of promotions and leave-passes, but is more likely to remember a lonely man smoking in a corner, with no wife to write to, because someone else has staked a claim. M. K. Joseph remembers both pictures, but the second is the one that matters most to him.

Mr Joseph took a heavy task upon himself in writing of the *real* war. Not the war of fame winning dam-busters, but the war that the average fellow fought; the tedious, unintelligent routine of advance or retreat, the killing that was accepted like a poor breakfast, unpleasant but necessary, and the monotony of barrack-room conversation and opportune whoring. This is a lot more difficult to write about than the sex-dragons of "From Here to Eternity", or the dubious heroes of a "Caine Mutiny." And the wonderful thing is that he succeeded so well, making it all so readable, and ringing with sincerity. The success is due, if one must analyse, to the fact that this is a book about ordinary, and therefore very real, men. If anyone finds "I'll Soldier No More" uninteresting, it is probably because he is more fascinated by situation than by humanity. And it is because the human beings, the characterization, is so succinct, and so well handled, that the weaknesses in the plot are insignificant to any but those who must have their books cut to a pattern.

Characters

Particularly interesting is the contrast between the English Bonham and the Kiwi Gillies, both characteristic, in their way, of the two races. When one puts down the book, they are known thoroughly. If both were caught in a blitz, what each would do first when it was over is fairly clear. Bonham would be looking for what he had dropped, and Gillies for what other people had.

The detail in the book is remarkable. The panorama of army life is vivid, and the lead-slinger and guard-slacker, who appear for a couple of pages only, are, in their own frame, as well drawn as the main figures. Mr Joseph understands men. He knows what makes them tick, and he knows what stops them. He also knows how it feels to be between the two, and that probably, is how many men felt in wartime.

Careful Style

Well written war books are rare, but it is in the writing, that "I'll Soldier No More" really excels, and is streets ahead of the usual. The prose has a care and unobtrusive polish that is always commendable, and at its best, exceptional. The few pages describing a Christmas dawn, contain, in my opinion, finer writing than any other living New Zealand writer could produce. The frankness of language is also commendable. War is not much fun, and it is where it hits hardest that Joseph holds his best catches. I suppose a fairly obvious comparison, on the New Zealand field, is

with Robin Hyde's "Passport to Hell," and it is Hyde who suffers by it. The rapid transition of tenses, the "historic present," the short, terse sentences in action scenes, the unexpected turn of



Mr. Joseph: No Torch for Kiwiland

phrase, are devices that Joseph uses with subtlety and discretion. Probably because he is a poet, he handles words delicately. Clarke's despair; Bonham's faith; Gillies love life are given life in very good writing.

Of the novel generally, one of the most pleasing aspects is that New Zealand does not hold the stage. There are many writers in this country, and not a few readers, who ask that a New Zealander sit down to write with a greenstone tiki round his neck and the stink of freezing-works in his nostrils. But here is no pretentious lust for the local muse. (A weird sprite, who drives to the absurd excesses of "Birds in the Wilderness"). Joseph's mind is wider; he knows that men are men, and human nature unchanging, whether or not boyhoods were spent on deified mudflats, or the first kiss given under a pohutakawa tree. Hence he can treat a New Zealander as a man, and not as an export.

Every person genuinely interested in New Zealand writing should greet "I'll Soldier No More" with a sincere 'bravo'. It is well deserved. This is a book capable of standing by itself in any company, and that, when you come to think of it, cannot be said of most writing from this country.

—V.O'S.

The University Drama Society is reported to have shelved plans for producing "Romeo and Juliet" as main production this year and has changed to T. S. Eliot's "Family Reunion." While lamenting the unavoidable passing of Shakespeare, we can look forward with interest to the presentation of this play, with all its difficulties of production, and hope for something really worth while.

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Festival Profits to help Farmers ?

Well, the Festival has come and gone and culture has, for once, proved itself more profitable than agriculture. The whole show was perhaps a bit more middlebrow than last year's, which, together with a more careful organisation and less overcrowding of the programme, probably accounted for the profits.

Any Hope?

Now that the Festival is financial, would it be too much to ask the Festival Society to follow the lead given by some similar organisations overseas in letting students in to the performances at extremely cut rates? The local impressarios will no doubt mutter about the vast expense involved in getting artists from overseas — when, in fact, they are only benefiting from their proximity to the Kangaroo circuit. Mr Kerridge, of course, has recently built the Odeon, so perhaps we can excuse his prices. But perhaps the N.Z.B.S. might view the proposal with favour, especially as it might improve the audiences on the National Orchestra's off-nights. It might even improve the famous deadness of Town Hall audiences, though that is doubtful. Certainly there will be plenty of students who had to choose wisely before spending what money they could afford, and ended up out of pocket and out of humour at having missed something they would otherwise have attended.

—Stoney-Broke.

What do readers think about this? Opinions and suggestions will be welcomed.

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WORLD STUDENT DAY OF PRAYER

This week has been set aside by groups of Christian students in Universities throughout the world for the special remembrance of the international links of our religion. On Sunday the 22nd of this month students in almost every country in the world will be praying for one another to be given courage and guidance in facing the tremendous problems of our world. Racial problems in Africa, where a student's colour may cost him his education, and where only a very few have the chance to study at all; the resurgence of Islam in the Middle East and its atmosphere of imminent war; Europe where the clash of ideologies is so tangible that to profess Christianity in certain countries is to risk imprisonment; Asia, where students, denied religion, are so deeply involved in political theories and technical advance that they lose their understanding of the deeper needs of man, and where the handful who have the courage to be Christians must disentangle for themselves Christian theology and Western social mores; Latin America, where students are often fatally involved in the prevailing violent political unrest, and where the established Church too often takes advantage of its privileged position; and North America, where there are three million students, who could hardly care less about their neighbours' troubles, while the nation of which they will soon be the leaders continues its strange international policy.

In such a confused context as this the World's Student Christian Federation is doing its best to ensure by providing study material and Christian fellowship that some at least of the nations' coming leaders will have a true understanding of man's nature and destiny. Therefore, once in a year, it calls all students to pray for one another.

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Flightless Bard

The editors of Kiwi are still canvassing for copy, which was to have closed early this month. It is to be hoped that they are more optimistic than was Mr Richards last year in his lament for the University writer. However exaggerated his point of view may have been then, there was a fair bit of truth about most of it. It is a moot point whether the position has changed to any great extent this year.

In recent years the literary-minded students of the University have certainly not lacked facilities for the publication of work. *Kiwi* has appeared twice since 1952, and *Craccum* has run literary supplements in alternate years. *Nucleus* (a more independent publication) made its appearance last year

DOWN GOES THE NOVEL

'Rest in Peace' says A.G.M.

The decadence of literature today is often spoken of as a mere cyclic depression which will be superseded by a renaissance of valuable writing. It will not, however: for the novel this is the sickness of death. That novels should disappear before drama or painting—both of which are close to the end of their allotted span—seems contradictory, but the causes are reasonably obvious.

The work of Thomas Hardy illustrates creative writing's decline, which started about his time. Hardy's stories—apart from being much too long—would be admirably suited to any of the better women's magazines. The only discrepancy is in the ending: instead of a scene of domestic felicity Hardy devotes the final two pages to killing his characters in divers ingenious ways. This heartless behaviour alienated thousands of petty minds unable to recognise the eternal truths thus represented. Not so the critics: as was anticipated they applauded strenuously. For critics, as Hardy well knew are gentlemen of incurable sentimentality, and it is axiomatic with them that any writer who is not blatantly commercial must be holding nobly true to his ideals and to his art.

Hardy eventually lapsed into senile decay and joined the ranks of those who believed in Hardy the Great Writer; but he had not lived in vain. He had established the interesting fact that the affection of a consistent and unflagging pessimism will secure not only immortality but a dependable income. Of course any more modern practitioner of the art using Hardy's technique would fail miserably even if he had Hardy's business acumen. The mere hanging of a Tess or drowning of a Eustacia today would not sell a book to the most cultured of literati.

today do not shed light upon reality, but that their readers are realising that there is no reality to be illuminated. The pretence has gone on too long. What was once high drama is, in the changing view of human psychology, low farce. Tragedy demands the pitting of human will against the gods or against other conflicting wills. Now that even the most conservative are dimly beginning to realize that free will and potent gods are both carefully propagated fictions, tragedy in literature is a spent force. Belief in the occurrence of the improbable — is out of place in a scientific philosophy and a materialist logos.

Cynical of fate and destiny or of heroic struggle between virtue and sin, the greatest literature today arouses in us little more than an amused contempt. When we realize that Hamlet, Jude, Tess and Richard Feverel could have resolved their respective dilemmas by thinking sensibly for ten minutes, we can hardly be expected to take their agonized introversion seriously. The great men in our literature were trying with extreme earnestness to penetrate beneath the superficial without realizing that there is nothing beneath. They were trying to reveal the nature of man without realizing that man has no nature; trying to disclose the end and the order without realising that there are no aims and there is no pervasive order.

'Tis all a cheat . . .

Literature will not, of course, die without a struggle. The sycophants and camp followers, watching with alarm their dwindling livelihood, maintain with pathetic eagerness the pretence that they are dealing with something important and meaningful. In every campus in the land, students and lecturers cynically pay foolscap homage to the dead god. Through the columns of the periodicals, we hear the hollow cry of the writers' cortege. They discuss the sublimity of Forster's symbolism, the insight of Lawrence; they wax rapturous over Green, Compton-Burnett and Bowen. Unfortunately they lack conviction.

Poetry may last a little longer — poets can take pleasure in chiming one word against another without the excuse of truth or a Message. But it too will go. Writing is a bitter, defeated anachronism in a world that has grown out of such pretty toys.

—A.G.M.

An eyeful of Skiffle

Wanted—guitar player, to join young skiffle group in Onehunga. Phone or write . . . This advertisement, which appeared not so long ago in the classified ads of the Auckland Star, points to an interesting trend in Auckland played music. Skiffle, which appeared a year or two ago in this country, has grown in popularity. (Varsity students may remember its being played at the College's first Jazz Concert in 1956.) Much of its appeal stems from the fact that it contrasts with the more strident style of rock 'n roll music.

Perhaps the best way to talk about skiffle would be to explain basically what it is, who it is played by, and the instruments involved. Most people will have a rough idea what it sounds like from records of such people as Lonie Donegan and parodist Freberg. The basic material from the rhythmic work song and from ballads, either indigenous (negro and white ballads) or those brought in with the various settling peoples. The strong rhythmic base for the songs derive both from the rhythmic work song and from Negro rhythmic chants, with blues, Dixie and race music exerting some influence on the modern forms. Most skiffle groups start with this and may branch out into calypso-style ballads, which is a fairly easy transition, and, if the group has a fairly good librettist, the group may do parody songs and satirical songs as well. Rock'n'roll style is not excluded.

Personnel

The shape of the particular group varies with the material available, but most groups number about 5 players, two on guitars, one on the washboard, which is played with thimbles or brushes, and one on the home-made one-string bass. The fifth player may simply be the vocalist — generally a tenor — or he may play ukulele, banjo or bottle. The guitars play chords on or off the beat, and the washboard provides strong-beat ground work, assisting the bass, which is able to move about more and observe a more varied beat. Over this fairly simple ground-work, the tenor solo vocalist moves with the lines of the ballad, while the other players join in unison or harmony on the repeated lines of the one or two-line refrain. At some stage in the song, the tenor leaves the main melodic line, either in chorus or verse, to float

over with improvised descant. Solo passages for the instruments are rare, though at the lead-in to the song or in between verses, the rhythm may be held by any one or more of the instrumentalists, mainly guitar or bass.

True "hams"

The result of all this is essentially chamber music: most of the groups exist just for the pure fun of playing together, so, despite the occasional appearance at parties or as guest artists at a dance, they are essentially amateur musicians playing at home. Playing the instrument does not demand virtuosity or more pretentious forms of music (classical chamber music, jazz ensemble) and the instruments are generally fairly cheap. There is plenty of scope for arrangement and creative improvisation in the ensemble playing and room for a fair degree of skill. Skiffle has more to its lyrics than rock'n roll, which has only a tenuous connection with folk music, and does not depend for most of its effect on modern tinny recording techniques.

The main drawback to skiffle seems to be that the resources are a little limited and that the playing soon becomes monotonous. But within reason, the same might be said of Elizabethan virginals and viols. Certainly there is plenty of scope for someone with musical flair to provide originality and good music. Skiffle may even be on the way to changing N.Z.'s Maori music. Certainly the not-too-dominant skiffle beat would seem to be able to fit in with modern action songs.

Next issue "Craccum" hopes to publish an interview with several students who took to playing skiffle when in England and made appearances there.

—Lit. & Arts Ed.

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DISARMAMENT

LOOKING LEFT

"Disarmament — why should we bother to enter into over-academic maundering on the over-done subject? No one honestly thinks that, even if the majority of the population were convinced of the necessity and assured of the possibility of disarmament, the politicians would as much listen to them. In these progressive times, we have cast aside the old-fashioned superstition that there ought to be open diplomacy: now at the negotiation tables and at the top-level talks they close the doors to the press and do what they please, irrespective of what everybody else wants. Democracy is, of course, a noble ideal but when it comes to trifling matters like whether or not the world will commit nuclear suicide, or whether or not it will disarm, you and I — the general public — do not need to know what is going on. We elect our government every three years: that we never get the slightest inkling of how our government is saving the world from annihilation before the polls is only a side issue, a red-herring raised by dangerous left wing fanatics to stir up feeling against the status quo.

The only way to get disarmament is to make the politicians responsible to the people: in other words, to apply the democracy we are supposed to possess on an international level. We can only do this by bringing into being an elective world federal government: a body of politicians that is *compelled* to do its business in public because it is controlled by the public — not by the General Staff, the Foreign Office, or the Employers' Association. And politicians *will* only do our will if we *compel* them to do it."

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Copy for the next issue of "Craccum" will close on **TUESDAY, 1st July,** at 7 p.m. Please place contributions in "Craccum" box on Men's Reading Room door.

Students —

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Conservative Thoughts

"A most obvious fact regarding proposed world disarmament today, but one which Westerners generally admit only guiltily, is that "Ban the Bomb", however easy a slogan for the proletariat assimilate, is not a sufficient answer to the problem. Armies must be reduced and, preferably, in the long run, eliminated. China and Russia together simply have numbers far too great for the West. MacMillan's analogy of the light-weight, in the ring with the heavy-weight, saying "We've both pistols here, but I'm not going to use mine if you don't use yours," and the heavy weight saying "Right!" and promptly hitting him for six, is valid. And we must realize that if after a World War III, the Earth were ruled by a totalitarian government with ultimate recourse to nuclear weapons, there would be no deliverance short of Martians arriving.

Given, then, that as a matter of expediency, a simple prohibition of nuclear weapons ensures our defeat and therefore is unacceptable, is this something rather shameful to admit? No. Apart from considerations of means justifying ends, surely there is no separate morality for H-Bombs, the most powerful weapons currently available. I question whether a nuclear war, if "clean" bombs were used, would be greatly less destructive or costly in human lives than a 1958 "conventional" one. In the first, the affair would take a week, and the industrial hearts of Russia and America would be destroyed. In the second, the catastrophe would last perhaps nine months, Western Europe would be the battleground for the third time in less than half a century, and we would assuredly lose. H-Bombs are immoral, but are not gas, napalm, and institutions like Buchenwald also? How "conventional" can we get?"

a tale for baby

"I shall tell you a fairy story, Baby dear", said Granny, rocking rhythmically backwards and forwards. Baby assented to this proposal without notable enthusiasm. "Once," said Granny undeterred, "there were two great nations which both had nuclear weapons because both were too afraid to be the one without them. Neither wanted war because they wanted to stay alive; but they could not abandon the bomb independently in case they were then wiped out. Nor could they search land and sea to ensure that the enemy would keep to an agreement and not retain the odd missile. And it was all made worse by Wicked Foster Dulles . . ."

Here Baby spat on the floor and shook his tiny fist, and was, as expected, rewarded with a sweet.

"Further," said Granny, "if a war started, your weapons could not help you, they could only kill the innocent on the other side. So it would be criminal and stupid to use them. Thus we had atomic arms which are expensive to manufacture, futile to maintain, and impossible to abandon. Also, stock piles were continually replenished at huge cost in case either fell behind. This continued until the fools on both sides realised that world government *might* be the answer. They surrendered their sovereignty as a young girl her chastity with outward reluctance and inward joy. Then they all lived happily ever afterwards."

"I do not consider that story very interesting," said Baby coldly. "Or true," he added, as an afterthought.

Today, the world is facing many great crises, but perhaps the most important of all is how to survive the threat of total extinction from the result of a nuclear war between the great powers. This article will present the views of a few students on the problem of disarmament and then an attempt will be made to sum up and present a possible solution to the problem which must be solved sooner or later, if life on this planet is to be safeguarded.

The Christian Viewpoint

"There are any number of schemes for bettering the condition of the world which have as their basis the assumption that men are basically good, however "basically" may be understood. In their outworking the common factor which wrecks them all is the almost inevitable misuse of power by those who have it. Socialism and World Federation are no better in this respect than Capitalism or Feudalism, and probably afford greater opportunity for men who would seek to dominate the minds of others.

It is far better to throw over this unjustified assumption, and admit that men are evil, that we are evil, and that our main concern is not the betterment of the world, but security and £100 extra in salary for next year. In view of this, I cannot see that exhortations to put the Soviet "on trust" have more sentimental value. Nor can I see that we have any right to enjoy the benefits of a free society, a society which only exists because it has defended itself by force in the past, while we deny it the right to defend itself in the future.

But the horror and carnage of war, rendering it almost suicidal in our age, argue that the preservation of peace, while not to be preferred to the preservation of freedom, is to be valued highly.

For the rest; the Christian regards his attempts at bettering the lot of man as having value only as they point men to salvation in Christ reaching to the world to come, and sets his hope beyond the grave and in the return of Christ. This is *not* escapism, it is the only position that can look facts in the face, and go forward to face the world and its problems, expecting frustrations, and not being deterred by them."

CONTEMPORARY PRINTS

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DISARMAMENT ?

Well, what conclusions can be drawn from these four divergent articles? I think that all four have elements of truth in them, but they fail to really say how they would deal with the situation in the world of today.

I feel that we can at least agree with the final article's condemnation of man as being evil. Over the centuries, man's lust for power, and the fact that power corrupts, not forgetting the desire of man to be one up on his neighbour, has proved to us the sinfulness of man. But it is not enough to say that and then think that the problem is answered. The fourth article mentions that it would be foolish to put the "Soviet on trust." While there is some truth in this, ought we to be less critical of the United States which, through the mouth of her foreign secretary, has said that she will *never* make peace with Russia? Now to the problem of disarmament. As the second article implies, no-one can believe that war is a "good thing", but the problem is, how to prevent men from fighting. There are numerous ways suggested. The first article suggests world federalism, which, however lofty an ideal, has little practicability in a world where even the "United Nations" squabble. Then there is the

system that we have at present — that of nuclear weapons as deterrents. But this system is too easily ruined — one burst of temper by (probably) an unimportant official could blow up civilization. No, the problem of disarmament must be faced more realistically than it is being faced at present, and the first thing ALL countries should do is to think to themselves — "in what way can I best stop a nuclear war." Then a conference could be arranged, and nuclear armaments destroyed. Although, as the second article says, this still leaves the conventional weapons, at least a start would have been made and a "snow ball" effect could one day result in peaceful co-existence of East and West — then one government might be practicable, and certainly, conversion of the whole world to Christianity could be attempted. Mere conjecture? Ridiculous reasoning? But as the second article suggests, an entirely new system of reasoning is necessary to combat this crucial problem of disarmament.

(Contributors: O. J. Gager, T. J. Power, A. G. MacDonald, and J. Maindonald; edited by J. L. Hunt).