

OUR ARTISTIC SENSES

When I set off home on July 24 I was already preparing a defence of the topic "That art without counsel is preferable to a council without art". This was to be debated by three students and three councillors on Sunday night.

That night and next morning I wrote what is printed below — only to be told by some hangers-on, "Oh, we cancelled the debate last night".

There has been a call, in student letters and from the public itself, for someone to speak his mind on Art, Artists and Councillors.

I note that Artists and Councillors do not overlap, and that while it is usual to criticise artists, civic leaders remain unchallenged.

No man has a right to place himself above the law. But he is entitled to judgment by his peers. Laymen are not asked to favour us with an opinion on surgery or architecture — why can we not extend this courtesy to the artist, who expresses himself as individually as a bridge-builder or a Rugby selector.

Only a god could be so confident as to criticise every aspect of expression. But then today we worship a trinity of Beer, Horse Racing and Rugby. So a man expert in these three could speak as a god.

Listening to goings on in the Big Smoke I deduce the following requirements for an art expert.

1. He must be a City councillor.
2. He must appreciate the supreme value and beauty of a Pound Note.
3. He must have a practical knowledge of all things because Has hHas Been There, unsuccessfully.

What is art?

That could be discussed until the cows come home. Art is simply the work of the artist.

What is an artist?

Van Loon tells us: "A painter is someone who says I think I can see, and then reveals that he thinks he has seen in such a way that if our eyes are tuned to his, we, too, can see".

A musician says "I think I can hear".

Poet: "I think this is the way I can best express my dreams in a rhythm".

Novelist: "Let me tell you a story as I imagine it happens".

Now arises an interesting comparison, that of artist and city councillor. So often the "civic" omits to think, and then rams down our throats "This is important — that is what is right".

"Our football allows no colour bar".

"We will send no Maoris to South Africa".

When an artist is not being criticised, he is being told what, when, where and how he should create.

Of all the articles of faith

ball, gambling, backbiting, boozing, that we do not know how to tune our senses to the artists.

We know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

In fifty years we will find out whether the bewildering art of our contemporaries is a waste of time, or if we are as foolish as those who objected to Bach. One thing is certain, it is not by our sportsmen or our civic leaders we shall be judged: it is by our artists and our art that we shall be remembered.

And it is not in the Council Chambers but in the University Buildings that the thoughts and inspirations of those artists will germinate.

"Let us look forward to a day when all men are artists, and we have a world that shall create beauty out of the sheer joy of being alive".

OBITUARY

On Saturday, July 20, Barry Dibble died at the Mater Hospital. Barry was a 24-year-old commerce student and Business Manager for Capping '63. The Association has lost a capable and willing member who did a great deal to make this year's Capping a success. Those of us who knew him and worked with him have lost a good friend.

Craccum extends its sympathy to his relatives and friends.

ELAM EXHIBITION

The Second Exhibition of representative Elam abstract paintings is now in progress in the Coffee Bar. It has been generally agreed that the first such Exhibition was not a success. There were several reasons for this. The paintings had been hung with more haste than artistry. As you may recall, some were merely left leaning against a table leg. It was also the first term, so there was little work from which to choose. The lighting was, and still is, poor.

This Exhibition shows great improvement over the last. There was a real attempt to hang these paintings with reasonable care, even though there are no rails and masking tape had to be used. The exterior walls are unfortunately too damp for the purpose. While the last exhibited paintings were anonymous, these now being shown are catalogued, with a price listing, and several have already been sold. Elam will next month stage a joint exhibition with Ilam of Christchurch at the Arts Festival and Winter Tournament in Dunedin.

The paintings in the Coffee Bar were selected by a committee of Elam lecturers and senior students, many of whose paintings appear. It is hoped that in future the committee will consist only of lecturers and the occasional interested professional.

An interesting point about the showing is the variety of media used. They range from the tinted shellac used by John Perry in No. 10 to a new plastic resin quick-drying paint used by Brenda Hartill in Nos. 2 and 3 and by Susan

Watson in Nos. 11 and 12. One also sees poster paints, water colours and ordinary household enamel. There seems to be little emphasis placed on the figure in this exhibition, and the attendance at life drawing classes is not compulsory. It is believed that things other than the figure exist in painting.

Robert Ellis, senior lecturer, in his introduction to the catalogue, wrote that several of the rigid academic conventions have been abandoned in their more tolerant system of teaching. I believe, however, that a substantial basic knowledge of fundamentals is necessary before the student branches out into more abstract work. Students are encouraged to express themselves in poetry and prose as well as on canvas. The result is the book now on sale for 3/- in the Coffee Bar.

The Elam School of Fine Arts is at last producing sincere, talented and dedicated students who should substantially boost the level of "New Zealand Art" in the next 20 years.

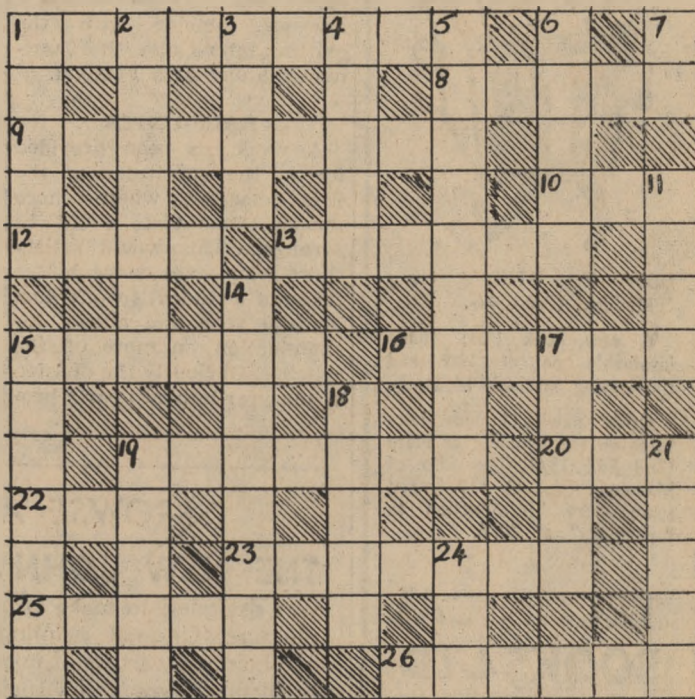
CROSSWORD OF THE MOMENT

ACROSS

- 1 What one should get at Varsity.
- 8 Lachrymose vegetable.
- 9 So many girls look thus.
- 10 Equine exhortation.
- 12 Criticism steps on them.
- 13 Noted art critic (be careful).
- 15 Describes time spent sitting in Coffee Bar.
- 16 Craccum Editor's place in terms' tests.
- 19 Found in staple diet.
- 20 Caviar.
- 22 Beer may come in this.
- 23 Minister of War.
- 25 Ill-fated locally written show.
- 26 Nautical Chris.

DOWN

- 1 Landlord may do this to you.
- 2 Describes most lectures.
- 3 Darwinian ancestors.
- 4 Architects get this way when criticised.
- 5 Famed, like Ward, perhaps.
- 6 It happened at Sebastopol.
- 7 Not out.
- 11 Inartistic anagrammatic meal.



- 14 Happens to bottles of beer.
- 15 Sporadic student paper.
- 17 Local body body.
- 18 What you gave on Aug. 1.
- 19 How to leave lecture before time.
- 21 Found in exam papers.
- 24 A French female one.

UNIVERSITY SEMESTERS?

A Proposal

If the University's significant function can be considered as the production of mature, intelligent and useful citizens, it is logical that to achieve these ends the University should operate under conditions consistent with the aims. I fail to observe anything intelligent in the existing division of the academic year, and it is not hard to show that a better system is possible.

We are now studying under an outgrowth of the Secondary School year, a variation of it that seemed suitable to a 25-week lecture-year. This is proving to be far from adequate, and any refinements that could be made will not greatly improve it. Perhaps if we remove the shackles of this inheritance from Secondary Schools we may help to remove some of the other inherited tendencies that blight higher learning.

Can there be another State on earth with such a broken year, where a national holiday is declared on the slightest pretext? By some curious lack of skill the academic year has been further divided by these statutory holidays into the most awkward intervals possible. Far from providing a some-time needed break, they frustrate anyone who might otherwise take advantage of them by occurring just before or during a terms-test season, immediately prior to exams, and soon after the start of a term or just before a long vacation. The year 1962 provides a fine example, where the five days of Easter were followed by two lecture days divided by Anzac Day; one week later Capping celebrations commenced, then, following the three-week May vaca-

tion, only one week of lectures preceded Queen's Birthday weekend.

PROPOSAL OUTLINE

The proposed scheme is based on 1963 and the lecture year consists of 24 weeks divided into two semesters.

Commencement is 14 weeks before Queen's Birthday, which would be the last Monday in February, and the full academic year occupies 35 weeks. An Easter recess of ten days will divide the first semester in varying proportions ranging from 4-8 to 8-4.

Capping could be held either at the end of the year (there are seven weeks available after completion of exams) or in the last week of the mid-year vacation.

COMPARISON WITH EXISTING SYSTEM

At present we have a 25-week lecture year, but this does not detract from the proposal since we now lose from that lecture-year two days at Easter, Anzac Day (five years in seven), Queen's Birthday, and an equivalent of at least one day in Capping week.

By sensible interpolation we make Easter a mid-semester recess, and on the whole have a shorter, more efficient academic year. Both mid-semester recesses coincide with the existing inter-University Tournaments and Arts Festival.

HALF-UNITS

A week has been provided for at the conclusion of the first semester, where more formal terms tests could be arranged. This would satisfy those who want more notice taken of a student's work during the year and allows for examination on more of the syllabus. Obviously the division of the year into two parts pro-

vides for the growing need for half-units.

Many subjects either require students at higher levels to take collateral courses, given by other departments as part of a unit, for which the student gets no recognition. Also, some departments duplicate courses given as portions of units in other departments and examine on these related topics themselves. Rather than completing a full unit, only a portion of which is related to his major subject, a student would benefit by completing two appropriate half-units.

The following are suggestions for half-units.

- (i) Statistics and Calculus for Economics.
- (ii) Statistics and Organic Chemistry for Geology and Zoology.
- (iii) Ancient History (Greek) and Greek Language for Philosophy.
- (iv) Set Theory and Perception (Psychology) for Philosophy.
- (v) Italian (or German) and Contemporary History for Music.
- (vi) Portions of Pure and Applied Mathematics for Physics.
- (vii) Heat, Light and Sound and Theory of Fine Arts for Architecture.

OBJECTIVE

During the next fortnight a sample poll will be taken with voting power based on a student's theoretical comprehension of the advantages of a change. If results are encouraging the proposal may be taken further and a wider opinion sought.

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LETTERS TO THE

Dear Sir,

As one who saw Revue both in Auckland and in Hamilton, upon reading Allan Jones' article in Craccum VIII, I felt it was time another opinion of the standard of production in Hamilton was required.

In Auckland it was excellent; in Hamilton, only "good".

The Founders' Theatre has very absorbent acoustics which did not help the principals, who could scarcely be heard above the orchestra. The balance achieved in Auckland by the use of microphones, especially the wireless one used by some of the principals, was notable by its absence.

It is odd that microphones could not have been used in Hamilton, for the PA system there is extremely flexible; sockets for mikes are placed all around the stage corresponding to a set in the projection box with wander plugs to the five inputs on the amplifier.

Inquiring, I was informed that the stage sockets did not match those in the projection box correctly. However, surely this could have been sorted out by the Saturday night, and the small amount of trouble involved would have been well worth the while.

In any case, a greater balance with the orchestra could have been achieved if the pit had been lowered somewhat, allowing the words and singing to carry over the top, instead the band seemed deafening and the singing inaudible.

In several places the script was altered to make it more topical — the piece lost by it. Mr X seemed to hesitate over the line "And Hugh Wrights have lost half their business", and the effect was almost completely lost.

Why the construction gang decided to change "Dudley" to "Colin" is something I would not understand. (I believe some of the chain-gang could not, either.) The result was a hesitant and almost inaudible version of what had been a particularly successful number in Auckland. To cap it all, one of the most promising numbers near nigh ruined.

It has been mentioned in an earlier article on the trip to Hamilton by Revue about the hospitality of Mr C. L. Innes and his product (Waikato ★★★★★). It would be unreasonable to expect a cast which is somewhat "under the affluence" to put on a revue proficiently. Surely in future the flow of good cheer could wait till after the performance?

The lighting also did not come up to the standard set in Auckland. It should be remembered that the primary object of stage lighting is to make the set and actors visible to the audience; only then to add where possible to the mood and atmosphere of the production. ("Oh Dad Poor Dad" is a good example of

how effective this can be.) This was well effected in Auckland — what of Hamilton? On many occasions the stage was simply too dim for the actors to be seen clearly. The tracking spots, while generally all right, failed to spot the guitar duo in "Roumania", and the emphasis which should have been on

"Nuts" Tour

them was lacking. Already stripped of their microphones, they were now to lose their light. The result? Another top line number in Auckland had become a thin and hollow singsong accompanied by slick dancing, which alone failed to suffer from lack of mikes and lights.

Revue may have been appreciated in Hamilton, it may have been good in Hamilton, but if the unstinted praise in Craccum is correct, how much greater would that praise be if the few important technicalities had not been overlooked.

It should also be remembered that Hamilton has only just got its Founders' Hall and has not yet developed the selectivity of Auckland audiences. Next year things will be different and Revue will need to be tidied up on its trip south if it is to continue to make the profit that it did last year.

If the standard of the production in Auckland can be maintained for Hamilton's benefit, I see no reason why it should not be able to fill the Founders' Hall for three nights next year and hasten the Building Fund along even more than it did this year.

—Y. J. Roxborough

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THE EDITOR

Student Advertising

Dear Sir,

I wish to correct the impression given in a part of the Exec Notes in the last issue of *Craccum*. You mentioned that advertising rates had been reduced by 2s 6d per column inch. This was correct, but you should have mentioned that the reduced rates were for STUDENTS ONLY.

For the benefit of any students who may be interested in advertising in *Craccum*, I am listing the rates for students' advertisements.

Line Advertisements:

9d per line. Classified advertisements of more than five lines (about 30 words) will be charged at the inch rate and spaced to the nearest 1/4-inch.

Display Advertisements:

For each of the first 10 column inches: 6s 6d.

For each of the next 10 column inches: 8s 6d.

I will be glad to discuss advertising space with any students who are interested in placing an advertisement. I would like to thank you for the opportunity of informing readers about advertising rates.

—Murray S. McInman
Advertising Officer

Exam Papers

Dear Sir,

Up until about two years ago, old exam papers were sold by the University office. This service is no longer available.

A reliable source has informed me that one of the main reasons for this is the lack of storage space for the papers in the inquiries area of Mt. Pleasant and the inconvenience and loss in handling them.

May I ask when are the University authorities going to realise their true responsibilities? Too often we have this attitude that the administration comes first for the administration's sake. The administration of the University is there to provide a service for the students. Therefore, let such a service be provided.

The Executive, the so-called representatives of the students, would also be well advised to look into this matter and to keep pressing the administration until something is forthcoming. This is a job for the Exec Education Sub-committee, which should have been formed by now.

—O'Deran



TO CORRESPONDENT "ARION"

Thank you for your letter, which we read with due amusement. However, as the first paragraph was, *prima facie*, libel in all its glory, we regret that we cannot print it for the further edification of our readers. Sorry, but we're still a little sensitive about these things, you know.—Ed.

Sex and Student Humour

Dear Sir,

In your editorial to *Craccum* VIII you criticise 'Mr Pearce's remarks on the subject of the City Council's projected donation to the Student Union Building Fund'.

You go on to ask, 'How often have you heard anyone discussing sex in the Caf, or in the Coffee Bar, or around Varsity generally? It's not common to hear people telling dirty jokes either, is it? Much more often you hear . . .'

Sir, I, too, 'regret the precedent being given to the city of Auckland', but I feel that in fairness to Mr Pearce you should remember that the students of this University at their last AGM passed a motion (reported *Craccum* IV, page 13, column 4, para. 3), 'That sex be officially recognised as the fittest subject for university humour'.

I beg you, sir, not to let yourself be deluded as to the true situation. (Read Katipo's column occasionally.)

Yours,

—R. J. Lowe

COOK ISLANDS POLICY

CRACCUM 3
MONDAY AUGUST 5 1963

Continuing his one-man campaign for recognition of basic failings in the present economy of the Cook Islands, Mr Noel Holmes of the 'Auckland Star' gave an address at the University recently on the future prospects of the 19,000 Cook Islanders living on these tiny pieces of land scattered through 850,000 square miles of the Pacific.

It was a shame that Mr Holmes was speaking during mid-term break, when most students were away from University, for he put forward his case with conviction and in simple terms which left no doubt as to the gravity and immediacy of the problem.

A Need for Revision

New Zealand first became responsible for the Cooks, a 'group' in little more than name, when Prime Minister Seddon persuaded the British Government to hand the islands over in 1901 as part of NZ's planned Pacific Empire.

The early enthusiasm soon dwindled, however, together with hopes of turning the islands into a prosperous little colony of Kiwis, and NZ's major achievement at this time was to replace the local administrative hierarchy, previously utilised with considerable success by the British Administration, with a minor bureaucracy of NZ officials; the ultimate result being the decay of the existing social order and the mana of the people's accepted leaders.

Land tenure was revised on the European model of hereditary succession, and since marriage frequently took place between inhabitants of different islands, there ensued a wholesale subdivision of ownership and a situation which even to a Maori Land Court would have appeared chaotic.

During this period up to 1935, an export trade of oranges grew up. These oranges had been introduced to the islands in the last century, and it was simply a matter of picking the fruit and sending it off to NZ. A very good trade was established for several years, but with little attention the trees deteriorated, and by 1935 the situation was so critical that a Parliamentary Inquiry was set up to examine conditions in the Islands. Their recommendation was the Citrus Replanting Scheme (which is causing all the fuss at the moment) and a mere twelve years and one World War later the Government began to put it into operation.

The net result is that in 1963 the citrus industry is the major contributor to the Cook Islands economy; and while almost half of the growers on Rarotonga are free of debt, on the other islands 469 growers out of 480 still owe

money under the scheme.

As Sir Leon Gotz remarks, 'It is unfortunate that Cook Islands citrus, through no fault of its own, does not appeal to every palate in this country', but it was even more unfortunate that the NZ Government pushed on inflexibly with a type of fruit for which little demand exists.

Realising this several years ago, NZ finally persuaded Greggs to set up a juice cannery at Rarotonga, and now at last a market is practically assured for all oranges produced. Things are better than they might otherwise have been, Watties are no doubt regretting a lost opportunity, and 110 growers are successfully established.

Nevertheless, for the majority of those taking part in the Government-backed scheme, there is little hope of emerging debt-free from the economic morass into which they have been plunged.

These growers are obliged to have their trees tended (including spraying and manuring) by local government employees at a fixed charge, and are also obliged to put half the proceeds from the sale of fruit towards paying off debts they have already incurred. What is left is their to spend on riotous living!

All growers on islands apart from Rarotonga must sell to the cannery at 11/8 per case (of which 5/10 has to pay off their debt), and so they must pay for the cultivation done for them by the Government out of the remaining 5/10.

Working on the most recent official figures for average costs per case, the Government charge to growers on Aitutaki is 5/7, leaving a net profit of 3d per case; and growers on Rarotonga are even more fortunate. But on Mauke and Atiu the average charges are 9/- and 10/6½ per case respectively, to be paid out of the last 5/10. In effect, then, if we assumed that no other costs at all were involved, the actual reduction in the debt would be 2/8 or 1/1½ per case instead of the intended 5/10, with the return to the producer being nonexistent. When living expenses are also taken into account, the book debt does, in fact, increase.

It is no doubt now clear why the Minister's recent magnanimous concessions were not very enthusiastically received. Debts caused by the Citrus Replanting Scheme are even now

around £200,000 and almost 600 people are involved. Would it not therefore seem fair to assume that in its present form the scheme is a failure?

Since a major part of the Cook Islands economy depends upon the citrus industry, the situation is of crucial importance to the future welfare of all the inhabitants. The NZ subsidy has already shot up to £1m. a year, plans are going ahead for the construction of several new schools, but the basic problems still remain—how can the Cook Islands be made into an efficient economic unit? And how in the meantime can the Cook Islanders develop the type of civilised life they appear to desire? Many have already come to NZ, and with the increasing growth of population many more will be obliged to come. At present, however, the morale of the people would surely be revived somewhat if the existing system of exploitation was abolished. One can only admire Noel Holmes for the stand he has taken in bringing this matter to the notice of every New Zealander, and hope that his efforts, together with our own, will force the Government at least into admitting the existence of a Cook Islands Problem.

—Garth Evans

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ELAM BUILDING

The tragedy of this building is its inevitability.

Auckland is a city for which the population has little affection or affiliation. We wilfully disassociate ourselves from the City and any urbanity by proclaiming vast areas of adjacent bush and farmland and sporadic housing as the alternative cities of Tkapuna, Waitakere and Churchill. We confuse the subdivision of rural countryside with progress and the ensuing by-law housing with cities.

The patterns which have emerged in our disinherited, disassociated hinterland, conditioned by land speculation, minimum by-law requirements and financial expediency, have become not only firmly entrenched but also are now considered to be normal and even desirable. This pattern is characterised by selfish if not arrogant siting, triviality of adornment, makeshift materials with token gestures to beauty and permanence.

The tragedy of the Elam School of Fine Arts building is that it embodies much of the trappings of this mediocre pattern.

The building rises as a huge slab on the precipitous slope, making awkward angles with the slope itself and every other building on the ridge. It stands indeterminate in form, in that the repetitive nature of the structure, whilst being appropriate to extension, is blocked by the bank at one end and by the stair tower at the other. Its expression of extendability is simultaneously stated and denied, and the miscellany of cladding materials further confuse the form. Little advantage is taken of this unique site or the outlook from it.

This vagueness pervades the whole complex. No readily discernible entrance is apparent, and many people try the several alternatives, before finding the intended one. Relationships between related spaces and uses are often tenuous — should not the display of sculpture be visible from the areas where the teaching and performance of the work is done? Should not external sculpture be displayed where varying angles of sun may illuminate it? Should the

background for such display be either the deliberate chaos of the glazing of the building or the restless movement of traffic on the roadway behind?

As in the suburban prototype, where the site is used as the setting for the building, not as its extension, this building fails to utilise the most habitable external court on the north-west, instead of which it stands on its minute border of grass, with its display (not to be confused with plaster gnomes) for the passers-by.

As the lack of decisiveness characterises many of the fundamental relationships between spaces, so the form of the building suffers. Was the built-in repetitive form for ultimate extension? Are the massive concrete end walls for stiffness against earthquakes? Does the smaller lecture-library block require similar stiffness? What provides the stiffness in the other direction? If the cement wash is necessary to mask imperfections and waterproof these concrete walls, was it necessary to similarly coat the pre-

by

J. Goldwater,

B.Arch. ANZIA

cast kerbstones, obscuring their faceted modular form into extrusions like toothpaste? If a mechanical hoist is necessary for cleaning windows, should it not give access to all windows?

If "architecture is the unending sum of positive gestures" — how then can we rank this building?

If we are all contributors to this background malaise, how then is architecture ever to arise?

I put it to you that while we remain indifferent to the fate of Auckland as a place to live, work, study in, not only Auckland but our university buildings will remain indifferent.



Perhaps Mr von Meier is resigning or his activities have added work to his plate. Reason: The University is advertising for a lecturer in the History and Theory of Fine Arts, von Meier's pet subject (after Elam criticism).

—MacHen

MORE FLOGGING IN SOUTH AFRICA

A total of 850,000 strokes of the cane or a similar instrument have been administered to offenders in South Africa in the last 10 years. Rate of flogging has increased more than eight times.—Observer, London

Afterthoughts On Little Congress

For Little Congress, held during Queen's Birthday weekend, over 30 applicants had to be turned down because of limited facilities. These were all first and second-year students who were very keen to come, for they had applied despite the fact that they knew there was only a small chance of their applications being accepted. It is regrettable that at least half a dozen people who had been accepted did not let the committee know they were unable to come. This meant that a number of students who had been turned down could not be informed.

The caterers were also inconvenienced because they had allowed for a fixed number of students, so a little thoughtfulness and courtesy would have helped here, too.

It is also regrettable that a small number of students, including a member of Exec, took it upon themselves to gate-crash Little Congress on the Saturday night. This year's committee recommends that in future, Congress be open only to those who are willing to come for the whole three days. This year a few people were permitted to come for a day, after they had seen the controllers personally and offered to pay for their meals. However, this arrangement is not recommended for future years as it means that odd people are turning up all the time, which, besides causing catering difficulties, interferes with the whole idea of Congress.

A motion was passed at Little Congress recommending to future committees that a number of vacancies be re-

served for first and second-year students. In this way it is hoped to achieve some continuity, as well as preventing Congress from being the privilege of older students.

CONGRESS SOCIETY AGM

The first AGM of Congress Society was held on Thursday night, June 27. At this meeting a constitution was accepted which puts forward three aims for the society:—

1. To ensure that a Congress is held not less than once a year.
2. To make recommendations to the committee running each Congress, concerning the conduct of Congress.
3. To hold functions during the year covering topics of general interest in order to further the spirit of Congress.

On the strength of the success of this year's Little Congress, and the large number of applications received for it, the meeting agreed that two Little Congresses shall be held next year, one in the first term and one probably during Queen's Birthday weekend.

Committees were elected for the running of the two Congresses and Francis Batten was chosen as controller for the first Congress. The second controller is yet to be chosen.

A sub-committee was also elected to further the third aim of the society. It aims to organise talks, films, music evenings, etc., during the year. As with Congress, its aims will be as broad and general as possible, so that students, graduates and staff members

who are interested in discussing anything from evolution and electronic music to literature and philosophy will find their place in this society.

The emphasis will be not on the talk given but rather on the discussion arising out of it. The talk will be a starting point and not, as too often is the case, an end in itself, to me forgotten and not followed up when the speaker has finished.

Obviously, if Congress Society's aims are to cover such a variety of different fields, it will impinge somewhat on some small societies in the University. But this will not be a bad thing; in fact, it can aid these societies immensely. Many of them are just stumbling along: Speculative Society had to search the Caf. for a quorum for its AGM this year; Socialist Society almost died out; and as for the Society of Independent Intellectuals, it seems to have gone into hiding. In such societies a few people have to do all the work in organising functions. If they could join with Congress Society for a function of general interest once in a while, the work would be shared, notices sent to a wider circle of students, and the meeting in question could achieve a good attendance of students eager to discuss once the speaker thinks he has finished. This could be one of the few clubs with intellectual activity appealing to students and staff from all faculties, for, as at Congress, the emphasis will be on topics of general as well as specialist appeal.

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PACIFIC CONGRESS

AUCKLAND
1963

CRACCUM 5
MONDAY AUGUST 5 1963

The Architectural Students' Society, University of Auckland, is holding a Pacific Congress at the University from September 2 to 7. The theme of the Congress is "New Housing Developments around the Pacific". As the title implies, the student participants will be from the rim Pacific countries, which have a certain affinity in housing conditions. Can students offer a reasonable analysis and solution to the problem? The important thing is that this is a "working" congress as compared with a "holiday" congress. Delegates will participate in studies to their own benefit.



"Mile upon mile of organised nowhere".

EDITORIAL

The Pacific Architectural Congress is to be held in Auckland, September 2 to 7. The theme for discussion will be "New Housing in the Pacific", a subject which has raised the interest of Architectural Schools overseas. Already quite a number of delegates from Australia have notified the Congress Committee that they will be attending; also there may be some delegates from Tokio.

The emphasis of discussion will be on defining the problems of human values in housing, particularly in new large housing development projects.

It is a well-known fact that while there may be few technical problems involved in building mass housing, there are many very real difficulties to be faced in making such developments attractive to live in. New Zealand has only recently been affected by this question, but the soulless dormitory-suburb developments are now growing fast around the major cities, and the miles of dreary similarity are becoming a familiar sight. It is not hard to see what this kind of building could mean in terms of cultural development. Environmental conformity promotes, even demands and enforces, cultural uniformity, a vast flat beehive of To and Fro. Here is the great question—how to build a house that will be a Home in the fullest sense; how to design a district that will be a community, and not merely a district.

The factors involved in this dilemma have yet to be clearly defined. It is hoped that the September Congress will be able to make progress not so much in finding the answers as in deciding precisely what are the questions that must be answered. Once these are

decided on, the answers will not be so hard to find.

This is perhaps one of the most important fields of exploration of modern times. The outcome of such research could mean the difference between cultural progress and cultural retrogression. This is not to say that the answers to all social problems are to be found here, but there is a logical train of events arising from uninspired housing. If a house is not a home, there is no family life. Without family life, there is no meaningful cultural background for the individual, and so there is a decline in social values and moral standards. And so, delinquency, rising crime rate; a lack of meaning in life.

There are two sides to architecture—the technical and the human. The technical tends to take precedence over the human considerations, whereas it should, ideally, be the other way around. The organisers hope that this Congress will help to emphasise to the public, and to architects, that the human, personal aspect of housing is worth considering, and that work is being done on this very topic.

Very recently, it has been announced that Aldo Van Eyck of Europe's architectural "Team 10," leaders of modern architecture, has accepted an invitation to attend the Congress. Van Eyck is acknowledged as one of the world's leading exponents of the art of combining the warmth of human values with the mechanics of building. At time of going to press, there had not been time to gauge the response from other countries to this news, but it is expected that Van Eyck's presence will considerably swell the numbers of delegates from overseas. It will also have the effect of putting this Congress in world class for importance.

The theme deals with building a community literally from the ground up, and so the organisers feel that the Congress will be of interest to many other departments of the University, such as Psychology, Geography, Anthropology, and other courses relating to Man and his environment.

The Congress Committee extends an invitation to all students to attend, as the Congress covers topics which will be of interest to many students.

PROGRAMME

The first two and a half days will be taken up in developing a background to the theme of the Congress, outside specialists will talk on subjects specifically related to the architect's problems. The visiting lecturer, Aldo Van Eyck, a world eminent architect for both his philosophy and practice, is giving the lecture on the Tuesday evening. Although it is envisaged that there will be considerable discussion on most papers, it is anticipated that this one will be particularly exciting.

The trend will then change towards student papers and studies after a bus trip to see and discuss some housing around Auckland.

The sessions on Saturday are mainly to ensure continuation of these PACIFIC WORKING CONGRESSES. This Congress is intended to lay the foundation for regular Pacific Congresses every two years. Since many of the basic problems facing countries which border the Pacific are similar, it is felt that there is much to be gained from discussing these. Together, students are more likely to reach satisfactory solutions.

The aim is at an international exchange of ideas at a student level. Auckland students are sure that any delegate will benefit tremendously from the Congress and that NZ will benefit from participation by overseas students.

With emphasis of Congress on study, voluntary groups

have been meeting every morning at 8.20, and fruitful progress has been made. Study groups are almost as much a part of Congress as the 6-day period itself. Following is a brief outline of Study Group work:

Aim and Scope:

1. Work covered by these investigation groups will be presented at Congress.

2. All students are invited to participate.

(a) The work to be covered is of importance to our community.

(b) Students are in a unique position to investigate and make proposals.

(c) The aim of the Study Groups is to bring forward concrete proposals about (I) Ways of considering the areas in which we live.

(II) Methods of development, and trying to get these ideas implemented.

MONDAY

9 - 10.30: New Zealand presentation from study groups; slides and critical analysis of existing development.

11 - 12.30: Australian presentation from study groups; slides and critical analysis of existing development.

12.45: Official welcome and luncheon.

2 - 2.30: Dr Carr (Town Planner). Student discussion.

4 - 5.30: Dr P. Fielding, "The Pacific Basin as a Geographic Unit". Student discussion.

8 p.m.: Informal: Arch. Soc. Common Room.

TUESDAY

9 - 10.30: Paper on relationship to History of Auckland. Student discussion.

11 - 12.30: Mr J. Beckett (sociologist). Student discussion.

2 - 3.30: Panel: "A Resident's Point of View". Student discussion.

4 - 5.30: Mr G. Rosenberg: "The Quality of Life as a Basis for Housing and Planning". Student discussion.

8 p.m.: Visiting overseas lecturer: Aldo van Eyck. Discussion.

WEDNESDAY

9 - 10.30: Mr M. Austin: "The New Zealand house. Discussion.

11 - 12.30:

Psychological aspects of the mass housing community. Student discussion.

2 - 5.30: Bus trip: Housing in Auckland.

8 p.m.: Informal. Slides on New Zealand housing. Arch. Soc. Common Room.

THURSDAY

9 - 10.30: Messrs. Halstead, Corry, Bargiachi: "An Approach to Residential Development". Student discussion.

11 - 12.30: Australian paper. Discussion.

2 - 3.30: Individual student paper. Student discussion.

4 - 5.30: Australian paper. Discussion.

8 p.m.: Informal. Slides on New Zealand architecture. Arch. Soc. Common Room.

FRIDAY

9 - 10.30: Messrs. Cockburn and Warren: "Freeman's Bay Redevelopment Scheme". Discussion.

11 - 12.30: Australian paper. Discussion.

2 - 3.30: Study group. Freemans Bay and Otara. Discussion.

4 - 5.30: Visiting overseas lecturer: Paper by Aldo van Eyck.

8 p.m.: Congress dinner.

SATURDAY

9 - 10.30: Working session, "Summing up".

11 - 12.30, 2 - 3.30: Congress Working Session.

8 p.m.: Social.

AIMS OF CONGRESS

We cannot expect any concrete conclusions to be implemented tomorrow. It is like planting trees. We are not harvesting fruit, but sowing the seed. However, this does not mean that the Congress will be a place where a series of theories will be put forward and then forgotten. Those things which are of any worth will unavoidably show. Hence the nature of the programme. As much as anything else, it is an investigation of how to get things done.

This "how" explains why we must know about politics and all their control over the spending of public money. We must know all the facts which only experts in their respective fields can produce.

Furthermore, to be effective a study of this sort must be a continuous process which will continually expand over the years. Information will have to continually filed and published. New processing techniques will be needed—have we not dreamed of a computer reference Library?

Perhaps we are being presumptuous but at any time of need some groups tend to convene other groups with specific interests. We are not living in a depression—but we are living in a great area of cultural starvation in terms of literature, art, or any special art. There are many capable exponents in the several arts—including architecture—who are as good as any to be found anywhere else in the world. This starvation is caused by many factors but the symptoms are manifested by all public expression which implies the isolation of feeling from function, the estrangement between science on the one hand, and people and their history on the other and the often complained of separation of nature from man.

Readjustment is one aim and at the risk of censure I would suggest that the architect's job is that of guiding re-adjustment, firstly for himself and then for everyone else. Adjustment is from my own experience, a continued process; but you don't always have the same group of people guiding the way. With the arrival firstly of the new technology of mass production and now, before we have caught our breath, automation, we as architects are certainly having maladjustment problems and being placed in a position of seeing our own problems too vividly at times.

Now back to housing—a field where the public is as disturbed as the architect but a field where steps to quell a public disturbance is largely the responsibility of the architect albeit he only designs a very small part of a complete neighbourhood. In 1963 the Government Housing Department are looking for new systems of mass housing. The inner areas of cities all over New Zealand are literally rotting away. Here in Auckland,

the council are committed to rehabilitate people living on an area of 300 acres in Freemans Bay—probably at a loss of seven million two hundred thousand pounds in property transactions alone. On the City periphery, land which was once productive, is being cut up into housing areas and turned into places which will probably end up as slums and areas which at the moment no one seems anxious to live in. The number of people who decline their own state house applications is increasing at an alarming rate. I think that this is a particularly clear indication that something is wrong somewhere.

Reconsideration of housing policies both of the Government and of those local bodies who have had rehabilitation thrust upon them is vital; or being optimistic, one could say that such reconsideration is unavoidable.

So far I have confined the commentary to achievements and aims within New Zealand. This is the area which we know something about and one within which it is practically possible to direct solutions to problems. Partaking Universities will have much to offer but this material needs to be treated in a completely different way.

SPACES BETWEEN BUILDINGS

This is a simple portrayal of the reason why we as architects are studying these housing areas. You might call it landscape architecture or you might say "Well, yes, I like that". Some of these things should never have happened.

What to do?

When a neighbourhood is unbearable, we either move out or start to make the environment more bearable. Anything to avoid van Eyck's "mile and mile of organised nowhere and nobody feeling he is somebody living somewhere".



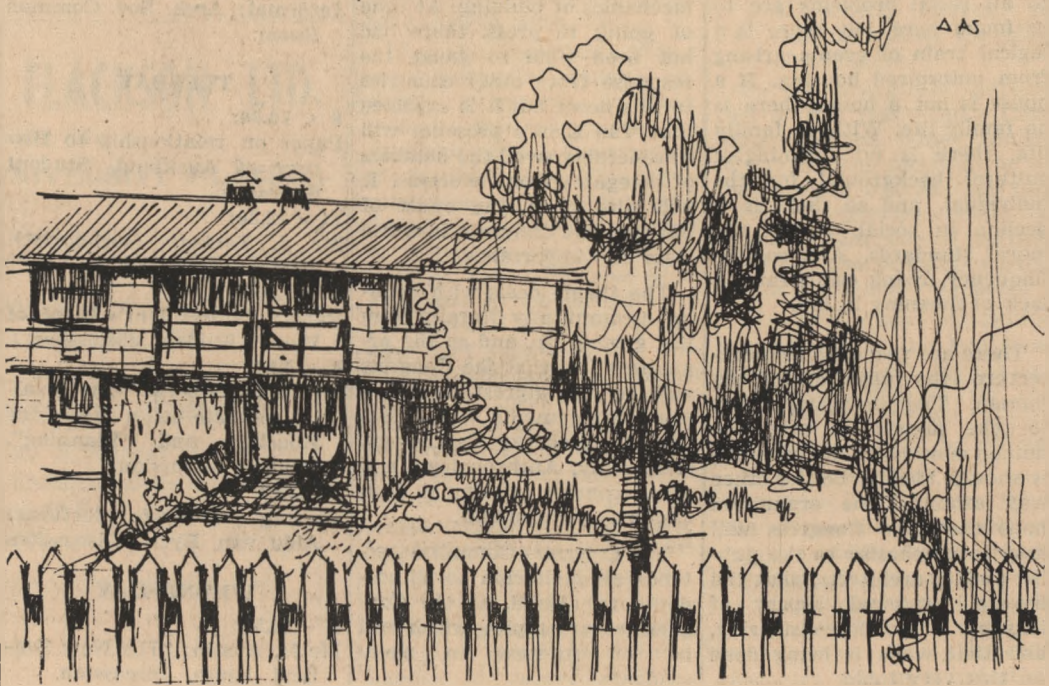
"Blimey, I don't know about these new flats, but I can sit on my front verandah and talk to Mrs Jones over the fence—and that suits me fine".

The layout of this block is well set out. There are pleasant trees, green grass and running hot and cold water. The only thing wrong is that no one who thinks like the person (Anon.) who made the quotation, would like to live here.



In the new Otara I feel a certain lack of consideration for people. There is no possibility of the unexpected because there is nowhere for it to happen.

A few well planted trees can cover a multitude of sins. So, too, can the intelligent use of what available land there is. A few screens and we have a little privacy. An honest fence instead of a wire-mesh job and one might even feel that some self-respect had been regained.



Congress Paper

J. BECKETT

Social Anthropology

RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS

The various peoples of the world reveal a rich and fascinating diversity in their residential patterns. For the pattern of settlement provides the physical setting for social life. Blocks of flats may be peculiar to Western society, but the cave colonies of the Pueblo Indians are very similar in social terms.

Such patterns of residence are the expression of, and an important means of maintaining a particular way of life, to be lived at a greater or lesser degree of intensity. Man is forever seeking the ideal compromise between his desire for society, the only milieu in which his life can acquire meaning, and his fear of irksome constraints. The cold, sterile term "housing area" is, indeed, all too appropriate for the centreless agglomeration of atomised domestic units so characteristic of modern urban development. They are not communities, and there are rarely the facilities to enable them to become such.

The modern domestic unit is rarely big enough to accommodate more than a single family—grandparents must live elsewhere. Nor is it often possible for kinsfolk and friends to live in the same locality. Thus residential patterns cut across and disrupt rather than facilitate social life.

★ ★ ★

MR G. ROSENBERG

Senior Lecturer
Town Planning Department

THE QUALITY OF LIFE AS A BASIS FOR HOUSING AND PLANNING

This paper assembles some of the experiences and experiments on the conditions which create a "threshold of quality", which would make sure that it is possible for people to thrive in the houses and communities which we may design for them. Neither hygiene, or structure, nor economy, nor architectural aesthetics, are an adequate basis for the setting of housing standards. We shall have to know what it is—as far as homes and places are concerned—which makes people, children, adolescents, young adults, men and women, and old people, feel that life is good.

Moreover, we have to realise that in each place and in each society, this basic threshold of quality varies. It is not sufficient to base town design universally on the neighbourhood formula, which has scant social reality. No new formula is suggested, but a yardstick is given, by which we can measure the validity of our own and other people's work.

INTRO

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INTRODUCTION TO PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES ARE BRIEF SYNOSES OF SOME OF THE PAPERS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE CONGRESS.

DR D. CARR

Geography Department HOUSING EXPANSION

The population of the world is increasing at an accelerating rate and in recent years this increase has exceeded 50,000,000 persons per annum.

This increase in world population is being accompanied by an increase in world urbanisation and an increase in the size of the largest urban communities.

Since the end of World War II increased prosperity and improved technology have accelerated the processes of population growth and urban expansion, and the problems associated with these processes are increasing in both number and complexity.

Although the economy of the country is dependent upon the development of rural land, the environment within which more than 70 per cent of our population lives and works is dependent upon the development of urban land. As an increasing percentage of our

population can be expected to live in urban areas, the present form of urban expansion — low density fringe development — must be examined with a view to improving both the social and economic structure of our urban communities.

There is a need for a new conception in the design of housing areas, a need for a greater variety in housing areas to provide for "compact-types, a need in new housing areas without congestion and spaciousness without sprawl".

★ ★ ★

M. AUSTIN

School of Architecture Thesis THE NZ HOUSE — WHAT IS IT?

An analysis of the elements of the suburban NZ house, relating them to social pressures and suburban behaviour. One shows, basically, that there are several elements that express clearly the "NZ Way of Life".

STUDY GROUPS

It is hoped that our study Group can obtain a text for some environmental studies and photos compiled by Prof. Jacobus P. Thijssen illustrating solutions to problems of housing in the rapidly expanding South Pacific.

The work covers several areas, two of which I shall mention—namely New Caledonia and Fiji.

In New Caledonia some rammed earth construction is being used—a little cement is added to ordinary soil and then packed down. The results are good.

In Fiji as in New Caledonia concrete is a very desirable building material, but owing to the rapid expansion and the general financial condition of the population concrete is

a scarce commodity.

So although concrete has proved its value as a building material, the locals are forced back to using indigenous organic materials such as Makita leaves or "tiles" of cladding units.

Here a new situation arises. There is a traditional and informal way of building in Fiji, and now suddenly Makita "tiles" are being collected and distributed on an assembly line basis. Customs, tradition and finance is upset.

We are forced back to a social problem. To know all the aspects of Fiji's social problems would entail the life work of several people and one of these people will have to be an architect.

Scott

Mixed Residential Colleges at New British University

The new University of Lancaster will be the first British university with all students in mixed residential colleges.

Also, no differentiation will be made by year or faculty. Lancaster will also introduce

All students are invited to attend this Congress.

a new type of Honours degree in which "Science" and "Arts" subjects can be taken together — for example, the study of chemistry in relation to economics or philosophy.

Papers to be presented from Australia:—

"New Towns in New South Wales";

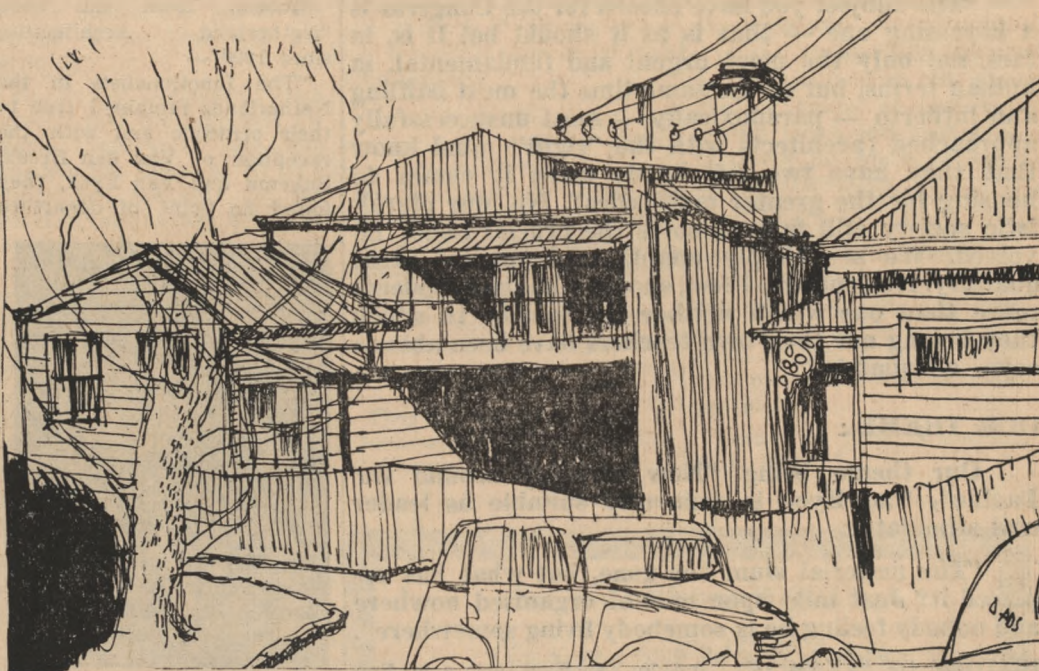
"Canberra, Past, Present and Future" —

—both from University of New South Wales.

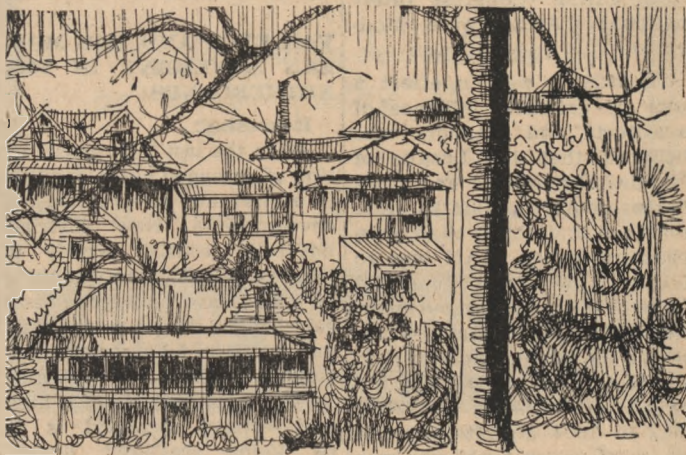
"Housing in an Industrial City", from Newcastle.

LESSONS FROM OLD HOUSES

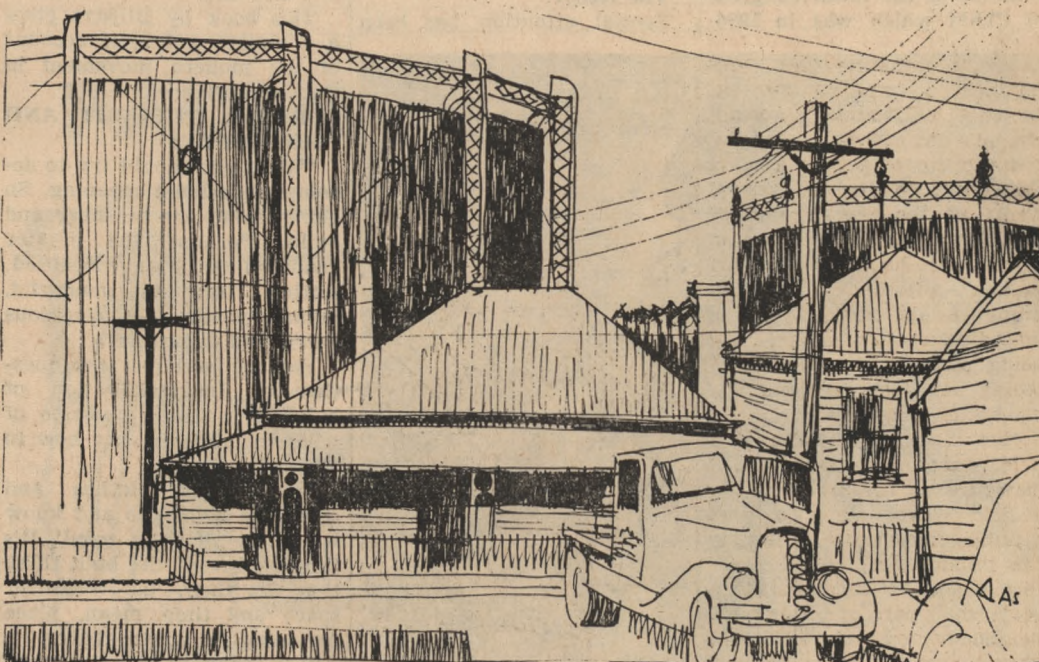
Aspects of Auckland



Gibraltar Crescent. A tree, a hedge, and a winding street. This is not Freemans Bay, and I don't pretend it to be. It is a place which I am very fond of for no good reason. Nothing was planned and no one intended that this place should please me.



This is a greater part of Gibraltar Crescent seen from the Domain. It is just some houses in the background. How many houses have a relationship to trees and open spaces like this? There is only one odd thing about all the house verandahs. They face south-west.



The people who built this house must have understood how to make houses beautiful. They didn't know that they chose the wrong one. A gasometer in a suburban area. Trucks taking goods to the factory across the road. Regional planning is one way of insuring against ending up in the wrong suburb.

THE GUEST:

VAN EYCK

The Measure of the Man

His Thoughts on our Congress —

"The subject you have chosen for the Congress is a harassing one — that is as it should be! It is, in fact, not only the most urgent and fundamental, in human terms, but at the same time the most baffling and hitherto — paradoxically — most unsuccessfully approached (architects with the "right" mind know that they have two left hands when it comes to housing for the greater multitudes). No, our pluralistic society still fails to solve the crucial issues involved. We are simply unable to humanise great quantity. No problem, I feel, should stimulate students more than one which neither the society to which they belong nor their own teachers have been able to solve adequately!"

OUR THEME:

Our theme being "New Housing around the Pacific", Van Eyck is eminently suitable as leader and stimulator.

"The material slum has gone, but what has replaced it? Just mile upon mile of organised nowhere and nobody feeling he is somebody living somewhere".

HISTORY OF "TEAM 10"

In the summer of 1928, Corbu, Giedon and other leading architects of the modern movement banded together to form CIAM (Congress International d'Architecture Moderne).

In 1928 it was in effect a sort of defensive alliance of architects and planners who believed that the League of Nations competition and other flascos required them to stick together and form their own pressure group. CIAM was to become the most powerful force in the modern movement. In 1947 there was a new attempt by young architects in CIAM to abandon the gap between the thinking and feeling. In 1954 an international group of young architects was set up to prepare the programme of the tenth congress of CIAM which was in 1956.

Aldo Van Eyck was a leading light in this group whose work and philosophies have continued to expand, culminating in their wide acceptance through "Team 10 Primer."

VAN EYCK AND THE MODERN MOVEMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS:

Rehousing:

After the last War construction of damaged cities resulted in a vital interest in rehousing developments. New districts naturally consist largely of housing blocks, the planning of which have undergone radical changes as far as the flats and apartment houses are concerned. Housing, by such men as Van Eyck, that is of a high architectural standard is to be found scattered among mediocre blocks.

The Aged:

Special attention has been

paid in the Netherlands to homes for the aged in Amsterdam since 1953.

Schools:

Since it is part of the character of the Dutch to pay great attention to the education of their children, there are many well-built and, as regards style, attractive schools to be found scattered throughout the country such as his at Nagele and also those by Van den Broek and Oud.

Enthusiasm:

Quoting from the book "Netherlands Architecture since 1900"—

"The functionalists in the Netherlands remained true to their principle and with the exception of Van den Broek, Bakema and Van Eyck, they found no point of departure



In this orphanage, a little mirror set in wall fascinates.

that would offer them greater freedom . . . These few attempted to bridge the gap between thinking and feeling . . ."

"Undoubtedly the two men most possessed by architecture in the Netherlands are Bakema and Van Eyck. Their temperaments differ, but they converge in their desperation and in their enthusiasm. Both are just over forty and belong to the "third generation" after Oud and Rietveld; they were rebels against the "second generation," and are fully acquainted with developments abroad and determined to find a way of their own, neither international nor typically Netherlands, but largely Van Eyck and Bakema."

This book by Blijstra gives a complete yet brief account of the modern movement in the Netherlands.

CURRENT THOUGHT AND PHILOSOPHY:

"What you should try to accomplish is build meaning. So get close to the meaning and build. Perhaps the greater reality of a door is the localised setting for a wonderful, human gesture — conscious entry and departure.

For the architect the question of industrialisation of building is still a question of what to fabricate, not how to fabricate it.

People buy clothes and shoes the right size and know when the fit feels good! It's time we invent the built thing that fits them—us. Whatever space and time mean, place and occasion mean more.

For space in the image of man is place and time in one image of man is occasion.

'City' implies, 'the people that live there,' not 'population.'

SUPPORT FROM MAYOR W

Support from the Mayor, Mr D. M. Robinson, and from the Arts Advisory Council has been promised for the forthcoming Pacific Congress on housing in the Pacific area.

The Architectural Students Society has been advised by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Sir Leon Gotz, that it will receive a grant of £500 to defray the cost of a travelling lectureship. After attending Pacific Congress, Aldo Van Eyck will make a lecture-tour of the country, which will be organised by the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

The Mayor of Auckland, Mr D. M. Robinson said that the congress would have his full support and he felt sure that the City Council would support it too.

In an informal meeting with the Mayor on Tuesday, July 23, members of the Congress Committee presented their case. The Mayor waxed enthusiastic and gave advice as to what we as students could do if one used the right approach. Although I am not bound to agree with his advice, I think it was very good advice. His Worship suggested that before anything architectural can be done, one must find ways and means of doing it. From this he pointed out that politics and economics are the foundations of good building and that we could profitably spend time doing detailed study and becoming involved in this "groundwork."

As an example of complete regional planning he showed us the scheme for Vancouver.

This is a master plan which includes provision for traffic, housing, industrial and even facilities such as food supply; it is obvious that such planning is going to reflect back and influence housing development. After the Vancouver plan went into legislature operation an estimated two hundred million pounds of unnecessary expenditure was avoided in the first year alone. This is one indication of why planning is important. It saves money!

The group were delighted to find that the Mayor had already read up some of the material which we are producing for the Congress. We invited him to attend the Pacific Congress. Also, the Mayor was impressed by Van Eyck's writing; he is quoting him already. This is a pleasing introduction to a new relationship between the University students and the City. I hope it will be for our mutual benefit.



The Mayor and Congress representatives.

YOU ARE WELCOME AT THE BNZ

Come in and discuss the opening of a Cheque, Account with us. A BNZ cheque book gives you confidence, and standing in the community. It opens the way to many banking services that can be very helpful to you. A discussion places you under no obligation.



BANK of NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand's Leading Bank



Pool by sandpit is amusing.

FOR WORLD LAW

The articles which appeared in Craccum VIII concerning proposals for World Federation and World Law, merit close consideration.

The protagonists of world federation argue strongly that the establishment of a World Law controlling international relations will render warfare unnecessary. An established Law, which provides the machinery for settling disputes, will establish the security which is necessary for disarmament. Such a system, it is argued, will surely survive, because "it would be in the interests of the vast majority of the people of the world".

"We believe", writes your correspondent G. C. Titman, "that the people of the world will give up . . . separate national military establishments, when their elected representatives have created a better means of defence in the form of a system of just and enforced world laws prohibiting war, threats of war, and all arms . . ."

This, in essence, is the Federalist case. It is a sound case, but unfortunately it is premature by at least a century. And as is so often the case with such quasi-Utopian schemes, the difficulties which at this point in time, make the establishment of a World Federation impossible, are completely ignored.

It is submitted that these difficulties are inherent in the present world situation. If any system of law is to survive, there must exist adequate means of enforcement. In other words, the proposed federal authority must have the ability to uphold the law, and to ensure that the law is obeyed by the members of the Federation. Now, this essential prerequisite is, at the moment, impossible. The very foundation of a World Federation would depend on the support of no fewer than 110 sovereign States. One hundred and ten governments would have to be prepared to surrender their sovereignty in international affairs to a World Federal Government. What is more, the very success of this scheme would depend on the unanimous acceptance of all the governments concerned.

This cannot come about at this point in time. The policies, the ideals and the stability of the existing 110 sovereign States are so diverse, that not even a modicum of agreement can be expected. As long as the world's most populous nation, China, is prepared to sacrifice 70 per cent of mankind for the purpose of establishing her brand of Communism, a World Federation is impossible. One feels that the prospect of a Chinese empire appeals more to Mao Tse-tung than does the pros-

pect of an enforced World Law.

To what extent would Indonesia and Egypt be prepared to surrender control of their respective foreign policies, when their territorial ambitions remain as yet unfulfilled? The article on Federation which appeared in Craccum states, "Only those who have dreams of personal power at the expense of peace could possibly object to the idea". This is true. It is also the reason why the proposed World Federation would never get past the opening negotiations.

The article makes reference to a World Constitution. This would be the product of "the finest legal minds in the world, faced with the most historic task since time began — the unification of the world. It is certain that the resulting draft constitution would be the finest that it is possible for man to produce".

Such postulations are naive. Legal brains are notorious for diverging widely. Judgments delivered by the Law Lords in the House of Lords are a case in point. Moreover, all previous attempts at drafting World Constitutions (or similar codes) have been remarkable for their failure. Ultimately, a constitution must express the accepted aims and ideals of the participating States, but if there is not even participation, then there can be no constitution.

This brings us to the point, that if a system of World Law is to operate at all, there must exist a groundwork of effective legal systems within the nations themselves. At the moment, this does not exist. What type of legal code operates in China, Cuba, Outer Mongolia or the Congo, one hesitates to guess. Some nations are incapable of maintaining law and order within their own boundaries. A system of World Law is thus premature in a world where Baluba tribesmen can rampage unchecked.

Finally, as is so often the case, World Federation has been presented to us as the

only feasible alternative to nuclear destruction. It is agreed that nuclear disarmament will not eliminate war. Only total disarmament can do this. But unfortunately, war is still contemplated by many nations, so it is submitted that it is preferable to fight our future wars without nuclear weapons than with them. To the realist, it is extremely unlikely that the next 40 years will be years of uninterrupted peace. One can only hope that atomic bombs, like gas in the Second World War, will not be used.

So, it is suggested, with respect, that the proposals for World Federation are not feasible. The solutions (if such things are possible) to the world's problems are not to be found in World Law. World Law can only come when the existing sources of discord are removed. Racial distrust, imperialistic ambitions, economic deficiencies, illiteracy, starvation, over-population, diversity of background — these are the problems that the world faces. Only when these are removed can we hope for anything approaching World Federation. It is an uphill struggle. More than likely, wars will disrupt its progress. It will not be achieved in our lifetime.

To work blindly for World Federation completely ignores these realities. It is useless to set up a system before the foundations are laid. The foundations are our task. What follows, we will never know.

—J. Priestley

There are 155,000 university students in Yugoslavia, twice the number for 1956-57, when there were 71,852, and eight times that for 1938-39, when there were only 16,978. Today there are 27,000 students at Engineering faculties, 16,000 studying Law, 20,000 Economics, and 16,000 Fine Arts. In 1938-39 only a quarter of the students were girls. In 1960-61 the ratio had risen to two-fifths, or 40,700 students to 99,874 men.—MacHen.

SEX

AND CLASS WAR

Sir,—All readers of the New Statesman will sympathise with Hyman Levy's forthright statement, in last week's issue, of a major working-class grievance. He points out that, although working-class girls can be sold to satisfy the sexual needs of the upper class no reciprocal service of this kind exists.

It is high time that the anachronistic state of affairs was remedied. The 20th century has seen the crumbling of the ancient class barriers, one after another. Education, wealth and power are becoming available to all. But one last stronghold of privilege remains unshaken: upper-class women are reserved for the rich.

They are the prerogative of Etonians, Harrovians and such Wykhams as happen to

want them. With a few fortunate exceptions — gamekeepers and other comrades who have infiltrated the enemy's camp — we are prevented by a gigantic class conspiracy from enjoying the daughters of our rulers and our employers.

If the phrase "equality of opportunity" is to be more than a figure of speech in Britain today, this discrimination must go. Those members of the aristocracy who claim to have an interest in social reform must prove their good faith. There is one very convincing demonstration they can make. Already they open their houses to the public at a small charge. A slight extension of the services normally provided . . .

Letter in New Statesman, July, 1963.

See you at Hugh Wright's

Great MENSWEAR

SALE

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ASPECTS OF
N.Z. LITERATURE

Review of a Lit. Soc. panel discussion held on July 23. The panel was made up of Dr C. K. Stead, Dr W. Pearson and Dr E. H. McCormick, and was chaired by Dr John Reid.

Panel discussions rarely propose conclusions, but when they are as well constituted and as skilfully chaired as that on July 23, they never fail to give good indication of directions. It was inevitable, perhaps, that with Dr Stead the only practising poet on board, the panel should have concerned itself mainly with NZ prose; it was less inevitable that so wide a ground should have been covered.

Dr Stead's opening address harked back to Mr Curnow's Winter Lecture of the previous week, extracted from it the notion of the two or three great poets who are fated to arise in each generation, and concerned itself with the paucity of critical safeguard against usurpation. A healthier criticism would distribute laurels more tardily, perhaps reduce them on the heads of some, say Fairburn; withdraw them completely from the head of a Louis Johnson.

Dr Pearson spoke on tendencies in NZ fiction. Frank Sargeson emerged as our fictional watershed; prior to him, the dichotomous vision of Mansfield or J. A. Lee, certain and uncertain at once of both antipodes; subsequently, a solidification of that local style and sense of situation first crystallised in Sargeson. Now the novel is replacing the short

story as our most natural genre.

Question though, whether style and situation have really developed since the thirties: our archetypal Man Alone is still with us, as also our conception of ourselves as native-born bushmen and hunters; we still lack humour, and worse, the self-consciousness natural to the young is hardening with

age to a mental stridency — too much prose nowadays overplays its material, as in much of Shadbolt, for example, or like Maurice Duggan's Northland Sahara.

Measure is dwindling. Current intensities need the new canvas of a broader national understanding.

A source for this broader understanding was suggested by Dr E. H. McCormick, who spoke of non-fictional prose. Histories by Beaglehole, Sinclair, Oliver and so on have all, in their different ways, fixed us not only in time but also in place and manners. In a smaller way, local and institutional histories have intensified regional awarenesses.

Perhaps the type of the clinical, yet live, examination of place for place's sake is Guthrie Smith's "Tutira". As for the development of Crumpe, its genesis is to be found in the tall stories of 19th century journals. In these non-fiction areas are the records of our consciousness. With them, and not without them, we have legend and myth.

Unusual murders and uncommon clergymen have supplied us with the fragments of legend; but legend is still a great part of our lack. So, too, is the novel of urban life. Most works with town or institutional settings are still pretty much Man Alone — Cross's "God Boy", for example, or Janet Frame's "Faces in the Water". Awareness of the bourgeois in prose has yet to come.

Various methods of its doing so are implicit in these addresses so sadly reproduced. As Dr Stead so adequately noted, criticism is not merely a form of prize-giving; it is an evaluation. As his tenets link art very closely to experience, an advance of criticism must broaden our understanding, with obvious gain to writing. He admitted that even Johnson, in his urban poems, was at least moving in a sound direction. The ideas of rightness and honesty acclaimed by Dr Pearson, when he finds them, are best carried by the word "humanity". His regret is

that we still have humanity in a straitjacket. Emancipation, as we have seen, will come partly through a growth of criticism, partly through a cultivation of those areas discussed by Dr McCormick. They are not all, of course, but they are much; and our nation's writing must be seen to include them.

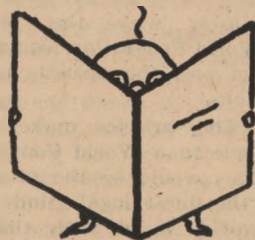
I was interested to note that satire, as a kind, was not discussed. Calls for satire, such as those made by earnest resuscitators of our verse, or by Tressider, for example, for our drama, have always struck me as rather quaint. The attitude is probably the same as that referred to by Dr Pearson when he spoke of our acute self-consciousness, more or less the attitude, "Look what a foolish Kiwi I am: don't I strike you as utterly absurd?"

To actively seek satire is to indulge a literary coitus interruptus; maturity dies at the moment of creation. What is most needed right now is fullness of expression. Soul values, urbanity, and breadth of culture are a measure of humanity. If the thought seems a little old-fashioned, is time it was rendered contemporary.

It was to the benefit of the discussion that just the qualities characterised the taking part. The 180-strong audience found no reason to deplore the fact. The panel are to be thanked for a very fine discussion, and Dr Reid for the coherence he imposed upon its several elements. One can only hope that Lit. Soc. will provide a few more evenings at this level.

—K. O. Arvidson

BOOK REVIEWS



OXFORD ATLAS

The publication of the Oxford Atlas in 1951 set a new standard of cartographic excellence, and since then many other Oxford atlases have followed. Now the Oxford University Press, Wellington, announce the Oxford Social Studies Atlas for New Zealand. This new atlas, specially designed for New Zealand primary schools, is the outcome of close collaboration between the Advisory Editor, R. G. Lister (Head of the Geography Department, University of Otago), the Curriculum Office of the Department of Education, and the Cartographic Department of the Clarendon Press, Oxford. It is a world atlas, but special prominence has been given to New Zealand and to those regions of the world stressed in the Social Studies Syllabus. Copies should reach New Zealand booksellers late in September.

VD AND YOUTH. Sydney Bulletin, June 29, '63. Bane correspondent.

The increasing number of people suffering from VD, particularly teenagers in New Zealand and Queensland — has already led the NSW Government to amend its Venereal Diseases Act to require doctors to notify the Health Department of the names and addresses of suspected sources of infection.

Now the Government sponsored Queensland Health Education Council has produced an outstanding pamphlet headed "What every teenager should know about VD". The council said last week that youth organisations in Queensland would be asked to accept copies of it and distribute to members.

The incidence of the disease is now highest among the 20 age group, in Queensland. Ten years ago the incidence was lowest in this group.

Figures supplied by the Health Education Council show that in one year 133 teenagers from 16-20 got VD, more than men and women aged 26-40. Figures for 1962: 11 years, 5 cases; 16-20, 538 (male, 132 female); 21-25, 26-30, 201; 31-35, 128; 36-40, 76. From there the age incidence continues to fall.

One factor in this situation is the failing use of penicillin as a cure for gonorrhea.

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MONDAY TO SATURDAY

ROBINSON ON PEARCE

Craccum recently interviewed the Mayor, Mr D. M. Robinson, about the controversy over the statue "Torso II", and spent an interesting half-hour talking about that and the Council donation, or otherwise, to the Building Fund. Mr Robinson stated his views in a refreshingly direct manner, leaving no doubt about his opinions.

He did not feel that Mr Pearce had been outside his rights in attempting to stop the City Council buying the Hepworth sculpture. Although he did not personally agree with Mr Pearce's point of view, he felt that any councillor could take such action if he felt obliged to.

Relevant to this, Mr Robinson pointed out that the funds for buying works of art for the Gallery are not, in fact, under the direct control of Mr Tomory. Works are bought for the City by the Parks and Library Committee, on the recommendation of Mr Tomory. The Committee can buy or not as they see fit.

The Parks and Library Committee is directly responsible to the City Council, and therefore any councillor has a right to interest himself in its affairs.

Craccum then observed that opinion at University was a little heated about Mr Pearce's "interference". The Mayor's reply to this was that no one has the right to get heated because they don't agree with another's opinion. If the control of such things as the Gallery were left in the absolute control of one man, one might as well do away with councils and all forms of representative government. He felt that an Art Advisory

Committee as suggested in the motion put by Mr Glasse was a good idea, so that important purchases would be controlled by a number of experts.

Councillor Dreaver was also present while Craccum talked with the Mayor, and at this stage he presented his reasons for opposing the purchase of the sculpture. He said that the £950 at stake would have been better spent on something such as pensioner relief, as the Council is at the moment forced to charge pensioners more than the official Government figure for their flats. Mr Dreaver also pointed out that the Gallery funds came directly from rate money.

The question of public opinion was raised, and it seems from communications received at the Town Hall that the rate for and against was roughly fifty-fifty.

On the point of what kind of art the Gallery should be allowed to buy, the Mayor said:—

"Who am I to tell the people what they should see and what they shouldn't see? I don't like the thing, but if we allow our opinions to rule regardless, that is an abnegation of democracy and progress".

He considered that the controversy had been a shocking example of bad taste, and should be a lesson to everyone to display moderation and good taste in stating their opinions.

Mr Robinson then went on to the subject of the donation to the Building Fund. He considered that the students could claim to have a right to the donation. He pointed out that the money would come from the Albert Park Trust Fund, which was in no way related to the ratepayers' money. He said that the Trust is specifically not to be used for rate relief, but for cultural and educational purposes in the city. He asked what better use there could be for some of the money available than to help with a project which will be of cultural benefit to the city for many years to come.

After having a cup of char with the Mayor, Craccum thanked him for his time and left, regretting the fact that the interview had been a little too late for Craccum VIII.

CRACCUM 11
MONDAY AUGUST 5 1963

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AND BEDSTEAD

University students Donald Kidd and Keith Kenna left Dover at 5.30 on the same day on their 180-stroke Victorian bedstead, floated by two 44-gallon drums and powered by a 5 h.p. engine. Heavy seas delayed the (uncomfortable) craft did not reach Calais until 9 p.m.

MHC

The following students have been appointed to Men's House Committee for 1963-64:—

R. J. Offen (chairman), G. Sara (secretary), M. J. Allen (treasurer), B. E. White (deputy chairman), N. E. Archer, D. Simcock, T. Ivanyan, D. Silich, N. Dickson, P. McCall.

SHELLEY BERMAN

Shelley Berman, who will visit Auckland on August 28 and 29, is not "sick" (he says he doesn't even feel seedy). Nor does he belong to the "clowning" school of comedy.

In an era of sick comics and political satirists, he has pulled off the extraordinary trick of winning wide public appeal and the respect of intellectuals as well, simply by being funny about people.

That doesn't mean Berman without barbs: but basically his humour revolves around humiliations and foibles of ordinary people.

The late Charles Laughton summed up the quality with the comment: "We have been living Berman situations, and we have been around unmissable Berman men and women for years and did not know it. We love your world and you have made us all welcome to it".

Because of the strong campaign following for Berman's humour in the United States, Mr Harry M. Miller, who is

that format he is Mr Everybody... frustrated... lonely... bewildered... sarcastic... superior... and biting funny.

He has broken all records in successful engagements at New York's Blue Angel, Chicago's Mr Kelley's, and the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco. His album, "Inside Shelley Berman" was the first non-musical disc to receive a Gold Record award, and blazed the trail for the success of the "talking" record.

Except in Hollywood films, such talent does not burst out "overnight". Berman, now 37, spent many frustrated years as a struggling actor — too often being cast as the "heavy" — always dissatisfied with the spasmodic parts he was given on stage or TV.

Paradoxically, it was as a writer that he won attention. To fill in his free time (of which he had plenty) he began

writing comedy material for the Steve Allen Show. It was only a matter of time before he started writing scripts for himself, made his debut in "Mr Kelley's", and became a success.

His greatest love is still the stage, and he manages to find time for Broadway. In "The Mirror under the Eagle", he played 22 different characters, sang, danced and played comedy scenes. He has also won critics' applause with his portrayal of the ubiquitous Devil in "Damn Yankees".

But it will be as the master of the open-end conversation — the man at the end of the telephone — that he will make his New Zealand tour.

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Yes, the United States, with 190.1 to every 10,000 of population. Then follows the USSR with 108.2; Yugoslavia 75.4; Australia 71.8; Japan 63.9. New Zealand's figure is approximately 60 per 10,000 of population.—MacHen.

EXEC NOTES

Craccum went along to the Exec meeting on July 17 to see what the new Exec is like, and saw a group which balances inexperience and sloppy procedure with a good measure of interest, energy and ability. Personal feeling did not appear to have any influence and, with luck, by working as a team they will avoid many of the troubles of the last Exec.

President Romaniuk needs more practical experience of running meetings to tighten up his control, but this is a minor point compared with his obvious interest and administrative ability. He should deal more harshly than he does with motions which are not on the agenda if the new Exec is to make sensible, considered decisions on them. All controversial matters obviously need to be considered first by sub-committees until the new people know what they are talking about.

A good example of this was the decision to give Public Relations Committee a phone. There are already two phones

in the Huts: one in Craccum room, which is used infrequently, and one in Capping Room straight across the passage from PRC which gets heavy use only during infrequent rush periods. It was obvious from PRO Quennell's report that his committee is expanding, but the empire-building must be mammoth indeed if it requires a third phone all the year round. Even more surprising was the Executive's decision not to refer this expenditure of £30 per annum to Finance Committee; a normal measure of precaution which need only delay action for one or two days if the Committee is given power to act. The finances of the Association are not so stable that they can be played around with in this cavalier fashion, and to say that the need for another phone is so urgent that it could not stand the delay is obvious tripe. (The phone has not been installed at the time copy closed — 10 days later.) Another bad feature of a dreadful debate was the ability of some members to find red herrings

everywhere and ignore the actual points of conflict.

After a confused debate which gave the impression that nobody knew quite what they were talking about, a motion was passed approving in principle the use of the theatre in the New Building by a professional theatrical company sponsored by the University. New Buildings Officer Gavin's presentation of the motion wasn't understood by Craccum either. A short, sharp debate allowed Miss Wily to expand her Societies Committee to "20 or so" members and then propose motions (not on the agenda) which had not been considered seriously by any of the multitudinous members. The House Committees' Chairmen Gill Buchanan and Ray Offen offered to convert the Women's Reading Room - stationery shop - fund raising office into a Women's Common Room at no cost: a welcome move after the lavish expenditure on renovation over the last few months.

In 1959 Exec was talking about student action to benefit the Cook Islands. Since then the idea has followed its ost stagnant course through almost stagnant course through NZUSA, who have now recommended action. Before the end of term we are to have speakers, films and a collection for small aid projects. With imagination and student support this could develop into something important — in co-operation with Volunteer Service Abroad.

Capping Controller seems to be having difficulty getting people to work for Capping '64. Possible names for Revue — "Son of Nuts in May" and "Cleopatride". Offen (MHC) and Laird (Business Manager) are two of the most effective portfolio holders. It is a pity that Engineering President Briggs does not speak more often; whenever he does he talks sense. WVP Naera Naumann and Bruce Tunnicliffe (Sports) appear quietly efficient.

A good crew in the making.
— J. C.

"Brickbats and Violets"

Part 2

It is my unpleasant duty to report that the Music lunch-time concert of July 6 was in an even more unprepared state than the concert reviewed in Craccum V.

There was only one item which measured up to what one could reasonably expect to hear from an average student. Frances Haughey, Viola and Josephine Burry gave us a sound workman-like performance of transcription of Marcello's Sonata in E minor for 'cello. Miss Haughey was the only string player who played reasonably well in tune and she produced some good sounds in the Third Movement. There was spirit of "do or die" concentration in her approach which tended to arouse a pleasant sympathy with her audience. Even more refreshing was the fact that she clearly enjoys her music. Josephine Burry's accompaniment was rather apologetic and failed to give the musical support and encouragement which Miss Haughey, a sensitive and nervous soloist, badly needed. Actually, there seems to be a particular trend even among professionals towards a negative pretty-pretty style of accompaniment for music of this period. This is not only irritating, but stylistically incorrect.

A student string quartet, comprising Joyce Collins and Jane Waters, violins, Helen Newman, viola, and Mary Williams 'cello played through Haydn's Quartet Op. 76 No. 2 and Schubert's lovely quartet in C minor. There is little I can say about the manner in which these works were presented. I would, however, like to add to my opening remarks.

All four players are obviously receiving good training. They are also musical—Miss Collins in particular. I ask in all sincerity, are they being fair to their teachers, and more important, are they re-

maining true to their own talents by publicly performing works which have been given no more than a cursory glance. Surely nothing is more damaging to the hard won confidence of a music student than continually playing in public without adequate preparation—not even a bad press!

Sylvia Hopkins, a lightweight contralto sang Wagner's seldom heard Wesendonck Lieder, during which time Mr Warren Drake cleaned the piano.

Miss Hopkins would be very much at home in the songs of Faure or Debussy, whose music would well suit her small voice.

PATRICK FLYNN

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MORE LETTERS

Dear Sir,

Congratulations for a very fine Editorial in Craccum VIII. I agree wholeheartedly with what you say. Altogether, I think this was one of the best issues of Craccum I have ever read — marred only by two letters and the fact that you were forced to publish Mr von Meier's reply to the architects. Keep up the "An-archies".

If Mr Batten considers Mr von Meier's article as "free and informed" criticism, may heaven help him. Perhaps he had better read the article once more and note particularly the general tone of it. Certainly Mr von Meier should not keep silent about bad architecture and no one ever said he should; but to go ahead and lay the entire blame for the complete construction at the architect's feet and, moreover, to attack them with such vigour in every line (not one complimentary sentence in the whole article), an attack that does imply professional incompetence, which anyone except Mr von Meier and his sole supporter, Mr Batten, can infer; is this, I ask you, a fair and free criticism?

Were Mr Batten to constrain himself merely to the article in question, we would be having an interesting, but extremely short, letter. He considers the personal side of the question — but does he consider the personal side of the question from the point of view of the architects? Does he realise that they can barely afford to take legal action? Mr von Meier cares enough, therefore, to risk ridicule and

reputation. He has lost both risks, and yet he has succeeded in his intentions; so may he sleep well at night.

And to Mr von Meier I can only repeat, "one does not ordinarily answer such attacks" — and yet he does. If I were a debater, I would certainly accept his challenge; however, I feel sure that if Mr von Meier is sincere in his challenge, Mr D. Wright would be only too pleased to knock his (Mr von Meier's) case to the ground. I hope to hear such a debate taking place, and then we will see how illegitimate Mr von Meier's criticism was
—O. M. Hoffman

★ ★ ★

Dear Sir,

On page 14 your last issue, dated July 23, there appears a short article entitled "Fund-Raising Sinking." I wish to disagree with your title and your first sentence: "Fund-Raising is fast disappearing under a welter of disorganised files, unsent letters and unvisited graduates." I suggest that the words "disappearing under" should be deleted and replaced with "rising from." Yours faithfully,
P. J. Rankin,
Chairman, Fund-Raising Committee.
(Appointed July 3rd).

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