



In view of the important played in the establishment of W.T.C. by Education Department Secretary Salmon, it was decided to ask him to plant a tree at the Official Opening. Mr. Salmon is here shown performing the ceremony.

Now Showing— "Hamlet"

In "Hamlet" we have a very good example of how it is possible to produce effectively Shakespeare's play not only on the legitimate stage, but also on the screen. Thus we come to a realisation that the film is a definite branch of drama, giving many people the opportunity of seeing plays which they would otherwise never read or even become familiar with per medium of the stage.

Despite the fact that it has been considered successful from most quarters, nevertheless many criticisms of the production have emerged and a glimpse at some of these will help us to decide whether it was worth the expense of bringing culture to the masses or not.

Stern critics have objected to many of the speeches being "cut" and in many instances the language changed disadvantageously. Is this such a crime? A number of the speeches in "Hamlet" are very complex and without some knowledge of Shakespearean language it would be extremely difficult to understand. In this regard, out of the millions of people who would attend the performance, how many would have had the advantage of studying the play in detail, or for that matter, any of Shakespeare at all?

Very few people read Shakespeare's plays after leaving school, and great would be their pleasure in having the opportunity of seeing this film version of Shakespeare's longest tragedy. It is quite obvious that a play of this length would have to be cut, as it is impossible to screen a film of four and a half hours duration. Olivier himself

says his aim was to produce a story which "is simplified and made easy to understand. We want to emphasise that it is an experiment, not an experiment in cinema technique or interpretation. . . . I mean that it is not 'Hamlet' but an essay in 'Hamlet'. But of course if we were to exhibit a film called 'An Essay in Hamlet' we should merely confuse a lot of people whom we want to attract."

This must be kept in mind when we read these adverse criticisms about the criminal manner in which Olivier dealt with the script.

Weaknesses in interpretation do occur in this film version of "Hamlet." It is thought that Olivier presented a man of action rather than a man constantly in conflict with himself. Hamlet's main fault was that he thought too much. Thus this criticism is justified, as this was not always brought out clearly.

Omission of certain lines makes it difficult to convey Hamlet's failure to kill Claudius. Shakespeare leads us to believe that Hamlet really knew or strongly suspected that his father was murdered. He would not fact it, and when finally told, although horrified, he kept raising excuses which would make him more certain of the truth, or wait for a more opportune time for the killing of Claudius. Correct understanding of this does not always become apparent.

Thus, if we go into a careful analysis of the play we shall doubtless find many faults in this film version of "Hamlet." University students, students of English, will be able to pounce on the weaknesses and find them annoying for their conception of Shakespeare. But it is the masses that have to be considered when estimating the success of the picture, and in so doing it will be

found that the picture was a success. The scenes which seemed to appeal most were: The ghost scenes, Ophelia's mad scenes, the graveyard scene and the play scene.

Each of these scenes was handled very well. The ghost was much more effective in the film version than it was on the stage. On the stage all was very dark and the ghost's voice alone was able to be heard. In the film version the misty atmosphere was very effective and the audience was able to see, as Shakespeare described it, "the ghost with his visor up."

Ophelia was very sweet and child-like. The correct sentiments were aroused without being overdone, and altogether the character was portrayed very faithfully and sincerely.

In the graveyard scene, when the body of Ophelia is about to be lowered into the ground, the solemnity of the scene and Hamlet's reaction to it were portrayed very well. The sense of urgency in Hamlet's sudden action is adequately conveyed to the public and the question of whether Hamlet really loved Ophelia or whether he was only pretending for display purposes is well brought out.

Therefore, taking the criticisms levelled against the film, and weighing them with the excellent qualities of it, I think unbiased minds must agree that the aim of the picture was successful.

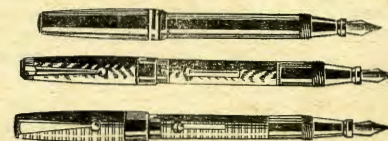
The masses of the people enjoyed the picture, and I might venture to say that an enthusiasm greeted "Hamlet" which was not so apparent in all circles when "Henry V" was shown a few years ago. Perhaps this enthusiasm will arouse a further interest in Shakespeare's plays, and the public will look forward confidently and expectantly to the date when another Shakespearean play is produced on the films as effectively.

EFFIE McCULLOCH.

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WAGGA.



I see Beth still has Arthur-itis. Must be due to the cold weather—or maybe that early dip?

Tull-ya what too. Nita has taken to the water. Was the Curran(t) too strong, Nita?

I notice that Jack has FLOWn off the HANNDle again.

Now is the time for a good sunburn. Dave is tanning well and Tom is certainly browning up.

What's the matter with our alphabet these days—K for Nilon?

Latest flash from Stable "X" states that Newhill's form is still impressive.

Is Barbara ex-SPENCE-ive, Jim, or just dear?

What has Gilbert (S) got that no one else has? Let's co(a)x it out of him.

Gwen and Mac went to see Miss Webb the other night, but got no father!

We always wondered if Eliza went back to Henry. Now we know.

Alan certainly likes working in the Craft Room—but then he has a Joan-ah!

Saw Don Davis "down the road a piece" the other night. The'l be more of that, methinks.

Congratulations, Meg! Hear Graeme said a few words to you.

Jean has fallen and got a Bruise. Wonder how long it will last.

Hear Jean Johnston went for a moon-light bike ride the other night. Under-STAN what I mean?

Oh! Nearly forgot you, Jack. How's the electricity supply at Holbrook—as good as Kosciusko?

Hope to SEE-ar at the opera over Xmas, Jim.

Can anyone Gibb us any information on Molly?

Hopalong Hadrill getting a lot of sympathy from Barbara Hoare.

Signs of the Times

Spring is always a time for signs. Among the first years, for instance, there are signs of insurrection. Those all day first-years-only sessions in the Gym. last week are to be dimly viewed. (Who wrote this tripe?—Ed.) An interview with a first year student who is attending these meetings daily, revealed that "some important points are under consideration." I notice, too, that first years greet one another by asking, "How are you doing, D, C., P.P., or what?" I gather then that someone is going somewhere. In fact, one student interviewed declared that things for him being P.P., he was firmly convinced that he would be going for sure and forever.

"TALKABOUT" OFFER

Another sign that cries out for attention these days is the great tendency for people to get together. It's the spring weather, of course. Someone stumbled on the truth of it all once and made a remark about the spring and a young man's fancy. He forgot to include the young lady's fancy though, which I understand (and, mind you, it's all hearsay as far as I'm concerned) also schemes and plans according to season. Gone are the old days when a chap could pick his parking spot at any time of day (or night). Now an unceasing war is being waged and first in first served is the order of the day and no reservations a standing rule. However, "Talkabout" (like Jack Clark) ever alive to the welfare of the student body, offers for the use of any student the combined knowledge of its staff on this pressing problem. A consultation of our booklet, "Where To Go, or Where the Flies Go in Winter Time," should prove of great value to all concerned with parking problems.

OLD FRIENDS

"Please remember chairs" is another old friend. It reminds one of such exhortations as "Please remember the blind," or the poor, or the lame or the sick. Common enough, too, these days is "Wet Paint, Test Here," or "Use Other Door." For seminar-ing studes, "Wanted on a B.B." means that some poor unfortunate is shortly to deliver his message to the section. An interesting one, baffling in its paradoxical

nature, is to be found in the labrary—"By Keeping Silence You Give it to Others." Another one, "Pay Library Fines Here," always stares me in the face. A fearsome one is "Women's Warden"; no less is the familiar "A. W. Ashworth Globberslobbering, Step Taking Men's Warden." The College grounds are full of "Photinia Glabrukens," "Cotoneasters," "Crepe Myrtles" and such, quite impressing in their unpronouncability. (Whew!—Ed.)

But the best ones I know are the all too rare, "Students Will Be Paid on Friday," or "Vacation Commences Thursday." I would even be satisfied with "No Assembly To-day" or "People who give up valuable time to write for 'Talkabout' when inspiration is as rare as the proverbial hen's teeth, will be allowed distinctions in the hygiene paper." Even then distinctions in that paper would be rare indeed.

D.R.

St. Thomas More Club

The club was recently privileged to hear Mr. Kennedy, prominent Wagga legal man, address members on "Nationalisation and the Christian Viewpoint."

Mr. Kennedy spoke fully on the subject, clarifying a question which must confront every person who professes Christianity and who is alive to his country's welfare.

Question time brought a variety of inquiries, all of which the speaker endeavoured to meet. A vote of thanks was moved before the meeting ended and every club member heartily subscribed to it.

The club has been without the services of the Secretary, Marie Hulme, who succumbed to measles. Marie is now back on deck again none the worse.

The club held a General Communion in St. Michael's Cathedral on Sunday 17th. Although members overflowed from their quota of seats, an even greater number is expected next time.

Now that the summer weather is upon us again, the club is planning some outdoor activities for the entertainment of members. A monster picnic will soon be announced and every Collegian is invited to join the party and make it a real "do" in the very best College style.

D.R.

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Conversing, Debating and Discussing

Dear Mr. Editor,—

I have read again and again your appeal for student participation in the publication of "Talkabout." Such participation would include, doubtless, articles on subjects of general interest, reports of College happenings and discussion of problems of interest to students.

I would like to make some contribution by examining just what is implied by "discussion," which to me seems to be a basic process in education. It is a complex process and there is a need to find out just what is involved.

It is not simply conversing. Conversation is a form of social intercourse, but it is characterised by informality, an incomplete examination of any topic, and frequent changes of topic as memory and imagination are stimulated.

It is not simply debating. In a debate one is concerned chiefly with putting forward effective arguments in support of one's own case. This must lead to the deliberate omission of some arguments which would weaken that case, and the strengthening of other arguments which are relatively unimportant, merely to gain a debating point.

It is not simply a matter of posing questions and answering them. This is an important part of discussion that questions are raised, for discussion starts with a problem about which one has incomplete knowledge. But merely to set up a series of questions and then to supply facile answers does not constitute discussion.

Discussion is a serious examination of a problem with the expectation of finding a real solution to it or at the least of discovering some new facts about the particular situation. Such a problem might be "Reform in the Infants' School" ("Talkabout" 5/10/48), but this is so wide that in defining it one has to consider a number of related problems, e.g., the training of teachers for infants' schools, suitable curricula for infants' schools, and so on.

A start might be made with the teacher training problem. One would have to examine the qualifications needed by such a teacher—her general cultural attainments; her knowledge of specific skills required, e.g., a knowledge of the various methods employed in teaching reading and numbers; her understanding of a child's ways of behaviour and so on.

Some questions of course may not be answerable immediately—one might have to read widely on what experts have already discovered, sift carefully their views and then attempt some integration of them.

Then, too, some problems could not be resolved completely, e.g., the understanding of a child's mentality, and one would have to sum up the various theories of behaviour and select that viewpoint which seems to give the best explanation.

Discussion involves all these processes: Raising a question, defining and simplifying it, studying certain aspects of it, reading widely in the general field, sifting information and achieving some general concept that unifies the details.

Much more could be said about discussion, but sufficient has been indicated, I think, to show that some knowledge of the methods of discussion are needed before one undertakes discussion. Thereafter, by actual discussion, we will learn about discussion itself, and perhaps make new discoveries about the particular problem under discussion.

Discussion is a fascinating form of social intercourse because one is co-operating with a group, realising that there are other viewpoints than one's own, and perhaps discovering new features about the problem under discussion.—Yours sincerely,

H.R.

Food for Thought

With full apologies to (a) Mrs. Whitaker; (b) the chef; (c) the kitchen staff; (d) the staff-table (a wonderful piece of carpentry).

At dinner-time, expectantly,

We await with breathless pleasure
Lid to be removed from our white dish
And Reveal our latest treasure.

Potatoes glisten in their grease,
And meat (there's no privation)
Surrounded by such wealth of fat
Sends forth its invitation.

In other dish, O happy life, pray,
Call it what you will.

Could this be cabbage? Nay, there's
Not a trace of chlorophyll.

Now each mouth 'gins to water and each
One longs to feed.

Upon that waiting mountain of
Luscious golden swede.

With royal repasts such as this
Served every day for dinner

I cannot really understand why
I am getting thinner.

FLO.

A SON OF A PIONEER

Congrats. to S.R.C. President Murray Millar and wife Laurie on the birth of a son—Glen Stuart. We learn that both Mrs. Millar and this 7lb. 7oz. young pioneer are progressing favourably and feel confident that Glen will follow in the old man's footsteps by filling the S.R.C. presidency about 1965, as capably as his progenitor did in '47-'48. To use Murray's own words: "He's not a bad looking little bloke."

Sweet Young Thing: There is a rat in my room.

Hotel Clerk: Make him come down and register.

Wholly set up and printed at "The Daily Advertiser" Office, Trail Street, Wagga Wagga.

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Editor: Alan Fryer.

Sub-Editors:

June Scott, Dave Rummery

Business Manager: Jim O'Ryan.

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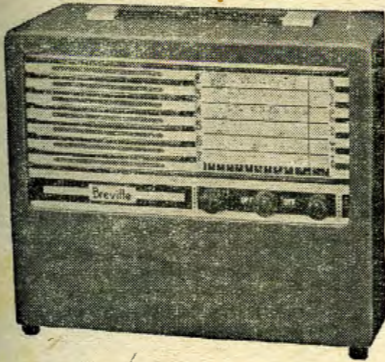
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CRICKET

The popular man's summer sport has officially opened and College has entered into the fray with much zest and keenness. In all, there are three teams at the week-end representing the College. College No. 1 play in the Saturday afternoon competition, and teams No. 2 and 3 play in the Sunday afternoon competition.

Already some very creditable performances have been registered; four players receiving special recognition by being selected in Possible v. Probable matches for combined Wagga teams. Of the four Jack Haines was the most attractive with the bat, scoring a quiet but confident 32. With the ball John Stuckings captured three wickets for 38 runs and he was unlucky not to have the hat trick. His speed, as well as it has amazed us, had a similar effect upon the Wagga players.

College No. 1 started off on the right foot with a win over Turvey Park. Jack Haines scored 79 and Alan Nilon 86. Mark McLaughlin took 5 for 17 and John Stuckings 4 for 28.

In their second match against Technical College they are three down for 50 runs against 120 made by Tec. in their first innings.

College No. 2 met with defeat the first time up, but many regard this defeat as a stroke of misfortune. They made a feeble first innings score. However, they atoned for it by having 150 runs on the board for the loss of only three wickets in their second innings. Geoff Spiller scored 70 and Jack Brewster 66. John Gleeson had the excellent bowling figures of 6 for 42.

The Grand Hotel turned it on against College No. 3 in their first match, so much so that College could only muster 140 in the first. Bede Debenham top-scored with a neat 86 and John Biscaya knocked up 25 not out. Frank Lees was the most successful bowler with the figures of 4 for 45.

In the second innings the boys found their land legs and at closing time were three for 170. John Cummings scored a nice 49.

On Sunday College 2 and 3 clashed, the result being No. 3 scoring 70 in their first innings and No. 2 are three for 140. Peter Debenham and Max Bell were top-scorers with 66 not out and 58 respectively.

By the way, Harry Gibbs has been purposely demoted from first grade

last year to third grade this year. Harry says the reason is he intends to get a bat this year and score a few. As yet he is eleventh in the thirds' batting list.

Personal

Miss Pat Webb, Mr. George Davis, Mr. Col. Squires and Miss J. Scott are the most recent to embark upon a period of rest, to the Wagga Base Hospital. Omitting the gory details, suffice it to say that it is "an enterprise which hath a stomach in it."

Everyone will be pleased to hear Col. Squires, who has been very ill since the beginning of term, is now well on the road to recovery, and is about to spend a few weeks at home. All our good wishes for your complete recuperation over the vac. are with you, Col.

George Davis, who is at present still very ill, has been the most recent victim of this malady. We sincerely hope it will not be long before George follows the example of his fellow-Collegians and comes back to College routine.

The First Taste

The half-yearly examination of 1948 for first year students has brought forth many and varied comments. Women students, on the whole, seem to be more satisfied than men students.

ALISON HOFFMAN: The floor show in Education I was particularly amusing.

KEITH DUNN: This exam was ridiculously easy. I don't mind failing in a difficult exam, but this failure will hurt my pride.

JACK CLARK: I feel I may not do too well in this exam as I am worried about my welfare.

ALLEN BUCKINGHAM: The examination came after a long period of unrest in the College. I found it impossible to settle down.

DON NEWMAN: I only wish these points counted as I feel confident of five distinctions and several credits.

VERA VINE: Education I and Physical Education were good papers; Art and Crafts was unsatisfactory.

JOHN MITCHELL: Owing to acute financial worries, personal problems and an unsatisfactory love life, I could not settle down. However, I have hopes of all round improvements in the near future.

COLIN SWAN: Very fair papers, but unfortunately I failed to have a clue.

THE HEBREW FRATERNITY: Failed to impress.

JACK HAINES: Over my head.

BROTHER JACKSON: Most ecstaticous. Alleluia!

"This 'Ere Modern Art"

(By Ken McLean)

III—SURREALISM AND AFTER

[This is designed as a "time chart" of art of which "Surrealism" is a small section. The subject matter has been condensed from a R.A.A.F. Educational Services Series on Art, and though I am not so rash as to suggest that this will explain "art," it might help to "orient" yourself in painting, as an art form.—K.McL.]

Surrealism (super-real) began as the result of the disillusionment after World War I. Young men lost faith in established things gone. Around them was chaos and ruin. They were seized with the desire to become irresponsible.

Early surrealism, therefore, is based on the acceptance of a lost sense of values.

Surrealism denied the existence of all laws, i.e., any painting is a good one if the artist has been perfectly himself—that is, he has found his true self by throwing off his artificially created veneer of traditional behaviour, which the average human being acquires through his contact with home, school and society.

Surrealists said that all things are real—even our uncontrolled thoughts.

Salvador Dali has expressed the aims of surrealism at this time as the combination of objects "as beautiful as the unexpected meeting, on a dissecting table, of a sewing machine and umbrella."

Surrealism combines our perfection and knowledge of the everyday world with our apparently irrational thoughts. Later the realm of dreams was admitted.

CHIRICO (b. 1888), Italian. Able to paint a quite normal landscape and yet, by means of some strange power of relationship in his objects and colours, could create "atmosphere" of a significant kind.

His imitations produced the cult of the paranoid and the "dual image" conception, i.e., fear phobias—so that surrealists now produced landscapes in which, as one looked, trees could turn into faces, heads and bodies materialised out of the most unexpected objects.

KINETIC GEOMETRY. The power of certain geometrical arrangements to startle the imagination is made use of, especially those which induce the sensations of balance, rhythm and so on.

Walt Disney's "Fantasia" is largely based on this type of surrealism.

Surrealism is of immensurable value to commerce and industry in the form of advertising displays.

NEO-SURREALISM. This new surrealism admits the necessity for "reason"—for the artist to select his images and make them conform to the main theme of his picture.

This adds to painting a quality of fantasy, an element that is to be found present in all great art.

THE ART LAG. The average art exhibition is always about fifty years behind the latest art movement, so we can infer that it takes the general

public just that length of time to get used to a new art form.

(Who knows—perhaps in thirty years time surrealism may gain even the Archibald Prize.)

ENGLISH ART. The natural genius of the English has always been literary; nevertheless, we respect such names as Hogarth, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Rossetti and a number of others—with a special place of honour for Crome, Turner, Constable and Whistler (also claimed to be an American).

DIRTORTION. Until it became universally recognised that accurate photographic representation was not the be-all and end-all of painting, one English artist, a supreme genius, remained unrecognised. He was William Blake, who had a deep insight into human nature and a tremendous imagination.

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757-1827), Distortionist (not surrealism). By distorting he was able to achieve something of the unearthly and spiritual quality found in mediaeval art.

All artists must distort to some extent—they do it either to enhance the aesthetic qualities of their paintings or, as in the case of the lengthened legs, for instance of the Varga pin-up girls, to make their models appear more attractive to the public.

SURREALISM is aimed to reach primarily through the unfathomable depths of the least understood part of our emotions rather than through any rationalising process of our intellects, but, after all, our ultimate satisfaction must be largely due to an intellectual process involving the imagination.

THIS CONCERNS YOU

The usual monthly meeting of the Teacher Trainees' Association will be held in Room 5 at 5 p.m. on Monday, 1st November. All students who have paid or who wish to pay their 1/- subscription are asked to attend. Agenda: Determining of a quorum, election of delegates to annual conference.

GWEN ROBERTS,
Secretary.

Over Anxious

I enter the exam room,
My mind is crammed with knowledge
From books and dems and lecture notes
And swatting nights at College.

(Ha-ha!)

For I have learnt my history,
Stayed up the night before
And swatted Egypt, Babylon,
And Drace and Grecian law,
Each seminar and lecture note
Each teaching aid appliance.

Ah, yes, I saw the dawn break through
While swatting Social Science.

I look now at the paper,
Oh! horrid revelation,
Upon the top in letters bold—
I'm doomed—it's Education!

Alas, alack, oh, hapless fate,
I realise to my sorrow
I should have learnt psychology;
It's history to-morrow!

FLORENCE.

That Noxious Weed

Brother, are you a smoker
Then listen to my creed;
For relating to tobacco,
We have a common need.

Smoking English tailor-mades
Is heavy on the pocket,
For once I had a cigarette case,
But since have had to hock it.

Not only is the price too hot,
But other things you see;
For every cigarette I smoke
The boys smoke five for me.

But if I could buy tobacco,
At the normal retail price,
I could smoke and still have money,
Which would be very nice.

Now thinking all this over,
It seems obvious to me,
That we smokers should petition
The College S.R.C.

—J.M.

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