

THINKING and DRINKING

By George Clarke

At the height of Commemoration Week activity in Martin Place last month, an elderly lady cried: "What's going on?" and her companion replied: "I think the architects are having a Convention." She was right, of course.

The Fourth Australian Architectural Convention coincided with University Commemoration. In many ways the two activities are to be compared. Both are the expression of a social group which has a tradition of detachment from everyday affairs but which chooses to make its comments known by other social groups at particular times. Both are inseparably accompanied with ballyhoo and banality; notwithstanding that both have a serious purpose perhaps not understood even by many participants. Curiously enough, both functions focus on Martin Place generally, and the Hotel Australia in particular.

According to its own lights, and within the scope of its Conventions generally, the 4th A.A.C. was an unqualified success. It sailed smoothly before a strong tailwind of publicity through a crowded programme of social and serious events. It was a tribute to the outstanding organising ability of its chairman, Prof. H. Ingham Ashworth, Dean of our Faculty of Architecture.

The Fourth A.A.C. was as big and twice as loud as the Third. It was the convention to end all Architectural Conventions in Australia. Anything smaller next time would be an anti-climax.

This might be a very good thing. An anti-climax is just what the architectural profession needs to make it settle down to solving its problems with a little more concentration than it has shown so far. This year's Convention did satisfy some of the younger members and students, who protested that it would "think, not drink." It is most delegates it was without doubt stimulating, in various ways that each wanted to be stimulated. Its lively success pervaded such diverse entertainments as the dinner dance (enlivened by samples of "Laminex"), the Harbour excursion, the visit to Bobbin Head, the business pursued over lunch and even the discussions.

An astute commentator wrote of previous Conventions that they "lacked the call of youth." The recent bonanza was up for these deficiencies, as much as the presence of Walter Gropius created such excitement among the younger men and the students. Unfortunately, they had that little opportunity which has been allowed them to answer the call.

Gropius arrived in a spate of publicity; much was misreading, but he himself commented the authors of the current Affairs Bulletin on the best summary of my work. The newspapers managed to select those interesting bits of his comments which added fuel to the artificial controversies of the day. They studiously avoided, as always do, the disturbing questions of a larger nature.



Gropius gave two papers. The first was entitled "The Scope of Total Architecture"; in this he presented the nature and urgency of a modern city's need for carefully considered planning and design in every aspect, from the regional resources, through the complex of industrial and cultural elements, the district and neighbourhood communities, down to the relationships between individual buildings, and the parts of buildings. He insisted that the spaces between buildings are often more important than the buildings themselves. He pointed to the existence of physical, material focal points in previous civilisations. These include the Agora and its Stoa; the Close and its Cloister; and the Piazza and its Colonnade.

He shocked the "Practical Men" by claiming more value in the immediate building of community centres than in the continual perpetration of soul-destroying outer urban areas like Bankstown.

Human Scale

Gropius continually stressed the necessity of guarding the human scale in our architecture and town planning. He commented adversely on the megalomaniacal scale of some contemporary building groups in different parts of the world, and particularly mentioned South America in this regard. He said that the South Americans were trying to outdo their northern neighbour, the U.S.A.

Professor Winston, of our Town Planning Department, carried on this theme in his paper, "What Makes a City Great?" and especially warned against the threat of vast super-highways and immense parking lots, which have so disintegrated many overseas cities. He particularly

mentioned Los Angeles. Both Gropius and Winston urged the fostering of the intimacies of pedestrian pleasures by means of traffic-free spaces with central areas.

The University of Sydney conferred an honorary D.Sc. on Professor Gropius in a Great Hall ceremony preceding his second paper, "Is There a Science of Design?" The eulogy delivered before the ceremony contained an embarrassing and rather stupid reference to an alleged debt of Gropius to the English tradition through William Morris and his "Arts and Crafts" movement.

Contrast

There could be no greater contrast than the ideas of Morris and Gropius. Morris completely rejected the machine; Gropius saw the futility of the fight, that such misguided men were trying to wage against it. He propounded the notion of con-

principles of optical illusions, illustrated to show the limitations of human perception, and to give an understanding of how the mind receives and reacts to visual things, so that we can have a basis for organised and coherent design. These people may have missed the point, and not appreciated the significance of such simplicity.

The point is one for designers mainly; they have to increase their technical skills to achieve the subtleties of detail that have been achieved in the past, and which are lacking to-day.

The significance is for all; an appreciation of the psychological effects of elements of our visual physical environment will make them aware of the major importance of physical environment in the civilised city.

Such an appreciation by the community in general, and a response by intelligent designers, will destroy the

CHANT FOR BLOOMSDAY — EDENTATVS

(Written after a visit to the dentist)
An orthodontophilological lament.

MAUDEPH (sings):
The green hills of Arden roll
down to the sea . . .
There I lie.

PUCK: Under the blossom
that hangs on the bough.
ROPE: Faith, and I will go
with thee.

DOGS: Bow-wow, wow-wuff.
ARIEL: Full fathom one thy
father stands.

PROSPERO (who is really
the reader): Faith, I can't
sort out these wave-bands.
(Faints on his aerial.)

FAITH: You have not charity.
ST. PAUL: I suppose it might
be better to marry . . .

VOICE OFF: Po'ms, penny
each! Getyer pretty po-ems!
Only penny each!

Enter James Joyce and King
Lear, accompanied by Great,
Grey Kent with Bloom on his
cheek. Joyce is attired as a
dentist.

J. JOYCE: What a shame!
What a what!
And thy palate missing is!
Stash a schooner with me,
then,
And try to say "agenbite of
inwit."

KENT: Open woide!
BLOOM: Sing hey ho the
nonny, maa napp the nanny,
Mama the mapp, paw-paw
is sloppy, and . . .

ALL: Mango is disgusting!
Exeunt all but Lear.

LEAR: Far, thanker than a
sharpent's serp
Is the grin of a toothless
child.
He vanishes as the Quintette
plays the Threnody from the
Overture to "Agenbite" of
Inwit.

(From "Reliques of Moderne
Poetry.")
blod.

Yesterday was the 50th Anniversary of the day of
James Joyce's "Ulysses."

trolling the machine, of seeking new bases for expression through the machine, of exploiting it to the fullest extent.

Gropius, while in Australia, kept up his explanation of this life-long theme, that of co-operation not only between artist and machine, but of artist, accountant, engineer, and technician. He stated that group work by such people was "the way out."

He urged that young architects and students should get out on to a building site, and there learn the basis of their art. He criticised the lack of integration in the building trade, where architectural drawings and specifications are often completely dictatorial down to the last cupboard-catch and its fixing.

He re-emphasised the need for social and intellectual conflict in cities, and contrast in design, by stating Socrates' analogy of the gad-fly (Apologia) in another form: that of the catfish in a catch of herring keeping them in good condition till port is reached.

"Is There a Science of Design?" was a paper that disappointed some people, in as much as it consisted of a large number of elementary

contempt, now so prevalent, for architecture, sculpture, painting, and town planning. It is the process necessary for the building of a civilisation worthy of the name.

Sydney Dispute

Towards the end of this paper, Professor Gropius made a side reference to the newly designed Students' Building which is planned to go over the top of the Union Steps. With the senate sitting in front, he said: "I hope, Mr. Chancellor, that the conferring of this degree on me foreshadows the appearance in the near future of some modern architecture on this campus." There has been a dispute going on for some months over the acceptance by the University of this new design; it was the work of senior students in the Faculty of Architecture, and has caused some opposition from senior members of the University.

Gropius, in a private conversation, nonplussed one self-appointed apologist for Australia who explained: "Of Course, Australians are just too lazy." Gropius replied: "Are they! That's a good sign . . . the man who invented the phrase 'Time is



money' was a very wicked man indeed."

Another distinguished visitor was Professor Robert Matthew, of Edinburgh, who previously was responsible for changing the policy and raising the standards of the London County Council's Architectural department.

Professor Matthew spoke of Britain's post-war experiences in building. With 85 per cent of all buildings architect controlled, against 30 per cent pre-war, a large proportion of housing is still produced by neither independent builders nor architect-builder co-operation, but by industrial prefabricators.

He told also of a 1953 L.C.C. experiment to make a team of architect, engineer, and nominated contractor from the earliest design stage . . . for economy's sake. This is a blow to cherished notions of the efficiency of competition, and a step forward in co-operation.

Mr. J. M. Newsom, architect and economist, in his paper, analysed Australian statistics with elaborate care to demonstrate that the existing building industry just cannot cope with the needs of demand and maintenance. He forecast the natural emergence here of the factory for houses, and for large components of buildings.

Australia's new Knight, Dr. Ian Clunies Ross, C.S.I.R.O. Director, provided the wider but analogous picture: no field of human activity can be static to-day. Science is vast and sets the pace of change.

House of the Future

The Lower Town Hall exhibition, run in conjunction with the Convention, was packed for a fortnight. The central feature was the "House of the Future." Harry Seidler was the leader of a team of manufacturers, builders and technicians who produced this marvel.

The "House of the Future" was criticised; however, no claim was made for its universal validity. It would not be cheap unless mass-produced. It would not be reasonable unless planning of groups of houses was done to provide privacy and variety. And it would not be satisfactory for different types of families unless additional component parts were made available for permutations and combinations of different elements.

Gropius pointed out that the single dwelling is not the answer to the housing problems of the entire population.

There are the family groups with two, three, and more

children; but there are also young married people without children, old couples, single men and women who want to live alone, and, of course, students. These, he urged, needed different living quarters from the family. He advocated the building of "high-rise" apartment blocks.

Gropius pointed out some of the advantages of these buildings. They can give a high population density where land values are high, and where people want to live in close proximity to the central city area.

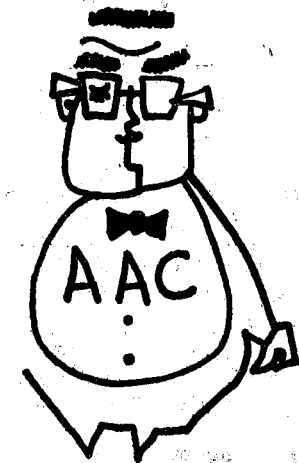
He emphasised the principle that housing needs in a person's life changed their nature from time to time in quite a definite pattern. That these changes should be provided for, and that much work was necessary to overcome some of the objections so far raised against multi-storey apartments, he did not doubt.

Banal Jokes

Finally, a word of warning is necessary on the banal jokes and misconceptions of architectural aims which are filling newspapers to-day. Cartoons about "gettin' integrated," "being Contemporary," are certainly justified against superficial copyists; but as the following quotation shows, are not justified against the architectural leadership itself:

"The Jury wishes to declare that their choice of the rewarded works was based on the architectural synthesis of social, technical and aesthetic qualities: preference has been given to creative solutions, which have avoided the formalism which is dangerously penetrating into modern architecture."

(Report of the Jury of the Sao Paulo Awards; Chairman, Walter Gropius; Jury included Jose Luis Sert, Alvar Aalto, Rogers, Bratke, Reidy, and Machado.)



COMING EVENTS

RECOGNITION OF UNIVERSITY CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The secretaries of some clubs and societies have not yet complied with the annual requirements for recognition. As the list of recognised clubs and societies is now in the final stages of preparation, it is essential that prompt steps be taken to furnish the necessary information.

The annual requirements consist of providing the Vice-Chancellor, with a list of office bearers and the number of members and furnishing a copy of the annual accounts, duly audited. If any changes have been made in the constitution of any club or society during the year the nature of the alteration should be indicated.

Any secretary in doubt as to the requirements or who desires further information should, in the first instance, get in touch with Mr. S. B. Bateman, Adviser to Men Students.

W. H. MAZE,
Registrar.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Organ Recitals — Trinity Term, 1954

The Great Hall,
at 1.20 p.m.

Thursday, June 17: G Faunce Allman, University Organist.

Thursday, June 24: William B. Pierce, L.Mus., L.T.C.L., Organist of St. Thomas' Church, North Sydney.

Thursday, July 1: John Davies, F.T.C.L., Acting Organist of St. Paul's Church, Burwood.

Thursday, July 8: Frank Taylor, L.R.S.M., Organist of St. John's Church, Darlinghurst.

Thursday, July 15: Howard Pollack, M.Sc.

Thursday, July 22: Dr. Vincent Sheppard.

Thursday, July 29: David Barkla, L.Mus., L.T.C.L., Organist of St. Anne's Church, Ryde.

Thursday, August 5: Choral Programme. Sydney University Musical Society. Conductor: G. Faunce Allman.

NEW ZEALAND DEBATES Sydney Director

A team of two New Zealand debaters will be touring Australian Universities towards the end of this term, under the auspices of N.U.A.U.S. They will probably compete against two Sydney teams, one in the lunch hour, and the other in the evening.

Applications are hereby invited for the position of Sydney Director of the tour. This director will arrange the debates in this University, as well as accommodation and entertainment for two or three days.

The undersigned will be pleased to receive nominations at the S.R.C. Office until noon on Monday, June 29.

MARC PLAYOUST,
Hon. Secretary, S.R.C.

FILM GROUP

The first screening of this term will be next Monday in the Wallace at 7.30 p.m. THE YOUNG GUARD, a well made post-war Russian feature film will be shown. Its exciting story of resistance to the German invaders in the Ukraine is told with minimum propaganda.

A solid, carefully constructed film, it is singularly distinct from the unvarying pattern and familiar sentiments of the underground resistance films of the war.

THE YOUNG GUARD, in two parts and three hours long, comprises the whole programme and starts promptly at 7.30. All welcome.

Coming later in the term are screenings of long lost copies of Hitchcock's BLACKMAIL and Pabst's SECRETS OF THE SOUL. Also a pre-release preview of a hilarious new Czech feature in colour, THE EMPEROR'S BAKER. J. McP.

ARTS SOCIETY

Nominations are hereby called for the title of "Miss Arts 1954".

Candidates will be judged at the Arts Ball to be held on Tuesday, 13th July.

The title winner will be sponsored by the Society in the Miss University 1954 Contest.

Proceeds will go in aid of W.S.R. and U.N.

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Newport W.E.A. Summer School, 18th-20th June.

"Psychologists at Work." Programme—

Opening Session: Friday night, 8.0 p.m. "Ethics of Psychological Practice," J. Mackie.

Saturday morning: "Role of the Clinical Psychologist," A. G. Hammer (Sen. Lecturer in Psych.)

Saturday afternoon: Free.

Saturday Night: "Why Industrial Psychology?" Les Haynes (Uni. of Tech.)

Sunday morning: "Aspects of Vocational and Educational Guidance," J. Lumsden and G. Eglington (Uni. of Tech.)

Sunday afternoon: Symposium: "Social Theory or Social Engineering?" Ray Martin, Norma Parker, Adrian Troy.

Conference concludes 5.00 p.m., Sunday, 20th.

For further details contact Psych. notice board or ring WM 1452 (day).

ANGLICAN SOCIETY

Today (Thursday), 7.45 p.m. Term General Meeting. Badham Room, Sydney University Union. Agenda: Minutes, etc., Report on Activities of New Committee. PROPOSED MISSION.

Tuesday, 22nd June, 1.10 p.m.: Anthropology Lecture Room, 2nd Address in the series for this term, "The Ministry of the Church". This address entitled, "Confirmation." Special Speaker: K. C. Westfold, M.A., B.Sc., D.Phil. (Oxon), Acting Head of the Department of Mathematics.

All members and others interested please note.

Watch the notice board (S.R.C. Notice Board No. 4 Space) for further information on the Discussion Group. The night for meeting has been changed to alternate Thursdays but the place of meeting is still the same — S. James' Crypt. (Enter from King Street). The only hold up at the moment is finding out which alternate Thursday but as soon as we discover which one is available, a notice will be posted.

S.U. FILM SOCIETY PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

To-morrow, Friday 16

Noon: The Cruel Sea, Nicholas Monsarrat's gripping tale of dauntless courage and bitter sacrifice becomes an outstanding motion picture with a hand-picked cast bringing to life the book's unforgettable characters. JACK HAWKINS.

Evening: Madeleine. Guilty or not guilty? The stranger story of a beautiful girl who forsook convention... "they met in the servant's bedroom while the maid sat compliantly in the kitchen..." Did she kill her lover? Only a Scottish court could give such a verdict. Ann Todd, Ivan Desny.

Something Money Can't Buy. When the enjoyment of life evaporates and love flies out the window in post war England, neither husband nor wife intend to allow the situation to continue. But how? Well, that's the delightful story of their marital mix-up. Patricia Roc, Anthony Steel.

Wednes. Evening — Noon: Mr. Denning Drives North. Top-notch murder mystery starring John Mills, Ann Todd.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S WOOLSHED BALL

Harry Berry and his Rustics. Friday, 18th June, 8.30 p.m.

At the Union Refectory.

Tickets 15/- a single from:

B. Gibson, Ag. IV.

D. Monk, Ag. IV.

R. Shand, Ag. III.

A cordial invitation is extended to members of all faculties.

NEWMAN SOCIETY

The Annual Newman Mass and Communion Breakfast will be held on June 27th at 8 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. Mass will be followed by breakfast at Cusa House (4/6). All Catholic graduates and undergraduates are invited to attend. His Eminence the Cardinal will preside.

The Annual Corpus Christi procession will be held at Manly on Sunday, June 20th at 2 p.m. All Catholic graduates and undergraduates are invited to participate. Academic dress may be worn, but is not essential.

JOAN MENOUE,
Publicity Officer.

LIBERAL CLUB DISCUSSION GROUP

Topic.

"Is Democracy the Most Desirable Form of Government?"

Thursday, 17th June

Ecs. "B" Room — 1 p.m.

All welcome.

LEN AMADIO,
Public Relations Officer

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL CLUB

presents

Fijian Rugby Union Football

Team Cocktail Party

Thursday, 17th June, '54

Time: 5.30 p.m.

Place: Withdrawing Room.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the entire Fijian Football team. Tickets obtainable in the Quad'le.

STUDENTS' GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On Monday, 21st June, at 1.10 p.m. in the Large Geology Lecture Theatre, Mr. F. K. Rickwood will continue the talk on New Guinea which was started last term. Interesting slides will be shown, and all members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

BOOKKEEPER

Intermediate Accountancy Standard, required for Sydney University Women's Union. Typing an advantage. Salary according to age and qualifications. Apply in writing, with copies of references, to the Secretary, Manning Hse., University of Sydney.

E.U.

Mondays to Fridays, 8.40 a.m.: Daily Prayer Meetings, History I Room.

Thursday, 24th June, 1.10 p.m.: Rev. D. Robinson, M.A., "The Scandal of the Cross" (Wallace Theatre).

FOR SALE

Complete Siddell and Scott Greek Dictionary £4. Gown (45" length) £2. Mortar Board £1. Chaseling, 10 Ludgate St., Lakemba.

FOUND

A Penguin cigarette lighter at the City Road tram stop. Apply Department of Social Studies.

LOST

One twin flame cigarette lighter. Please return to S.R.C. Office.

One red woollen scarf belonging to Len Amadio. Please return to S.R.C. Office.

LOST

Sheaffers propellor, colour blue-gold. Date, 7th June, 1954. WX2225, Miss R. Bonello, or get in touch with Miss J. Edwards, Social Study Department.

FILMS

GUNS BEFORE SEX:

"THE YOUNG GUARD"

One of the most interesting films to emerge from behind the Iron Curtain in recent years has been Gerasimov's "The Young Guard".

Made in Russia in 1948, it is the graduation thesis of a group of students of the State Institute of Cinematography. A remarkable film from people who were not long ago inexperienced, it reflects the advantages of organised training of film workers.

Based on the true story of the German occupation of a Ukrainian village, it tells of the resistance organised by a group of youths of pre-military age. The movement was begun by a 16-year-old boy after he had witnessed a mass execution of Russian prisoners by their German guards. The resistance grew in strength, and achieved vengeance on fifth columnists and in troop train derailments.

A carefully constructed film, it moves with a steady, efficient pace. Main achievement is its tension and reality in situations that have become commonplace to the cinema. The occupying German officers are separate, understandable persons and not crude caricatures. All the young people are real and individual youths whose resistance is a natural reaction

A NIGHT IN HADES

Come to the Arts Ball

Meet Hell's Belles — 3 Floor Shows

13th JULY, 1954

Union at 8 p.m.

YOUNG GUARD



"Young Guard" Partisan at Night: U. Ivanov, Makarova.

stance is a natural reaction and not an excess of patriotic zeal. Photography is superb, particularly in the early scenes of the town thrown into order as it ceases to be Soviet territory.

S.R.C. NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being received at the S.R.C. Office to fill the following positions on the Students' Representative Council:

	Positions
Arts (men)	2
Arts (women)	2
Law	2
Medicine (men)	2
" (women)	1
Science (men)	1
" (women)	1

Dentistry	1
Vet. Science	1
Agriculture	1
Economics	1
Architecture	1
Physiotherapy	1
Pharmacy (men)	1
" (women)	1

Nominations shall be made in writing and handed in at the S.R.C. Office in a sealed envelope. Nomination forms may be obtained from that office, and each form must be signed by the candidate and by two nominators. Nominations will close at 12 noon on Friday, June 25.

A list of candidates, together with policy speeches, will be published in Honi Soit on Thursday, July 1.

The attention of members of the Student Body is drawn to several of the electoral regulations quoted below.

Regulations governing the conduct of the annual S.R.C. elections are as follows:

Nominations

- (a) The nomination of a qualified student shall be made by two students qualified to vote for the candidate, and shall contain the written consent of the candidate to his nomination.
- (b) Nominations shall be made in the form set out in the first schedule (or like thereto).
- (c) The electoral Officer shall give a copy of the form of nomination to any student requesting it.
- (d) The electoral officer shall reject any nomination not complying with these regulations.
6. A candidate may not withdraw his nomination after nominations have closed.
7. If in any case nominations of qualified students do not exceed the number of vacancies the electoral officer shall declare the candidate or candidates duly elected.
8. In all cases in which the nominations of qualified students exceed the number to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
9. In any case in which the number of nominations of qualified students is less than the number of vacancies the candidates nomi-

nated shall be declared elected, and nominations shall be called again for the remaining vacancies.

Publicity

11. (a) The electoral officer shall publish a list of

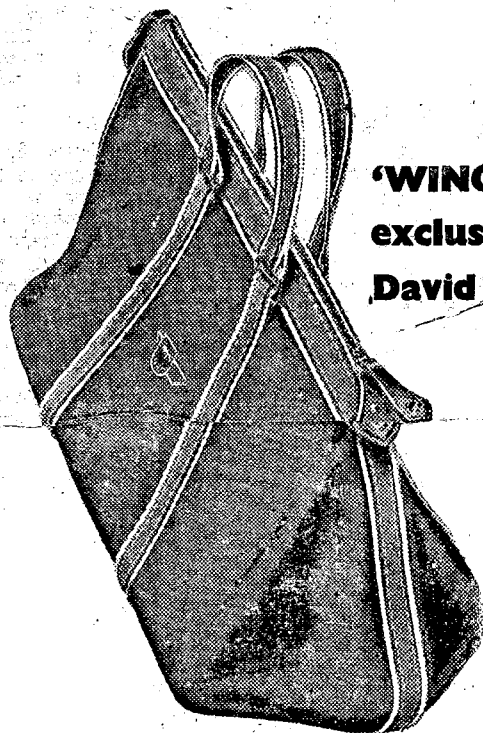
election together with their nominators in the issue of Honi Soit immediately preceding the election.

- (b) The nominators of any candidate for election may publish in the issue of Honi Soit immediately preceding the election a statement not exceeding 200 words, providing that the director of student publications shall delete from such statement any personal

criticisms of the person or character of any other candidate, that either the candidate or the writer of the statement may appeal to the executive against such deletion and the decision of the executive shall be final.

- (c) Any matters concerning the election shall be decided by the writer of the statement.
- (d) The electoral officer may adopt any means of acquiring the electors with policies of the candidates.

Printed by Publicity Press (Sydney), for the Director of Student Publications, W. McCredie, Edited by J. Burns, B.A., and circulated weekly within the University of Sydney.



'WINGLITE' exclusive to David Jones'

The versatile travel bag,

Can be used as sports bag, an overnight bag, useful for shopping too, and it weighs only 2lb. Whether you treat it kindly or throw it about, the 'Winglite' comes up smiling every time... Canvas made in 'Deep Sea Blue' with a natural cowhide trim, the 'Winglite' is designed to keep its shape even when empty. Made in two handy sizes, 16" 70/6, 20" 74/6

2nd Flr., Market Street and also at George St. Store

DAVID JONES'