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Salient

An Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington N.Z.

VOL. 8, No. 3 ★ WELLINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1945 Price: THREEPENCE

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NIGHTLY

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TOURNAMENT REVIVED

Four Colleges Compete For Shield and Glory

The Four-Year Dim-out on Sport has been relaxed and once more the Universities of New Zealand assemble to celebrate this climax of the season. Chosen by its nuclear situation Wellington becomes the Mecca of students from Auckland to Otago. From Saturday morning to the Ball on Tuesday evening the plan is complete—event caps event as day merges into night.

Speculation is rife—the Shield, presented for the highest aggregate of points has been, since 1941, the unchallenged trophy of Otago: the Wooden Spoon, so often returned to Victoria, is at present the unwelcome guest of Canterbury. If the Tournament Committee has any rest it will not be by endeavour—results will be published by the press and announced over the radio.

The invasion will begin on Thursday, and continue on Friday. Over two hundred representatives will steam and sail into Wellington, welcomed by the most vociferous haka party VUC has heard for years. The next six days will be variously occupied with sporting and social events, including track sports, aquatic sports, blood sports, snorts and cavorts; also cheering, jeering and beering to say nothing of singing and dancing, sleeping and eating, and other normal functions. The rest of the time you can spend as you feel inclined.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, March 29—

6.45 a.m.—Meet Otago and Canterbury at boat.
8 p.m.—Picture Evening, VUC, and Supper.

Friday, March 30—

6.45 a.m.—Meet Auckland.

Saturday, March 31—

9.30 a.m.—Tennis Prelims.
10.15 a.m.—Athletic Preliminaries at Athletic Park.
12.30 p.m.—Basketball at Newtown.
2 p.m.—Shooting at Ngaio.
2.15 p.m.—Rowing at Korokoro (Petone) or Oriental Bay.
7.30 p.m.—Swimming at Thorndon Baths.
10 p.m.—Rendezvous at VUC.

Sunday, April 1—

11 a.m.—Church Service.
2 p.m.—Excursion to Eastbourne. Ferry Wharf at 2 p.m.
8 p.m.—Picture Evening.

Monday, April 2—

9.30 a.m.—Basketball at Newtown.
9.30 a.m.—Boxing Prelims.
2 p.m.—Athletics at Athletic Park.
8 p.m.—Boxing Finals, Town Hall.

Tuesday, April 3—

9.30 a.m.—Tennis all day.
2.30 p.m.—Drinking Horn.
9.30 p.m.—3 a.m.—Tournament Ball.

OFFICIALS

Tournament Delegates: R. M. Daniell, I. C. McDowall. Athletes: J. Bennett. Basketball: Thea Muir. Boxing: R. Oliver. Rowing: W. V. Osten. Shooting: B. Nash. Swimming: B. B. Hands. Tennis: P. McKenzie. Publicity: D. S. Campbell. Ways and Means: J. Barr. Billeting: L. J. Starke. Haka Party: M. J. Poole. Transport: R. L. Oliver. Programme: I. Ting. Records: A. McLeod. Information: D. Cohen. Drinking Horn: J. Barr. Trophy: M. J. Poole. Social: V. Rich, M. Beattie, M. J. Poole. Ball: M. J. Poole, G. Bogle. Church Service: M. Orr, P. McKenzie. General Secretary: G. Stacey. Treasurer: D. Steele.

TO OUR VISITORS

Wellington, they say, is inhospitable. The weather is always shocking. The city is not University minded. There is nothing to do, nowhere to go. This Easter will convince you that in spite of all this, Wellington is not the worst place to hold a Tournament. You will find that VUC can put on a rendezvous that will leave you staggering, that the harbour is occasionally smooth enough for rowing, that VUC will give you a good run for your money in every sport, and not the least important, there is a large selection of excellent pubs. We have not done all we would have liked to because the difficulties of running a full-scale Tournament in wartime Wellington are immense. The smallest concession has to be wormed out of some complacent official, and as the city now houses a greatly increased population, billeting has been a major hurdle. However, all arrangements have now been completed, and the success or failure of the enterprise now depends only on the weather, the spirit of the competitors, and the benevolent interest of the general public.

N.Z.U.S.A.

The Annual Conference of the New Zealand University Students' Association is normally included with Tournament arrangements. It will be held this year and will commence at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, March 30. We hope for a statement concerning the Exam. Fees protest.

INFORMATION

In the Executive Room on the ground floor of the Gymnasium, Mr. Dave Cohen will set up an Information Bureau. He has a ready answer to all questions and will do anything for you, from finding your lost false teeth or your partner for the Ball to supplying the latest sporting results from all fronts. The telephone is 40-726, so lost souls in the outer darkness of Miramar or Muritai will receive instructions on finding themselves without difficulty.

The Bureau will also distribute tickets to all the sport and social functions, including the Ball.



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No. 3

Salient

Wednesday,
March 28

An Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington N.Z.

Published fortnightly by the Victoria University College Students' Association and printed for them by The Commercial Printing Co. Ltd., Boulcott Avenue, Wellington.

COLLEGE OVERCROWDING

Recently in this College the lecture rooms have become overcrowded to an alarming degree, and the shortage of teaching staff has been commented upon by innumerable people. Obviously the building and facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of the increased numbers of students whose education must suffer unless the position is alleviated. Owing to the war and the restricted building policy adopted by the Government there seems little hope of a building programme being inaugurated in the near future, but the question of providing additional tutors certainly deserves consideration as this would improve matters to some extent.

Interviewed, Prof. Gordon stated that he did not consider large classes detrimental to the students' general standard of work. Our classes are not larger than those of typical English provincial Universities. He said that the ratio of staff to students overseas is about 1:10, allowing for the great personal contact so valuable in a subject such as English. He thinks there is a fair strain on lecturers at Victoria. He himself is fortunate in having a loud-speaker system. Instead of overcrowding in itself being a menace, Prof. Gordon thinks that it is a good sign, providing there are adequate staffing and accommodation facilities available. The answer does not lie in cutting classes; if there is a demand on University education it is the job of the community to provide facilities. Large numbers are a sign of good tendencies but the teaching is not being increased to meet the demand.

STAFF OPINIONS

When approached Prof. Richardson stated that large Stage I classes were in his opinion not detrimental to student work, particularly in science subjects where students are ignorant of vocabulary, and personal contact would be of little value. As Stage I science classes are really cultural he considers large numbers are inevitable and desirable. The size of classes is equally bad overseas; for instance at Sir George William College, Canada, in 1929 there were 1200 to 1400 students, in 1943, 3000, and no tendency to decline was observed. In these Universities lecturing facilities, both in size and suitability of lecture halls and visual aids are very much better than at VUC. Prof. Richardson used a projection system for blackboard work by which the material was simply projected from his desk on to a screen. This was suitable and effective for 250. The staffing position there was better as large numbers of specialist lecturers and tutors were provided to cater for greater specialisation by advanced students. At McGill a student attended 480 lecture hours during his degree course, whereas here he attends only 225. Our larger classes make comparable facilities impossible.

Most overcrowded of all is the Science Faculty. Mr. Monro, of the Chemistry department thought that the department was working at the absolute limit, but that under the circumstances every student was receiving adequate

tuition. Yes, he did miss personal contacts with his class, but what could they do? He was not in favour of limiting the numbers of first year students, but unless the Government came forward with help and a building project, the position would not be alleviated.

In the Physics department, from Mr. Peddie, whose last specific gravity bottle had just been broken, opinions came freely, but in the interests of student unity a great deal had better be "off the record." The Physics class this year, he said, had grown far beyond the facilities intended for it, and owing to the miraculous number of Meds., further sub-division of the prac. classes had been necessary. Student demonstrators had been called upon to help cope with the large numbers, and while the ideal would be a specially trained staff, the present organisation worked quite satisfactorily.

Prof. Florance, when interviewed, did well to point out that an increase in students should be welcomed rather than deprecated; in this technical world today higher education is needed more and more. But he thought there should be some form of directing body to avoid the glut of students training for specialised courses. Adaptability was part and parcel of a good student, and he did not believe that careers would suffer in the least. As it was, facilities in his department became inadequate two years ago, but no concrete idea had yet been propounded in an endeavour to improve conditions.

STUDENT COMMENT

Students in English 1 are so crowded that writing is difficult and uncomfortable. The speaker system is technically unsatisfactory. Those in the front row hear both the Prof.'s voice and the speaker voice, which, to make things worse, comes from behind them. Nothing can be heard at the back.

Students in Zoology 1 find that acoustics are good, but that the class is so crowded that lecture conditions are most unpleasant. There is too little room between tables and the chairs are jammed uncomfortably close.

Other students approached were singularly unhelpful. Responses varied from: "We always sit in the front anyway," to "Aw, I wouldn't understand even if I was close up."

Council Meeting

Hitherto students have remained ignorant of the functions of the governing body of the College, the College Council, which consists of representatives of various sections of the community, including one student representative. Following are matters of student interest which were dealt with at the last two Council meetings, held on February 22 and March 22:—

Lodgings for Women Students.—It is possible that the former residence of the Prime Minister may be acquired and converted into a women's hostel with accommodation for about 20.

American Editor's Lecture.—Advice of a prospective visit from the Editor of the American publication "The Saturday Review of Literature," Mr. E. S. Candy, was received from the American Legation. A public lecture at the College may be arranged during Mr. Candy's visit.

Weir House.—The Council adopted a recommendation from the Weir House Committee asking for the cancellation of the regulation which required the locking of the side door at 11.15 p.m.

Chinese Students.—The Council decided against free tuition for Chinese nationals on the grounds that it would be unwise to make any special concession to any one nationality.

WEA Lectures.—The tentative schedule of WEA lectures for the 1945 session is as follows: Mr. R. S. Parker—Democrats and Bureaucrats, six lectures in public administration and the public interest; Mr. E. C. Simpson—ten lectures on art appreciation; Prof. I. A. Gordon—ten lectures on language; Mr. W. J. Scott—six lectures on reading to some purpose; Mr. M. Riske—20 lectures on psychology; Prof. L. R. Richardson—ten lectures on biology; Mr. G. Mirams—ten lectures on the film; Mr. H. Wadman—twelve lectures on public speaking; Mr. A. J. D. Barker—ten lectures on musical appreciation; Mr. E. Plischke—ten lectures on home decoration and planning; Dr. J. Kahn—ten lectures on European problems in the peace settlement.

Student Union Building.—Professor Knight's report on the proposed site for the Student Union building has been received, and directed to the committee concerned for consideration and report.

Enrolments and Accommodation.—The enrolments this session are already in advance of former years and the College lacks adequate staff accommodation and equipment. The roll is now 1240 and still fluctuating. It is hoped to improve the position somewhat by sub-division of the ground floor of the chemistry building and the provision of an Army hut 40 x 25.

Medical Scheme Report.—This was considered in committee.

Limitation of Numbers.—Unless there is an additional building provided very soon, it may be necessary to limit enrolments, at least in certain classes.

Hostels.—During open discussion, Mr. M. H. Oram suggested that the Council approach the Wellington City Council for finance to cover cost of Hostels for students.

EXTRAV. IN REHEARSAL Peter Goes Through Looking Glass

Extrav., retreat of the bawdy, the drunks, the social, and the perpetual undergrad., began with a bang last Friday when, in a gym. packed with eager students, Ron Meek, author/producer of this year's opus "Peter in Blunderland," chose his large cast.

The script this year is the most brilliant work we've yet had in the long list of Ron's extrav., and will, too, be the college's most difficult undertaking to date. The show runs in the Opera House from April 20 to 26; the cast and the backstage crew will work like slaves till then—but it'll be worth it!

Over a hundred students were on hand, and a fairly rough-and-ready method of selection had to be used. After giving a summary of the show, the producer, aided by a selection committee of Jack Barr, Dave Cohen and Huddy Williamson, heard men and women of the college reading and singing. Joan Easterbrook-Smith, an old Extrav. stalwart, showed up to play the piano, and a very remarkable display of talent was revealed.

Among such old hands as Campbell, Bogle, Hartley and Joan Taylor were a large bunch of freshers, many with very good voices. This year there are several women's parts, and competition here was sharp. The task of the selection committee was an unenviable one, and, as Mr. Meek explained, the casting is tentative only.

"Peter in Blunderland," obviously, is a pinch from Alice, and Peter is involved in similar incredible and hair-raising adventures, meeting on his journey to the Better World well-known figures in national and international political life. Many of the characters will be readily recognisable, the Red King, for example, being a familiar face left over from last year. The book is exceedingly clever, following the style of Alice to a remarkable degree. The college is fortunate in having the use of the Wellington Repertory Theatre's delightful Alice costumes; but the work of the wardrobe mistress and the property man will be very arduous. Lots more help is needed.

The author of the show, Ron Meek, is a familiar figure to many of the older students, but freshers may be interested in knowing that he is author of numbers of Extravs, including last year's "Zealous Zombies"; a brilliant graduate in law; holder of a Strathcona Research Fellowship at Cambridge, interrupted because of the war; a nominee of Victoria for Rhodes Scholar; an NZU blue in several sports; author of several books and pamphlets. He has just been appointed to an important post in the N.Z. Public Service Association.

Ron states that "Peter" has been contributed to largely by Max Bland, a Hamilton confrere who, with Ron, presented political shows that raised eyebrows in that prosperous farming district.



RON MEEK

"... eyebrows were raised ..."

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FILM and STAGE

Melodrama

GASLIGHT, Repertory's show, is an excellent play, excellently presented. Far from being a "little" play with a "slight" plot, as it is dismissed in the Wellington papers, GASLIGHT is a genuine psychological study, entertaining and thrilling. The acting in this production was of a very high standard, and Zita Chapman, playing the tortured wife, rose to great dramatic heights. Howard Wadman, equally fine, played his part skilfully, never for a second overacting, as could quite easily have been done.

The plot is about a man who, already having one murder on his hands, sadistically and calculatingly proceeds to drive insane his distracted wife. He adopts a cat-and-mouse technique of giving her small objects, stealing them back, and then, when she is unable to produce them on demand, tells her she is going mad. The character is a most unpleasant one, and, what with him taking up with the pert maid on the side and peeping about generally, I felt very glad when he finally got what was coming.

The set in this play was complete in its period detail and awfulness. All

Rehearsal Doings

"Peter" will be produced on a fairly tight rehearsal schedule; no time will be wasted in the frequent practices. A light meal will be served on Sundays, and there will be the usual dances during the tea break. Extrav. romances will bloom and fade as is their wont, and post-extrav. dances will take place after each performance. The biggest social event of the year will provide work and fun for all comers!

Important people during Extrav. include:

- ☑ Jack Barr, Extrav. Controller (he has the final say-so; see him if it's really important).
- ☑ Huddy Williamson, Stage Manager (his word is law on The Night).
- ☑ Alec McLeod, Properties (a wicked job; return your props.).
- ☑ Moira Wicks, Ballet Mistress (watch your step).
- ☑ Gwen MacDowall, Costumes (clothing coupons gratefully accepted).
- ☑ Dave Cohen, Lynn Henderson, Music.

the trappings were there; the nob's on the red plush curtains and the anti-macassars and aspidistras and what-nots. One hopes that our current furnishings and styles will not look so fearsome in 50 years.

Repertory are to be congratulated on this fine presentation. The play isn't world-shaking, but it's a good deal better than most presented in Wellington.

New Films

A very fine film was tucked away in a small theatre last week. It was THE MALE ANIMAL, a brilliant American satire by James Thurber. Chase this to the suburbs if it comes round again. It's worth it.

The general run of films in the last week or two has been of a very low standard, the distributors obviously saving up for the holiday period—a short-sighted attitude, I must say. Some monster films are due to screen, including the widely billed SONG OF BERNADETTE and GOING MY WAY, both triumphs of propaganda for the organisation they are boosting.

If you can't stand the general run of films, and desire to see some of your old favourites, a small theatre here is carrying out a policy of "requests." Double features are screened, and, although it is possible to see some of the worst films ever made, there is frequently a showing of a notable film of earlier days.

CORRESPONDENCE

This purposeless production of "Grieved Graduate" . . . I am aghast . . . the wildest flights of fancy . . . this individual's mind . . . Obviously his only thought . . . not the community. If . . . the building is completed . . . there are such . . . about . . . let them . . . be debarred . . . the pleasures therein.

—AFFRONTED FRESHER
[This letter has been somewhat abridged.—Ed.]

Dear Sir,—May I humbly apologise to "Grieved Graduate" for my presence in this college? but perhaps he can remember that he wore napkins before he wore trousers.—I am, etc.,
MABLE FRESHER.

STUDENTS!

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A SPORTING CHANCE

Shield or Spoon?

We present here lists of competitors in all events except the Drinking Horn, together with some ill-chosen remarks about form and prospects in each case. At the time of printing very little information is available about the teams from the other colleges, but we are confident that it will not be an unequal contest in any sport.

At some long-forgotten Tournament, Victoria, blown with pride, presented a wooden spoon as booby prize. The results of this rash action have been a bitter blow. The Spoon proved to be a boomerang and returned with depressing regularity. True, we have had occasional bursts of brilliance, for we won the Tournament Shield in 1938, but after that relapsed into mediocrity. This year, however, even though we may fail to capture the Shield we are optimistic about keeping our Main Hall free from kitchen utensils.

TENNIS

With some months of hard practice behind it the tennis team is now showing a high standard in all divisions. VUC players are also used to "Windy Tennis," a Wellington speciality, which gives them a preliminary advantage. The team is as follows:—

Men's Singles:

Mr. B. M. O'Connor is a good all-rounder, experienced in courtcraft. His service resembles that of Fred Perry and when on top of his form he ranks comfortably in the top flight of Wellington players.

Mr. W. K. Smiler has a diversity of technique and a match temperament that stand him in good stead. He specialises in deceptively short volleys and has a strong backhand that is difficult to return.

Ladies' Singles:

Miss Nancy Turner has had some success recently in Interclub matches, which seems to indicate that she is in good form this year.

Miss Joyce Strange shows a confident style, places effectively and has the right temperament for match play.

Men's Doubles:

Mr. B. O'Connor and Mr. W. Smiler combine well, sustain a fast pace and play a vigorous all-court game.

Mr. D. Goodwin and Mr. P. McKenzie are a younger pair but make an energetic combination. McKenzie's left hand service is a valuable asset.

Women's Doubles:

Misses Nancy and Rae Turner have the advantage of having played together for some time. Both have a pretty style though Rae could improve the effectiveness of her strokes by displaying a little more confidence.

Misses Joyce Strange and Avis Reed play an efficient double, combining virtuously with steady play.

Mixed Doubles:

Mr. A. M. MacLeod and Miss Jean Miller are a formidable combination. Alastair has the advantage of height and physique and his improved style and hard hitting, plus Jean's ability to attack freely and her smart ground shots, will make their games a highlight in this sport.

Mr. G. Stacey and Margaret Beattie play a strong aggressive game. George has a hard service and some nifty shots, while Margaret sends some powerful drives, although she sometimes takes a few games to get on to form.

ROWING

The Rowing Club has undergone an amazing resurrection in the last six months and is now in a position to make a reasonably good showing at Easter.

Stroking the crew is Enoka MacDonald, whose years of experience in this seat should be a great asset to the crew.

One of the Star Boating Club's senior four, George Cornick, is using his style to good advantage as number seven, where his driving power will be of most use.

Dennis Hartley, a novice, is rowing in sixth seat, and judging on his present form, should acquit himself very well.

Number five is Bill Osten, of Star's youths' fours, and one of the crew which won the President's Fours at that club.

TOURNAMENT BALL

St. Francis Hall, Hill St., is the place, Tuesday, April 2, at 9 p.m. is the time. The culmination of all Tournament activities and the brightest Ball in years.

Visiting representatives free.

VUC students, 15/- double.

Tickets at Information Bureau, Exec. Room.

Another novice showing good form is Gil Marryatt, whose weight should tell in his position, number four.

Prominent all round sport Ewen Drummond occupies number three, and his rowing experience at Otago and Wanganui will be an important factor in keeping the bow in good order.

Number two seat is well filled by the promising oar of Noel Brown. Rowing bow is Geoff Ward, who has held this seat in several Star crews. On the judgment and sure eye of cox Jack Barr may hang the balance of defeat or victory for VUC.

The time is 2.30 p.m. on Saturday and an early announcement will be made about the course, whether Korokoro or Oriental Bay.

SWIMMING

The following team has been chosen to represent Victoria at the Tournament:—

Ladies: C. Eichelbaum, M. Marwick, P. Cummins, P. Gardiner.

Men: K. Staples, G. Bogle, D. Kerr, R. Denton, J. Nicholls.

Cath Eichelbaum will be competing against the present NZU champion and NZ record holder, Marie Pasalich, AUC, in the 100 yards breaststroke event. Owing to medical reasons Cath has not been able to do a great deal of competitive swimming this season but she is nevertheless expected to turn in a good performance.

Marion Marwick and Pat Cummins are Victoria's representatives in the ladies' 50 yards freestyle, and the College should do well in this event. Pat is also accompanying Pat Gardiner (now at Otago) over the 100 yards, and both girls are expected to perform creditably. Pat Gardiner is the Victoria representative in the 100 yards backstroke, which is being held for the first time this Easter.

Of the men, Ken Staples, Doug Kerr and Dick Denton (of Massey) are the freestyle representatives. Dick is swimming in both the 100 and 220, and although he may find the Thorndon water slow his times indicate that he will overcome that difficulty. Doug Kerr is concentrating on the 220, while Staples is the 440 representative. Both are swimming consistently and have the necessary stamina for these distances.

The ubiquitous Bogle is Victoria's man in the backstroke and can be expected to swim in his usual efficient manner. Johnny Nicholls, the well-known hockey player, is the 220 yards breaststroke competitor. He is now at Massey and his times there indicate that he is in good form.

Altogether the team is a well-balanced one which is expected to turn on one or two surprises.

SHOOTING

Last year it was decided that the University Shooting Club should be re-founded in miniature rifles. With this in view Stan Campbell was on the job early in the year and on the 8th the first meeting was held and a provisional committee elected.

We have had two range practices at the Wellington Boys' College and their help is being much appreciated. The first shoot was for the selection of a Tournament team. Results leave little to be asked for, and a good team has been selected for the Tournament. Geoff Stroeter, Jim Lambourne, H. E. Hutchings, Gib. Bogle and John Ziman are putting up a good showing and we have high hopes.

The Tournament is to be held on a 100-yard range by courtesy of the combined Ngaio-Onslow Miniature Rifle Club and is to be run under NZMRC regulations.

We can only pray for fair weather, no wind and an absence of the usual fogginess of vision which follows nights of Tournament dissipation.

ATHLETICS

Particularly strong in some events, the VUC athletic team is showing good form generally—the contest will certainly not be dull.

T. H. Benjamin (100 yds.) just missed representing Wellington in the NZ Junior Championships and should show up well.

J. F. Goldfinch and A. H. E. Munden, the former in the 220 and 440, and the latter in the 440, are both strong sprinters with little to choose between them. Munden won the Wellington Provincial 440 title, but Goldfinch has edged him in two races since and was third in the National 440.

Ian McDowall, VUC club captain, who finished fifth in the 880 National Championship, is getting into good form and has developed a beautiful finish. Accompanying him in the mile is Dicky Daniell, veteran college runner.

Versatile Ewen Drummond has been allocated five events—120 and 220 hurdles, the pole vault, and the broad and high jumps. He is Provincial Champion in the first two.

Dave Tossman, old man of the club, looks like a winner in the 440 hurdles, holding the Provincial title for that event.

Gib Bogle is accompanying Tossman and Drummond in the hurdles, but has not shown last season's form. He held the Provincial 440 hurdles title until it passed to Tossman.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The programme looks like an attempt to ensure that you don't have a moment's sleep from Thursday to Wednesday. Full details will be found in the Official Programme but we draw attention here to the following:—

Thursday, 8 p.m.—

Film evening and dance at VUC.

Saturday, 10 p.m.—

Rendezvous at VUC.

Sunday, 8 p.m.—

Film evening. "Wilson," a preview at the Plaza Theatre.

Tuesday—

Tournament Ball, St. Francis Hall, at 9 p.m.

Lone representative in the mile walk is C. L. Henderson, and with a little training he should do well.

With his long legs, Ash Couper will be prominent in the jumps, but it was his first time out last Saturday and he is also in need of training.

Don Beard, Training College surprise man, is our representative for the javelin, and his throw at the inter-fac. meeting went near to National standard.

D. Campbell (100 and 220), D. K. Ower (880), and D. Porter (3 miles), are all Massey College men, and consequently are largely unknown here. Owen is a likely points-winner.

Recently returned from the services is R. Miller, who will also be running in the 3 miles.

Victoria's representatives in the field events are D. Perham, G. Stirling and I. D. Edwards, a returned man whose eligibility at present is doubtful.

A large gathering of supporters will be at Athletic Park. See that YOU are there.

BASKETBALL

Team.—Forwards: Dorothy Burke, Margaret Beattie, Kathleen Martin, Shirley Webster. Centres: Maxine Dunne, Barbara Moore, Thea Muir, (Captain), Freda Moore. Defence: Norma Henderson (Vice-captain), Avis Reed, Shirley Roberts, Shirley Cole.

In the practices the team has shown considerable promise, and all are looking forward to the matches with enthusiasm and with no little confidence.

One outstanding feature of the team is the inclusion of five Wellington Representatives. Dot Burke from Training College was a Wellington Rep. last year and a Hawke's Bay Rep. in 1943, in which year she made quite a name for herself in basketball circles with her accurate shooting in the N.Z. Association matches.

Margaret Beattie represented Wellington in 1943, Barbara Moore and Norma Henderson in 1944, and Thea Muir in 1942-43-44.

With this combination VUC should fare much better than last year.

BOXING

Although there are no outstanding personalities in the Victoria team, it is certainly a side to be reckoned with. Under the vigorous eye and tongue of Billy Hedburn of Koolman's Gym, fitness is the order of the day, and by Eastertime everyone should be in the pink of condition.

As heavyweight we have long-limbed H. C. ("Peter") Faulke, who, although new to Varsity boxing, looks formidable enough. A lad from the country, he should be well toughened to receive any punishment—and to give it.

Colin Gillet, the middleweight, is big and solid, and right at the top of the weight. He is training hard and is rapidly approaching top form.

Brendan O'Connor is well known in Varsity sporting circles and should more than hold his own in the welterweight class.

For the lightweight division, E. T. Watt is a "tough nut" in the true sense of the word. As a Wellington rep. he narrowly missed the decision.

It is in the lighter weights that Victoria mainly shines, and Allan Young is no exception. A featherweight of considerable Varsity boxing experience, he will be very unlucky to lose.

For the bantamweight, Brian Sutton-Smith is a boxer of class. Formerly one of Training College's outstanding boxers, he is a man to be reckoned with.

Robin Oliver, light-heavyweight, is a boxer of some experience, whose efforts in previous years have already gained him honours in the science.

Easter Monday morning and evening will see all these men in action at the Town Hall. The evening display will be brightened by two professional exhibition spars. Also a spectacular weight-lifting act will be presented by Anton Koolman's Gym.

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OBITUARY

Pixie Higgin

The death of a student these days has become an occurrence so frequent that we are inclined to forget that it may mean an irreparable gap in the College life. Many of the finest men have left us and it is all the more tragic that Patricia (Pixie) Higgin should have died at this moment.

For all those who knew her personally her loss will leave a scar that will never heal. She was the only woman student ever president of the Students' Association. In her term of office she showed administrative ability that impressed all those who worked with her. To her lot fell the organisation of Tournament in Wellington, and later in the Cafeteria re-organisation and as business manager of "Spike" she had an opportunity to show that clear and energetic action is not a prerogative of men, and wherever she was working her feminine charm made her first among all.

Pixie's work will not be lost if the men and women of Victoria will take that inspiration from her life that she gave her friends. This will be the best expression of sympathy that we can give Pixie's parents and relatives.

—W.R.

DRAMA CLUB

Problem Play

New Committee

UNORTHODOX INDEED WAS THE Annual General Meeting of the Drama Club, held last Tuesday night. Drama fans this year seem to be mostly female freshers, but there was the usual sprinkling of cynical old senior undergrads at the back. That Aunt Daisy of Victoria College, Elizabeth Arya, early took proceedings in hand, and several bewildered freshers found themselves on the committee. Miss Arya, at her best, explained the programme for the year, especially Prof. Gordon's proposal to do "The Duchess of Malfi," possibly in the Concert Chamber.

The meeting was followed by a rather odd play read by first year students. No one seems to have caught the name of the play, or of its author, and its unique beauty was not enhanced by the wild shouting and stamping of the haka party upstairs. This one-acter was a good example of an unsuitable play for any gathering, but the freshers went at it in a fine frenzy, even to a knock-down fight between two of the women.

A feature of the evening's entertainment which must not go unrecorded was the casual manner in which two additions to the already elected committee were made. Upon the late entrance of a member of the club, Miss Arya declared this lady co-opted. Then someone else, getting the hang of the thing, nominated someone else, and the audience found this too accepted.

The committee, at time of writing, appears to be:

President: Huddy Williamson; Secretary: Elizabeth Arya. General Committee: Edith Hannah, Jacky Patrick, Sibyl Reynolds, Kerry Jordan, Bill Ord.

DEBATING CLUB OPENING GREEK POLICY QUESTIONED

The opening meeting of the Debating Club was well attended, particularly by the freshers and femininity of the College. "That this house approves of General Scobie's intervention in Greece" provided a subject which both left and right orators could debate with fervour. To hear that the general standard was not as high as possible was not unusual, and although previously such criticisms have had little if any effect, the enthusiasm of the speakers, particularly from the floor, remains a characteristic of Victoria.

An innovation was introduced with the presentation of the American short "Prelude to War," which was the first of a series to be shown by the Progressive Club. What the film lacked in accuracy it certainly made up in sound effects.

The President, Mr. Campbell, opened the meeting proper with a hearty, if toothless, welcome to the audience which, he noted with approval, contained more than the usual proportion of ladies.

Mr. O'Brien, quietly and cynically, spoke for the affirmative with an appeal to forget Fascism and Byron in this consideration of the "happy family of Hellenes." He gave a short sketch of the events leading up to General Scobie's intervention and insisted that it was militarily necessary in order to preserve the peace of the district under his control. His second argument was the instability and immaturity of the Greek people in politics (Mr. Winchester: Socrates, for instance) which he demonstrated by a complicated history of riots, murders, foreigners and revolutions. This proved the Greeks did not know what they wanted.

A United People

Mr. Winchester denied the relevancy of his opponent's arguments to the present-day situation. He pointed out that the EAM who liberated Greece were not rebels, but a cross-section of the whole country, whose respectability and intelligence were proved by the adherence of four professors. Without waiting for a peaceful solution of the problem General Scobie had intervened, insisting on the disarmament of EAM but not Rightist forces. The peace which General Scobie brought to Greece was the peace of Fascism.

With oratorical and naive enthusiasm Mr. O'Connor assured the audience that Britain, having liberated and fed Greece, was morally bound to save her helpless people from shrewd politicians. He quoted Major Jordan to reinforce the reports of atrocities committed by the EAM. The success of General Scobie's policy was proved by the present peace in Greece.

Mr. Hartley, backed by an impressive array of quotations, refuted Mr. O'Connor's arguments. Far from feeding Greece the British Government had instituted a hunger blockade to starve the EAM out. The present government, a disgusting descendant of the unspeakable Metaxas dictatorship, had no basis for British support. He suggested that capital invested in Greece was one reason for Britain's reluctance to withdraw.

Speaking from the floor, Mr. McIntyre deplored the Opposition's putting its puny intelligence against the Three Minds of Yalta.

Mr. Ziman recited the Seven Stages of Censorship for Greek news which resulted in the misinformation of the world and Mr. Churchill, who looked in vain for EAM criminal records.

Mr. Jack, having carefully perused the pamphlet "The Truth About Greece" and the "Evening Post," plumped for the latter and General Scobie, dazzled by the concurrence of Messrs. Bevin, Citrine and Peter Fraser.

Mr. Neuberg, speaking from the centre of the platform, appealed for more sincerity in the debate.

Mr. Cohen efficiently clarified the order of events and stressed that Gen. Scobie intervened despite the agreement reached by the Greeks themselves. He preferred the pamphlet published by the Maritime Union to the opinions of Sir Walter, "the lackey of British Imperialism."

Mr. Witten-Hannah argued that the British Government's hand must be weak if it had to vilify the EAM to prove its case.

Miss Sim, enthusiastically acclaimed as the first lady speaker, denied the military necessity of Scobie's intervention.

Mr. Gordon was very quietly at a loss to know why the EAM, if as strong as suggested, were unsuccessful in fighting the brutal British.

Miss Patrick suggested that EAM had been anxious to compromise. EAM was not a band of "thugs and terrorists" but an organisation administering most of Greece with as good a legal title as the Hellenic Government.

Pros. and Cons.

That the British had benefitted from the intervention Mr. Palmer was convinced; therefore it was justified.

Mr. Jackson deplored this argument and considered the intervention in Greece a blow to democracy.

Mr. Abraham, self-styled Fascist, was at one with the audience in wondering why he was on the platform.

Mr. Williams said that General Scobie, following a "Times"-honoured routine, had prevented a settlement by military action.

Mr. ? (alias Smith) was pleasant about Marshal Tito but doubted if Greek democracy existed.

Mr. Milburn gave a good review of the negative case.

When the motion was put to the house it was lost by a two to one majority.

Mr. Farquhar gave a criticism of the speakers and placed them as follows: —Miss Patrick, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Hartley, Mr. Williams.

Freshers' Ball

Gym Groans Under Strain

NOT EVEN EINSTEIN COULD have packed 800 palpitating bodies into VUC's wooden gymnasium that Friday night, but the Social Committee managed it. When the prelude to battle began down below, mustered by Stan Campbell and his assistants, students found themselves each an integral part of the solid mass of swaying flesh and blood. Later arrivals draped themselves over the window-sills, on coat hangers and lamp brackets, anything that would support weight. A general welcome was extended to the freshers by Jack Barr, after which the troops moved upstairs. Then the band played. The many-headed monster slowly gyrated. Nevertheless all seemed to enjoy the crush. By midnight the floor had cleared sufficiently to allow Win Smiler and team to do several hakas. Two a.m. saw proceedings brought to a close. Victoria hopes for more like this, but, perhaps, in a new gym.

Exec. Meets

Full Agenda

The Executive held their second meeting of 1945 on March 15. Of prime consideration was the proposed student building, but all decisions depended on the special meeting held the next week. The balance of the celebration was spent on appointments and proposals for this year's medical scheme.

Before proceeding it was necessary to fill the vacant seats left by Max Eichelbaum and John Walton. Joan Sim and Maurice Twoomey were accordingly nominated. Also assigned to duties, it was reported, is a liaison officer with T.C.

The club agenda embodied a request for affiliation from the Miniature Rifle Club, which was granted. Permission was also accorded the Drama Club to present their latest play, "Ways and Means," at Trentham.

Included in the 1945 list of ordainment, Margaret Hogben was delegated General Editor of "Spike," with Dave Cohen as College Editor. Mr. Peter Munz becomes editor of "Rostrum." Convener of the Social Committee is Vivienne Rich with Gib Bogle as secretary, Gwen McDowall, Margaret Anderson, Guy Evans, Piers Abraham, and Bob Barraclough as committee. Appointed controller of the Undergrads' Supper, May 2, Margaret Anderson has as assistants Margaret Beattie, Joan Sim and Jack Barr.

Finally resolved were three points on this year's medical scheme:—

1. The scheme is to be compulsory with right of appeal.
2. The Council is to be approached for a £1 for £1 grant to pay expenses of doctors' honorarium, amounting to £300 per year. With 1,200 students the 2/6 increase on the Stud. Ass. fee would just half cover the students' share.
3. The Council is to be asked to buy an army hut as soon as possible for the use of the scheme.

The Corresponding Member NZUSA wants a secretary; work amounts to about 4 hours a week and pay of £20 per annum.

IRC Shows

Film at Annual Meeting

THERE WAS A RECORD-BREAKING attendance of over 100 at the Annual General Meeting of the IRC. The meeting was opened by Mr. Bruce Daw, who welcomed all present in his presidential address; following this, officers were elected as follows:—President, Miss Jackie Patrick; Secretary, Miss Jean Priest; Committee, Messrs. Cohen, Oliver, Witten-Hannah, Williams, Wilson and Miss Holm. A showing of the interesting and remarkably progressive film, "World of Plenty" followed. High enthusiasm is expected among members this year. Those interested are requested to watch the notice-board for announcements.

REHAB. COACHING EXEC. SCHEME

THE EXECUTIVE RECENTLY approved a scheme for assisting returned soldiers who are in difficulties with their Varsity work. The coaching is to be done by senior students and recent graduates, who are asked to undertake the job on a voluntary basis.

Rehab. students who wish to take advantage of this offer are asked to communicate with the following members of the Executive:—

Arts Subjects: Miss M. Orr.

Science: Ian McDowall.

Law and Commerce: Jack Barr.

Stage III, Honours and recent Graduates willing to offer their services as coaches please contact the Exec.

CHESS

TEN WERE PRESENT AT THE annual general meeting of the Chess Club. The following officers were elected:—Patrons: Messrs. Wade and Monro. Captain: Mr. J. D. Steele. Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. M. McDonald. Committee: Messrs. A. E. Cottingham, N. S. Henderson, and J. R. Jackson. It was proposed to ask the Executive for two new sets of chess-men for the men's common room. Meetings will be held every Thursday night in Wellington Chess Club rooms, almost opposite YMCA in Willis Street.

S.C.M.

THE FIRST SOCIAL MEETING OF the year of the Student Christian Movement was the welcome to Freshers and this took the form of a hike, and a picnic at Wilton's Bush on Saturday, March 17. About thirty members met for the picnic, including ten new students. From all accounts everyone had a very good time and this marks a good beginning to the year's activities.

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Building Plan Approved Finance Question Deferred

The Special General Meeting last Wednesday recommended the draft specifications for the projected Students' Union Building with a few amendments, but failed to reach any decision on the raising of the Stud. Ass. fee. The meeting was poorly attended, the quorum of fifty being barely attained.

Jack Barr, in the chair, explained the procedure of the meeting. He was followed by Dick Daniell, moving that the specifications be adopted. Daniell spoke of the necessity for a suitable building, capable of lasting 250 years complete with a proper theatre with fixed seats, and a large dance hall. "Dancing is the most popular sport in the College," he said. A separate building would house the gymnasium, which could not easily be doubled with the dance hall or theatre.

Stan Campbell, seconding the motion, praised the Exec. for bringing forward these proposals, and discussed the Concourse, Cafeteria and Committee Rooms. "We must work for the future and be progressive," he said in closing. After some further explanations by the chairman the meeting was thrown open for discussion.

Building Discussed

Mr. Blakie demanded that we should not limit future Execs. by definite plans. Mr. Connell said that this would only lead to deferring the issue. Pat Macaskill pointed out that here was an opportunity for the students to express their requirements to the building committee.

Several speakers then put in a plea for a raked floor in the theatre. "There is not a single decently equipped theatre in Wellington," said Dennis Hartley. The Cafeteria was generally approved after an assurance by Jack Barr that the best architectural opinion would be consulted. The committee rooms were subject to comment by Dick Jackson on sound-proofing, and by Bernie Swedlund and Jack Williams on the grounds of size.

Mr. Blakie then repeated his earlier plea about committing future generations, to which Dennis Hartley replied strongly, pointing out that such an attitude was a bar to progress. Jim Witten-Hannah moved two amend-

ments, the first of which was ruled out of order, and the second: "That in approving the draft specifications the meeting does not necessarily commit itself to taking immediate action in building," was, after some discussion, lost.

Minor Amendments

Dick Jackson moved that the building be strong enough to hold an additional storey if necessary. Some confusion arose when Bernie Swedlund wished this changed to "That provision for extensions be made." The amended amendment was finally passed. A motion by Ned Taylor to close discussion was first passed, then rescinded when Gib Bogle said that he wanted to make a further amendment. This was to provide facilities in the Caf. for 200 sitting at supper at dances, with direct access to the dance floor. Dorian Saker created a diversion by suggesting that supper was superfluous at dances, anyway. This and an amendment by Jack Williams to increase the size of the dance hall by 1,000 sq. ft. were carried.

After a short reply by Dick Daniell, the motion approving the amended specifications was carried unanimously.

Finance Position Outlined

The meeting then proceeded to deal with the second motion. Ian McDowall gave a sketch of the financial position, pointing out that the fee charged at VUC was less than in the other colleges, and yet entitled one to free membership of all clubs. The 4/- of the 7/6 to be allocated to the building fund would mean £250 a year, and the extra shilling for administration was a very moderate demand. Gib Bogle, seconding the motion, discussed the 2/6 to be devoted to the medical scheme, which might in future be made compulsory.

Kevan O'Brien questioned the validity of an increase under the

Meeting Finally Dissolved

stabilisation regulations. He compared the position with that of the Exam. Fees. The inevitable Blakie voiced a strong objection against compulsion in any form ("Who do the Exec. think they are, anyway?") and suggested that collections for the building fund be made at club meetings. Dennis Hartley did not like the idea of compulsory medical examinations and moved that the question of levying an extra 7/6 be put at a special general meeting of all students at the beginning of each year. Pat Macaskill replied that the medical scheme could only be made compulsory by the Council. "There are a number of bogies being raised," he said. As Exec. duties increased, costs must rise. Ian McDowall remarked that VUC is the only college without a full time Stud. Ass. assistant and Daisy Filmer pointed out that the medical scheme could not continue unless it were assured of finance. Stan Campbell wished to move as an amendment to the amendment that the question be put on the ballot paper at the elections, but this was ruled out of order as negating the amendment. After some rather disorganised discussion Bernie Swedlund moved that the amendment be put. It now read: "That the motion be put at the general elections this year." It was lost on the division.

Dorian Saker had hard words to say on the theme that the question of dividing the 7/6 had been "sprung on the meeting." It was not right that 50 people should dictate to 1,500. More discussion followed until Laurie Starke moved: "That this meeting adjourn to give further publicity to the raising of the Stud. Ass. fees." This motion was carried by a large majority.

Maths and Physics

A large gathering was present last Thursday at the first meeting of the Maths and Physics Society for the election of officers and to hear Dr. J. T. Campbell, who spoke on "Physical Problems and Mathematical Models."

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FOOTBALL

The annual general meeting of this Club, held on March 14, was attended by an encouraging number of potential players, and the committee has every hope of this season being a most successful one. Any players who wish to turn out for Varsity and who were not at the meeting, are urged either to see one of the committee or to fill in a team slip, of which there is a supply in the caretaker's office.

The following officers were elected:

Patron: Sir Thomas Hunter. President: Prof. B. E. Murphy. Club Captain: Mr. H. E. Moore. Input, Club Captain: Jack Bennett. Hon. Treasurer: Vic MacLennan. Hon.

Secretary: Joe Trapp. Committee: Ewen Drummond, Laurie Begg, Tanu Jowett, Keith Watson.

At present it is not known how many teams will be entered in the WRFU competitions but there will probably be at least four. The number of teams to be entered will depend on the number of players available, and for that reason everyone in the least interested in football is urged to turn out to the first Club practice. (Watch the notice board for details.)

The Club hopes that the following games will be played this year:
v. Auckland University Coll., 1st XV.
v. Canterbury University Coll., "
v. Massey Agricultural Coll., "
Colts XV v. Te Aute College at Wai-pukurau.

TRAMPING

The Tramping Club is on the march! The first week-end was spent in the Titahi Bay area and this week-end saw some of the select trudging over the Orongorongo Mountains. The majority of the party had never been in this locality before and, in spite of man-eating sand(?)flies and mosquitoes there were no fatalities.

This is only the beginning of many enjoyable "do's," so roll along and support your Tramping Club. Watch the notice-board for information about outings and especially for a notice about the General Meeting.

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