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THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, 25th, 26th and 27th June.

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AN ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,

Wellington N.Z

Vol. 2-No. 3.

JUNE 12, 1931.

Price 3d.

EDITORIAL

Humour and the "Legal Bias"

The University Student—has he a soul? Is he a gentleman? Should she emerge? This is the age of inanity so we contribute another. Has the University a Sense of Humour? Can it Laugh?

We know it thinks. A dozen or so little Dukedoms and Bishoprics of thought will vouch for this. It is quite credible that a few of our graduates are at present marring their theses here and there with an original thought or two. Yes, it thinks, but owing to the nature of its studies, it is forced to think so earnestly and dutifully that it is blinded—not able to see even itself. Instead of being the main tributary to the stream of current thought it is damned by this deadly sense of purpose and diverted. Hide bound, it plods a narrow gorge, a relic of the Middle Ages, passing on by archaic method the words of notoriously over-rated thinkers. It executes on the major scale the domestic functions of the par-

Humour, asserted by science to be the most beneficient of all emotions, is the only combatant we can employ to save the University from the inroads made by the canker of earnestness. This is not meant to involve the indulgence in a hearty guffaw at odd intervals, or a daily perseverance with a Punch Joke Calendar, but simply the projection of our attention to our own weaknesses and misfortunes. This, the philosophy of the under-prized optimist—the sense of humour is something that will light up the shadows with brilliant, blinding flashes—something that will help those of us who are always "too busy" to detract and to see ourselves.

With the general endowment of this sense in our college—and especially in the Law Faculty—what fields of delicious new humour would be opened. How laughable to those of our embryonic lawyers who so noticeably lack the precious gift, would seem the irony of their own lives. Deeply immersed in legislative and political activities, members of the College Bar and Judges in our own Star Chamber, veritable Knights of the Shire, they deliver ultimatums and homilies in the evenings—when all some of them have delivered during the day-time are envelopes and documents.

Considering the abuse into which the bursary system has fallen, the dearth of briefs and the dearth of humour, it is small wonder that now, instead of being merely disabled with the Legal Bias, we have become an official recreation ground for matured and otherwise muffled lawyers, law-encrusted and crippled—martyrs to the Legislative Limp.

The song of our College might as well run-

O. Victoria officina Justitiae procendendo Affidavit custos morus Negotiorum gestio.

Other objectionable features result from this utter absence of the sense of humour effected especially by a narrow legal education. The anxiety of many to denude their souls for protracted periods on the debating platform is not the least distressing. The tendency to cling too long to student days is another, the consequence of which may be typified in the complete lack of sympathy between the general body of students and some administrators of the student affairs. According to Professor William James, "Old fogeyism sets in round about twenty-five years of age," about which time, according to the same writer the "stigmata of the profession" begin to make themselves manifest. Young men are plainly the same the world over, although some, of course, age earlier than others do.

The social side of the University is essentially dedicated to the under-graduate and it seems that our College is being maimed by those who might pardonably be accused of tarrying with us too long. Just as "old fogeys" among "old boys" and exstudents are often heard to lament quite unjustifiably that "the school has gone down lately," and "the College is not the same as it used to be," those of our graduates and what we might term the "elderly undergraduates," who have outgrown the student stage, betray themselves similarly in endless complaints, consequentiality, purposeless points of order and general hindrance at meetings and debates.

No remedy is apparent but in order to preserve our faith and pride in our College it is necessary to remind ourselves frequently that although, no higher law than the constitution may be recognised, although the students and the various bodies conducting the affairs of the College might never see the other's point of view, it is not the social institution that is at fault, but always the people in it.

Students' Association Buildings

The Victoria College student who endeavours to participate in the club life of the College labours under two serious disabilities. In the first place the great majority of students can devote very little of their day-time hours to study. Accordingly with so many evening lectures in the syllabus, the hapless student must sacrifice many invaluable opportunities of knowing his fellows and learning from them, because he must tear off to cram up for that inevitable examination rushing towards him like a modern Juggernaut. However, a little more system in the student's scheme of studying and a little more co-operation on the part of our tutors might overcome the first difficulty. The second disability must also be resolutely faced by students. For too long now the facilities for club life at Victoria College have been a disgrace to an "institution" catering for approximately 900 students. Admittedly Victoria College is the Cinderella of the four main University College in regard to endowments. Certainly no member of Victoria College, who travelled to Dunedin for the Easter Tournament and more recently to Christchurch for the hockey tournament, can look forward to next year's Easter Tournment at Wellington with anything but feelings of misgivingwe simply have not the facilities to repay the boundless hospitality we have received in other centres. However, it is too late now, and we know our friendly rivals will make allowances and do their best to understand why we have allowed this deplorable state of affairs to continue for so long.

At present if clubs wish to hold meetings they must use the gymnasium hall, complete with thunder effects, either by the sturdy athletes above or by people decorating the room upstairs for a dance. who drop hammers, ladders, and themselves all over the place in the process. As a great favour, however, some clubs are allowed to hold all their meetings in the College Building, such meetings to end at 10 p.m. Annual meetings of clubs, too, are generally held in the building with the same time limit. The whole thing is a farce-the hall is too noisy and the time for which the main building is available is too restricted. The Free Discussions Club, to take one example, cannot possibly live up to its name in the two hours at its disposal. Any person leading the discussion must have at least an hour and a half to develop his subject and half an hour is too short a period to discuss such a question as the recent subject of "The Deplorable State of the Legal Profession." Finally, the men's common room should not be allowed to remain in its present position as a source of annoyance to lecturers, and a distinct source of discomfort to men students. Accordingly we think the Students' Association should cease tinkering with the project of Students' Union Buildings in general, and the present erection in par-If the tinkering process is continued any longer, future students will have to build from the ground up when the present monstrosity falls down which it daily threatens to do in spite of sporadic forays made on it by the New Zealand workman.

It is manifestly impossible to have a suitable

building of our very own by next Easter, but we should make a determined effort so that we shall be able to play the host to our guests in fitting quarters and carry on our club activities under some. what less primitive conditions, even if we have to raise the necessary funds by means of a mighty art union.

The views of students on this highly important and necessary project will be received for publication in our next issue.

Capping Week

Of the five main events in Capping Week, it is possible to give unqualified approval to only one, the Undergraduates' Supper, an entertainment enjoyed by everyone who went. The speeches were good, the interjections amusing and appropriate, and Mr. Gamble had acquitted himself gallantly with the catering.

The Extravaganza, readers will find reviewed elsewhere. However much we may admire the initiative which prompted its writing and the hard work which went to its production, we are forced to admit that it was far beneath the standard required for a successful Extrav. Of the procession we may say that, like the curate's egg, it was good in parts. No apology is needed for using this stale joke in connection with the procession, for nine-tenths of the humour was as stale and distinctly less clear. honourable exception might be made in favour of Lord and Lady Baden Powell and retainers, but for the most part the procession served only to discredit_the student body still further in the eyes of the Wellington public. Might not next years' procession be held as an organised collection for charities, as is regularly done in most English or Scotch Universities and might it not take the form of a circus or some other connected stunt? At present the attitude of the ordinary citizen towards the student is fast changing from one of good-humoured toleration to something much less good-humoured and much less tolerant. We fear that a poor Extrav., the methods used to advertise it, and a feeble procession have done little to improve these relations. The Capping Ceremony was unfortunately abandoned owing to a disagreement between the Executive and the College Council as regards outside speakers. Instead, the Executive held a Congratulation Ceremony in the Town Hall for graduates, with Dr. J. S. Elliott as principal speaker. Comment would be superfluous on a ceremony so well patronised by students. Last, but not, as Aristotle remarked, least, came the Capping Ball. Always enjoyable, this function was marred by some exceptional mismanagement on the part of those controlling it. First-sitting supper tickets were distributed in such plentiful supplies that some of the staff and many graduates were unable to obtain seats at the first sitting, and had to find their supper clsewhere. Furthermore, owing to the late arrival of the programmes, the dances started an hour behind schedule, with the result that at 4.30 a.m. the sixteenth dance was just completed and the remaining two on the programme had to be abandoned.

Crambe Repetita

Resignations

We all know that "genius is the capacity for evading hard work," but nevertheless we feel that in view of the fact that two members of our Executive insisted on resigning at such an unfelicitous time recently, candidates should give some prepolling assurance that unless unavoidable circumstances intervene they will not do so before the expiration of their term. Office bearers who resign not only display disbelief in themselves, but weakness. Many students in this contentious world of ours can endorse the sentiments of Robert Service-to resign is easy, it is the keeping on that is hard.

OBITUARY

On June 4, 1931, at 10.45 p.m. in the Victoria College Gymnasium, after a protracted illness, there died after several attempts at resuscitation, before a large and appreciative audience, the College of Elec-The body is now on view at the MacDuff Morgue, Mount Street, Pastor Plank being also in attendance.

The funeral oration will be pronounced by Mr. W. J. Mountjoy, Jnr. Mourners will be given an opportunity to leave before the oration commences.

THANKS:

The sponsors of the College of Electors wish to thank all those who helped them so gallantly, but ineffectively in their recent sad bereavement. In particular they wish to express their appreciation to Dr. Bishop, Sister Rollings, and to Probationer Bannister for their untiring efforts throughout its sustained death agonies.

IN MEMORIAM-

John's poor unfortunate Weary of breath-We by our torturing it Hastened its death. Talk of it meagrely. Discuss it with care. And guard yourself legally-What we do here.

-Inserted by I.L. and J.D.

DISCRIMINATION.

Mr. Bishop at the Arbitration Court Debate: "I maintain that no existing institution however faulty it may be, should be scrapped for a new. We should always try first of all to see if we can patch up the old one."

But what about our old Constitution and your appeal for the College of Electors, Mr. Bishop?

"Innocence Astray," or "The Babes in the Wood"

[Mr. Priestly, at the Annual General Meeting of the Dramatic Club, when apologising for the deficiencies in the club's constitution and balance-sheet. explained that the members of the club were too much influenced by the artistic temperament draw up a legally satisfying constitution.]

> Though the Constitution's rocky. And the balance-sheet's at sea, And sub-sections twelve to thirty May be found in footnote B. Yet the President discovers A full reason for their faults. And with "artistic temperament" Resists th' Exec's assaults.

> > (Chorus)

Oh! the artists! Oh! the artists! God bless their simple minds, And withstand the wicked Rollings Who "omitted assets" finds.

Now the swimmers and debaters And each club at V.U.C. Have to ponder rules and clauses And consider L.S.D. But the Hoggs-yes, and the Priestleys-In a fine dramatic passion Make a balance-sheet like artists— In a temperamental fashion!

(Chorus)

Oh! the artists! Oh! the artists! God bless their simple hearts And preserve their balance-sheets From all Charlie's poisoned darts.

If a passion Edna renders, Or our Ralph a tragic part, Or if Ola in pyjamas Is delighting every heart. Shall the voice of cold hard reason Come to chill their artistry? Or MacDuff with accents legal Their accounts demand to see?

(Chorus)

Qh! the artists! Oh! the artists! God bless their simple souls And protect them from the lawyers, From Pen Rollings and from Powles. P.B.S.E.

OVERHEARD IN A1, 5/3/31,

(Scene: The end of the first Economics I Lecture of 1931.)

Nervous Student: "Please sir, is this course the same as that taken at Auckland University?"

Professor B. E. Murphy: "Not only the same, but infinitely superior."

Don't forget-Rifle and Boxing Clubs and Science Society.

Rowing Club Notes

The task of deciding which sport or sports he will take up is one which places the "fresher" in somewhat of a dilemma when he first enters the College.

He wants something which will be enjoyable, hold reasonable possibilities of success and above all will improve his physique. The Rowing Club offers all this and more to the aspiring athlete. If you are afraid of a strenuous sport or are not prepared for tringent training, or are prepared to stand aside and look on, do not join the Rowing Club.

The sport of rowing is THE sport and is an integral part of University life the world over. It has wonderful developing powers and not only does it make for quickness of eye and hand, but also for alertness and mental improvement. A hard rowing race shows a man for what he is and demonstrates in no uncertain manner his hardiness and pugnacity of purpose. If you cannot play football, row during winter and keep fit.

Each year an inter-University eight-oared boat race is held at the venue of the Annual Easter Tournament and the large gatherings which witness the event are ample proof of the high regard in which the sport is held. In 1930 at Auckland the race was watched by several thousand spectators and many remarked that the boat-race was the most enjoyable and exciting event of the tournament, which opinion was repeated after the recent tournament. Of the four eight-oared races held to date Victoria has gained three firsts and one second place and we require as many men as possible to supply the material for future crews. Last year the club was able to sit six crews in the trial fours, but we would like to see this number exceeded and so provide material for the club.

In order to obtain a seat in the "eight," membership of one of the three local clubs is essential, where the necessary plant and coaching is obtainable.

Do not let the fact that you have never been in a boat before prevent you from adopting the sport. Indeed it is easier both to the coach and the man if the aspiring oarsman is an absolute novice at the game.

We will welcome inquiries from anyone desiring further information. Just leave a note in the rack for the Club Captain, F. M. Bell, or the Secretary, W. J. Kemp, who will be glad to render all the assistance in their power.

A Long Time

During the Broadcast Debate Mr. Watson remarked in passing that Mr. Mountjoy's ideas were 3000 years old. Mr. Mountjoy leapt to the inevitable point of order and when the laughter was dying away, Mr. Bishop called in consoling tones to his impotent colleague. "Never mind, Joe, they've stood the test of time!"

The Inter-University Hockey Tournament

This year the Hockey Tournament was held in Christchurch from June 1 to June 3. In the preliminary round Canterbury beat Otago by 7 goals to 2. V.U.C., in a scratchy game, beat Auckland by 6 goals to 1. Goals were scored for V.U.C. by Simpson (3), Bishop (2) and MacDuff. On the second day in the loser's match Auckland defeated Otago by 3 goals to 1.

The final for the Seddon Stick produced the best game of the tournament. In a fast and very even game Canterbury defeated V.U.C. by 3 goals to 2. The score at the end of the first spell was 1—1. MacDuff having netted early in the game from a corner. At the beginning of the second half Simpson netted a beautiful back-hand shot and the score remained at V.U.C. 2. Canterbury 1, until the final five minutes of the game when Canterbury added two goals in rapid succession and won the Seddon Stick for the first time.

On June 3, the N.Z.U. team played Canterbury representatives and went down to defeat by 5 goals to 3. Simpson (inside right), Plank (centre-half), and Bishop (left wing) are to be congratulated on their inclusion in the N.Z.U. team.

Some mention must be made of the wonderful entertainment provided by C.U.C. for the visiting teams. The motor drive, pictures, dinner and dance were all thoroughly enjoyed, while the Fancy Dress Drace on Monday provided several members of the V.U.C. and A.U.C. teams with partners for the Hockey Ball. The V.U.C. teams very heartily congratulate C.U.C. on the arrangements for the tournament.

While the ladies were somewhat heavily defeated in their last game the fact that Misses Hefford, Hoby, Huggins and Scott, gained their N.Z.U Blues, shows that the team performed very well. We congratulate these players on their well deserved success.

Debating Club Notes

This club is now well embarked on its year's programme, but many interesting events have still to take place. Among them we may mention the Inter-faculty Debate (Arts and Science v. Law and Commerce) on June 13, the annual debate with Training College, the visit of the Oregon debaters and the Plunket Medal Contest on July 18. It is also proposed to hold a second New Speakers' debate, if it can be arranged, on account of the great number of new speakers who have joined the Society this year.

During the past few months such diverse subjects as the College of Electors. Soviet Russia, the Optimist and Pessimist, Mr. Forbes and the Ten Per Cent., Christian Missions, the Arbitration Court and Democracy, have been discussed by the potential Ciceros and Semples of the College.

Anyone wishing to take part in debates or able to suggest subjects for the two debates not yet fixed, is asked to leave a note in the rack for the Secretary.

Football Notes

Until May 30, all teams had an almost unprecedented run of success. At present the senior team is at a disadvantage in that it has lost several outstanding players through injuries and is sorely needing those players who are in New South Wales with the New Zealand University team. We congratulate Messrs. Diedrich, Dixon, Mackay and Ruru on their selection for the N.Z.U. team which we were gratified to read has been granted the honour of a match against the N.S.W. fifteen. Messrs. Mackay and Ruru seem to be in great form. L. Pacey was also selected for the N.Z.U. team but unfortunately for him, but most fortunately for our team, was unable to travel.

The club will soon have much improved training facilities, as the vacant land at the back of the College will be made available as a sports grounds under the No. 5 Unemployment Scheme.

After many efforts an annual match has been arranged with Massey College to take place in clternate centres on the King's Birthday. composed of Messrs. Paetz (captain), Osborn, Turner, Gully, Paul, Blandford, Carey, Steele, McRae, Bradshaw, Russell, Thomson and Sherwood, with Mr. O'Shea in charge, journeyed to Palmerston North for the first game. We must congratulate the Massey College team on their fine win by 13-6, after a most enjoyable game. Our points were scored in the second spell by Sherwood (penalty) and Call (try). Several ex-students of V.U.C. played against and fraternised with us. The hospitality of the Massey people was boundless, the dance marvellous, and-well if you want to know any more apply Men's Common Room.

We hope to give fuller details of the lower grade teams' doings in our next issue.

Hockey Club Notes

Club matches are now in full swing. The Senior A team has been fairly successful so far, although the club as a whole has suffered several defeats. In spite of this, however, the enthusiasm of the players has not waned in the slightest degree.

The annual dance was held on Saturday, May 30, and although the members of the senior team were unavoidably absent in Christchurch for the inter-Varsity Tournament, the dance was an unqualified success both socially and financially. It was disappointing to note that the professors and other members of the staff were conspicuous by their absence. This was no doubt due to the inclement weather. Thanks are due to all those who worked so willingly to make the function a success.

E. O. SHEILD, Hon. Sec. V.U.C. Hockey Club.

It is rumoured that Professor Freud proposes to visit New Zealand for the sole purpose of studying the Capping Processions.

Interjection Competition

This month we have several awards to make. First prize (one china cup and saucer, donated by the Exec.) goes to Mr. Crossley. At the conclusion of the Extravaganza, when Mr. A. D. Priestley was assuring a sceptical audience that he had had really very little to do with the performance, Mr. Crossley's blithe voice hailed him from the body of the Town Hall:—

"You're partly to blame, anyway!"

Our second prize (200 odd saucers) goes to a nameless stripling at one of the debates. A speaker had occasion to mention the work of a Russian dictator.

"Tosh!" interjected Mr. Riske.

"Oh! Was that his name!" came the unexpected insinuation from the back.

Consolation prize is awarded to Mr. Scotney, who is showing slight improvement, and who put in some solid spade work at the recent Broadcast Debate. Mr. Mountjoy told us that in America people are very discriminating—they even refuse to travel in the same conveyance as a negro.

"How did you get on in America for transport, Joey?" inquired Mr. Scotney.

A large box of chalks has been forwarded.

V.U.C. Dramatic Club

At present the work of the Dramatic Club centres round the annual production in the city. The choice of play was made after much consideration of the rival merits of other new plays, and this year the Dramatic Club presents "The Dark Angel," a play not only new to Wellington and Varsity audiences but one well worthy of production. It is a tragicomedy, a play of yesterday and to-day, by H. B. Trevelyan, whose work has only recently come to the fore. The following lines picked at random are typical of the play:

"I'll tell you a rule of life to remember, Madge. If you must know disreputable people, always know them a little better than they know you."

"She's more than that . . . she's the light that shines in the darkness . . . she's the voice that whispers in the night-time. . . she's the memories that

come at dawn."

The play is being produced by Miss Mary Cooley, who is so well known to Wellington audiences. In the cast are included many well-known members of the Dramatic Club, including Misses M. Cooley, K. McCaul, and M. Murray, and Messrs, A. D. Priestley, R. Hogg, C. Watson, and B. Chadwick.

REMEMBER, "The Dark Angel" will be played in the Blue Triangle Hall, on June 25, 26 and 27. Please keep one of the above dates free.

Thursday, 26th, is a special Students' Night. Watch for further announcements.

ENGAGEMENT

Miss G. E. Faber to Mr. S. G. Rees.

June 20th-the night you have been waiting for.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION The Meetings of June 4th and 9th

COLLEGE OF ELECTORS "IN EXTREMIS"

Although many of the audience were purely transients, about sixty students attended the first meeting. The small patronage was due to the manner in which the meeting was advertised, only one small sheet being attached to the Students' Association notice board 48 hours beforehand. At 6 p.m. Mr. Riske placed a blackboard in the hall—without which it is probable that the quorum would not have been obtained.

Mr. Rollings was in the chair, the Secretary, Mr. Mahoney on his left and Mr. Hurley on his right. With the exception of Miss Cathie Forde and Mr. Cormack, who were opposed to the College of Electors system and who sat among the general body of students—the Executive were on the right-hand side of the Hall, mostly armed with a copy of the new Constitution.

The interval between 8 p.m. and 10.25 p.m. was spent in amending the clauses one to eleven, many excellent alterations, to be reported later, being effected. At 10.25, an uneasy student, to the surprise of the bulk of the audience, rose and asked the Chairman which system was to be employed at the next election. As the speaker had interrupted the putting of a motion she was ruled out of order. The meeting showed signs of consternation and subsequently the Chairman, Mr. Rollings, on being pressed, after stating that he was not required to give a ruling, said that in his own opinion the College of Electors system would be employed. He gave no explanation to the hysterical questions of several people. Mr. Reardon mounted the platform and moved that the College of Electors be deleted. This was ruled out by the Chairman on the grounds that the matter had already been dealt with.

The students became disorderly. Mr. Hurley obtained the minutes and discovered that the motion that the first schedule of the new Constitution be adopted, that schedule to which the College of Electors was a defeated amendment, had not been put to the meeting before the adjournment. It thus transpired that the Chairman had permitted the meeting to proceed to clause 11—a business which had occupied 2½ hours when there was still a motion before the meeting. In answer to Mr. Riske, Mr. Rollings stated that Mr. Hurley had opened the business of the evening and that it was therefore Mr. Hurley who had erred. Mr. Riske said that it is the Chairman who always opens meetings and the discussion lapsed.

It was then moved by Mr. Reardon that the motion be put to the meeting that Proportional Representation be embodied in our Constitution. Mr. Macduff, ex-member of the present Executive opposed this motion on the ground that there were not sufficient students present. There was justification for the objection, but it was a matter of choosing between the College of Electors, twice defeated at

well attended meetings, and believed to be defunct by the majority of the students, and this new and democratic form of election. However, the Chairman stated that he was "obliged" to put the motion.

Mr. Macduff, who, it will be remembered, resigned after the last defeat of the College of Electors, rose to a point of order and stated that there had been no notice given of the motion and it was left to Mr. Riske to remind the Chairman that in the Constitution of the Association such a motion might be put provided it was relevant to the matter in hand. Mr. Rollings assented and put the motion to move the schedule. This was carried by 32 votes to 18.

To such an impasse had the meeting arrived that the whole schedule of election was put and adopted at 10.45 p.m., without discussion being possible.

The meeting was then adjourned until June 9th.

The Adjournment of June 9th.

Mr. Bishop took the chair. The business, obstructed continually by dialogue between the Chair and members of the audience, hair-splitting and wrangling proceeded with farcical slowness.

At about 9-20 when a clause dealing with the voting power of freshmen was reached, Mr. Crossley moved an amendment and Mr. Kerr moved another. Mr. Crossley attempted later to withdraw amendment, and the Chairman asked for the permission of his seconder. Mr. Macduff indignantly refused to give his permission to Mr. Crossley to withdraw the amendment. The Chairman after reference to the minutes stated that the seconder was not Mr. Macduff but Mr. Cormack who had left the hall and gave Mr. Crossley permission to withdraw his amendment. Mr. Crossley attempted to move another amendment. Then followed a discussion on the standing orders of the Debating Society, between Mr. Bannister, Mr. Crossley and Mr. Mountjoy who visited the platform, Mr. Mountjoy's point of order regarding the legitimacy of Mr. Crossley's second amendment was not upheld by the Chairman, Mr. Crossley's amendment was not the same as Mr. Kerr's previously defeated amendment. Mr. Bishop's ruling was opposed by Mr. Bannister and Mr. Bishop vacated the chair.

Mr. Mahoney took his place but after more discussion Mr. Bannister moved Mr. Mahoney's ruling be disagreed with.

Mr. Jessup, Treasurer of the Association took the Chair.

At this juncture Mr. Reardon rose and said that obviously this was a private squabble among the members of the executive and whatever they thought they were doing they were not aiding but hindering the business of the meeting. They did not need the services of either himself or the New Constitution. He therefore, on behalf of the Recess Committee, wished to withdraw from the meeting.

Mr. Reardon gathered up his papers and left the platform.

When Mr. Jessup had gathered up the broken threads, Mr. Reardon, having been refused permission to leave, returned to the platform.

Mr. Hurley, Chairman of the Recess Committee, arriving late, moved that the more important clauses—those dealing with the Executive should be dealing with immediately.

Miss Helen Dunn, of the Executive, objected, saying that as all the Constitution had to be adopted, there was no reason why the clauses should not be

read in their right order.

Miss Jupp, of the Recess Committee, pointed out that students were more interested in certain clauses than in others and came especially to vote on such clauses.

After some discussion Mr. Hurley moved that the clauses dealing with the Executive be then put, and some of those members of the audience sitting near the sponsors of the College of Electors left the Hall, some taking up a stand outside the windows. Despite the cajolery of Mr. Bannister, Miss Gibbs elected to remain, and Miss Briggs, also of the Executive, remained in her seat.

Mr. Hurley stated that members were intentionally leaving the meeting, and the chairman objected to the use of the word "intentionally." Mr. Hurley directed the meeting's attention to Mr. East and others who were beckoning through the windows to their friends to follow them.

The meeting lapsed for the want of a quorum.

Another general meeting is to be called for one day next week. A large attendance is essential.

Some Suggested Mottos

W. P. R-ll-ngs: Caveat actor (everyone does everything at his own peril).

C. S. Pl-nk: Concussus surgo (I rise though shaken).

J. L. M-cD-ff: Felix qui pacificus (blessed is the peacemaker.)

H. R. B-nn-ster: Praise the bridge that carries you

W. J. M -- ntj-y: Dieu et mon droit! (My goodness, I'm right!)

A. F. T. Ch-rlt-n: The next best thing to a very good joke is a very bad one.

V.U.C. DEBATING SOCIETY.

The above Society wishes to notify all its members and supporters of the date of the

PLUNKET MEDAL CONTEST SATURDAY, 18th JULY

Concert Chamber, Town Hall,

Keep this date free and roll along in your thousands. Bring a friend, a rug, a cushion, and a bag of pea-nuts, and enjoy yourself properly. . . Begin saving your pennies now. Admission 1/-.

THE NEW WOMAN

No. 4—MISS PEGGY SPENCE-SALES, or "PERFECTLY GORGEOUS."

I'm sorry I'm late, but I've just done a simply Professor Cornish asked me terrible :aw-exam. afterwards what I thought of it. I said. "Professor. I thought it was too perfectly foul." I suppose everything I say will be used auginst me. I'm on my oath, am I? Well, I thought it was the heater. Don't put that in, for heaven's sake. I don't want people to think I make the same sort of ghastly jokes as Crossley. How do I feel in law classes-submerged in a sea of males? As a matter of fact I'm in the front bench. It's such a nuisance, it gives me a crick in the neck to keep looking round to see the people in the back seats. And it's so filthy having to get up at six o'clock for lectures. be perfectly gorgeous if we could come up here in our dressing-gowns though?

Law students as a class? Oh! I think they're just the refuse of the debating platform. Frightfully respectable, of course-but confoundedly uninteresting, and I hate the way they always carry cases about with them. The President of the ---Ah! a block of wood . . . he'd burn so well. The Editor of "Smad"? Oh, here is a case for pity more than blame. Being Editor of "Smad" seems rather a dangerous hobby. Oh, yes, I like "Smad," but only because everybody else abuses it so dreadfully. 1 have discovered that pity is the strongest emotion in me. You know, my ambition at College is to attain the high standard of undergraduate womanhood laid down by Mr. Bannister in the March issue. That is why I have been six times a bridesmaid and never a bride.

I'd like to be vitriolic about some of the people here, but I suppose I'd better not; and at any rate the whole place bores me to tears. It's so perfectly ghastly. I'm going to talk scandal in the common room now. Thanks so much for the interview—it's been simply gorgeous saying what I think about everybody in this ghastly place.

The Editor and Committee of "Smad" wish to apologise for the appearance in the April issue of an interview entitled, "The New Woman," wherein certain references to Mr. Bannister were made, and to withdraw those references, and the interview in which they appeared. They wish to explain that the interview was intended merely as a humorous sketch and regret that some parts of it could possibly be otherwise regarded.

The Executive of the Victoria University College Students' Association and the Editor of "Smad," hereby apologise for all statements concerning the efficiency of Messrs. White and Sons as printers, made in a personal letter written by the Editor of "Smad" to a student and published by him, and for any other statements that may have been made injurious to Messrs. White and Sons in their business as printers.

SINFUL STORIES

Penrod's Progress

Once upon a time there was a little boy named Penrod who wanted to become a lawyer and get people's money from them to make him rich and famous so he went to Victoria College until he knew all there was to be known about law and the Professors said you ought to be a judge but first of all you have to advertise yourself. So the little boy thought hard about how he could get publicity and at last he joined the Debating Society which is a College Club that talks about all sorts of things and really doesn't say much about them but attracts a lot of attention especially when the public wants to know what's wrong with the world and can get supper for one penny admission including chocolate biscuits and you needn't pay a penny at all if you come in after the debate is over when the Chairman says please signify in the usual manner and everybody claps with relief and says now for the supper. The Debating Society trains people to talk without thinking and they must yell out loud so as to drown people who make witless interjections but the Chairman loves interjectors because it gives him a chance to make speeches whenever he likes and that is all he lives for, because he's too young for Parliament. Penrod went to all the debates no matter what they were about and he could always say something hitting the air with his fist to show it was a fighting speech and that he felt very deeply about everything and the judges always put him first until he got the Union Prize, and then he was made Chairman which made people look at him all the evening and feast their eyes on his face until they knew it practically off by heart. This made Penrod very happy and he said to himself this is a hang of an easy job its time I went after bigger things like the Stud Ass which is not an ordinary kind of ass but really means all the students put together because they are always kicking about something and making horrible noises and not doing what they are told. So Penrod went to the annual meetings of the Stud Ass and spoke louder and more than anybody else until everybody said who is this person isn't he the gasworks sit down shut up and other intellectual remarks but Penrod said I cannot be silenced so they said have it your own way and made him President of the Stud Ass. Now Profs are people who lecture and you have to read books to find out what they have been lecturing about and then you find that they have got it all out of those books only they are allowed to read it from notes while you have to sit and answer silly questions without any notes and no inspiration at all except the supervisors faces but not the Registrar who ought to have charge of the German Army. The Professors are called Professors but really they are only common people like ourselves and cant see further into a brick wall than anybody else or why should they always be having trouble with the Stud Ass which is not a wooden thing like the Professorial Board for that is what the professors call themselves in the lump. Penrod had lots of adventures with the Professors who grew to love him and told him that they were not really villains but by and by something happened that showed him that the College Council was really and truly a villain. Every year the College held a religious ceremony called Foolscapping and all the Professors went dressed up as priests except Doctor Sutherland who went dressed up as the Woman of Babylon or Cherry Ripe or something but looked awfully swish and some man or woman of note in history gave a sermon which the students didn't like, and the students made profane noises which the College Council didn't think was reverent and at last the Council told the students to go to Hades and have a Foolscapping of your own and the students did and it was just like the Real Thing for Penrod preached to them and asked why should everybody be on the Council except us arent we the main guys in this show we want a Soviet. This frightened the Council so much that they sent for Penrod and said take a seat with us for heavens sake and Penrod said gentleman on behalf of the eight hundred students of Victoria University College both men and women who have from time immemorial and I may say gentlemen that that expression is intended to be taken not in its literal but in its legal signification who have I say from time immemorial eagerly nay passionately yearned for this happy realisation of their most profound aspirations in the name of these students gentlemen of whom I am but the humble representative and no more in the name I repeat of these eight hundred students and perhaps of more than eight hundred I have not the figures by me gentleman in their name I accept the great honour which you are pleased to bestow upon me. It would take too long to tell of all the wonderful things that Penrod did on the Council and how he stirred the Council up whenever it so much as dared to think of a student but by and by the Council got restless and said this man is too good to be on a common Council we must get him into Parliament then if he likes he can go to the Imperial Conference and after that to the League of Nations then perhaps he'd like to have a shot at setting up the United States of Europe or perhaps remodelling the Constitution of the British Houses of Parliament nothing on earths impossible to a man who can make fighting speeches but we cant let him waste himself on us. So they got Parliament to pass a Bill making Penrod member of Parliament for the University of New Zealand and after Penrod had gone they said now let us get back into our rut and sleep again and so they did. But Penrod didnt go to sleep he went on and on and on and rose higher and higher until vou couldn't see him without a telescope and one fine day he had himself fired off to the moon which he thought would be a handy starting place for a little jaunt to Arcturus to see whether Einstein really was fit to do his job by himself and didn't need a younger and better man to tell him the proper way to go about things and that's all and now we'll sing our Goodnight Song children.

WOG.

Odd thoughts on the Calendar

1. There are more things in Heaven and earth than a fresher can thing of, says our Professor of Philosophy. Imagine a fresher thinking of a thing like this: "The Arms are vert on a fesse engrailed between three crowns or, a canton azure charged with four estoilles argent (in the form of a Southern Cross)." This sounds like one of the Registrar's had dreams. Has he been psycho-analysed?

2. And must the Registrar be condemned for all that appears in the Calendar? Perish the thought! "The College seal is lozenge shaped"-what a sweetly poetic conception! One can almost hear the guin drop. Ponder this exquisite piece of burlesque: "a figure of Queen Victoria crowned and sceptred with the legend. . . ." How picturesque it sounds. And the cunning legend apparently does two things at once. No wonder the Registrar does not feature it pic-

torially in the Calendar.

3. "Seal of the Victoria University College, Wel lington, New Zealand, 1897." This is the legend we've read so much about. But what is a legend? It would be more in keeping with the spirit of the University to ask what is not a legend; for our present purposes, however, we may regard a legend as a tale that was once believed, but is so no longer. In the childhood of the race it might have been found possible to credit the statement that Wellington was in New Zealand in 1897. But geography has made such tremendous strides since then that we may be pardoned for saying that we know better. It is not unreasonable to expect that increased familiarity with the effects of earthquakes will in course of time cause us to revise hitherto accepted notions as to the valid-"Wellington was in New ity of geographical facts. Zealand in 1931. Disappeared 1932. Reappeared 1940, and so on." The legend also refers to "the Victoria University College," (Beware of imitations.)

4. The archaisms of the sealozenge achieve their apex in a motto. This is a form of advertisement which was very popular in mediaeval times, when (as our Professor of English has delightfully re-marked), "knights were bold." As a modern advertisement, the affirmation "Sapientia magis auro desireranda" (which, according to our Professor of Classics, is in the Latin tongue), leaves much to be desired. Even in the excellent English translation which is in vogue, it is plainly out of harmony with modern needs. The terms "wisdom" and "gold" are out of date. (They represent institutions which, like all institutions except University Colleges, have outlived their usefulness.) In our own time, wisdom has been superseded by knowledge, which is an altogether different thing and much more highly thought of. If the Man in the Street were asked what was taught at Victoria University College, he would un-hesitatingly answer, "Bunk." For the Age of Knowledge (our age) is indubitably the Age of Bunk. As for the second term of our pair, how much commerce have we with gold?-not gold medals (for these are common), but gold coin? As our Professor of Economics emphatically declares, it simply isn't done. Monetarily, we live in an Age of Paper. The impracticability of our motto is clearly evident when we substitute for its terms their modern equivalents: "Bunk is more to be desired than Paper Currency"! But how immorally modern it is as the Higher Critics would have it: "Bunk is to be desired for more Paper Currency."

5. A University College is, of course, too deeply rooted in the past to be modern. Tradition is its life and soul. It is in he world but not of it. Therefore we hold fast to the original significance of our slogan -"Wisdom is more to be desired than gold." Our students do not come to Victoria University College to acquire the art of making money. Our professors and aspirant professors are superbly indifferent to thoughts of stipends. And our Registrar scorns any solicitude for fees. Let the Government say "Cut"-Who cares? Isn't wisdom more to be who runs? etcetra?

6. A final thought. The knave who described the Calendar as "the Unchristian Year" uttered a can-

"Spike" Notices

The following will be looked on as essentials to matter reaching publication:

1. Contributions, including letters to the Editor and reports, reviews, etc., must be accompanied by the name of the writer who may state whether his name, initials or nom de plume are to appear beneath the article. Any initials used must be those of the contributor.

2. Contributions should be typed or written clearly on one side only of the paper.

(The same rules apply to "Smad."-The Editor.)

TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP...

"Why did I ever come tramping?"

For the past few years I have been collecting opinions on why trampers tramp. (I hope in time to rival Professor Mackenzie's collection of Nightingales in Literature.)

- (1) Because it is so lovely when you leave off.
- (2) Because "luxury cannot be bought; it must be earned."
- (3) Sensibility: Dr. Henning pointed out at the Free Discussions Club a week or two ago that in New Zealand we have neither art, nor culture, nor enlightened society; but when he went on to marvel at trampers, he did not realise that these folk create for themselves a new society in an environment of their own seeking, in that New Zealand which they know as the domain of a wild and fickle Dame Nature rather than "God's Own Country."
- 4. One who is oppressed by the "fierce confederate storm of sorrow barricaded evermore within the walls of cities," takes up an arduous pursuit with something very like the martyr's desire for mortification.
 - 5. For he who has no home to call his own Will find a home somewhere-Will find a home somewhere."

Letters to the Editor

(To the Editor)

Dear Madam .-

A news item in our local daily contemporaries struck me as rather amusing. The item gave me the impression that our College Council was highly pleased with the improvements which have been effected to our Library. As a law student I wish emphatically to refute any suggestion that these improvements have benefited me in any way-on the contrary, those improvements have inconvenienced other users of the Library and me in the following manner: Formerly it was possible for law students to sit near the Law Reports and obtain the necessary volumes with a minimum of inconvenience to themselves and other users of the Library. Because the N.Z. Reports are in their present position near the door, students must go almost out of the Library every time they wish to refer to a volume of the Reports. Very frequently a single student finds it necessary to refer to more than one volume of the Reports within the space of a few minutes, and the constant peregrinations to and fro must result in a conscientious student's recording an astonishing total on his pedometer during the course of an evening. The hapless student may console himself with the thought that walking is good for the figure, but what if he suffer from fallen arches? And besides, no one is more uncomfortable than the unwilling disturber of students at work.

Again there seems no patent reason for locking the far door of the Library—even with the new bookcase in its present position the door will open easily either inwards or outwards. Yes, I stepped the distance out myself in the presence of amused and unbiased witnesses.

To sum up, I would pray that the Law Reports should be placed either in the Halsbury Bay or the N.Z. Reports should be interchanged with Reports used less frequently than the N.Z. ones; and would humbly implore that both doors be available to Library users as of yore—if only on grounds of public safety—or else some good cause shown why such prayer should not be granted.

There are some other defects in our Library to which attention will be drawn in a subsequent letter or letters.—Yours faithfully.

R. J. LARKIN.

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir .-

Before the holidays I wanted a good modern atlas showing railways and other means of transportation, together with mountain systems, etc. I inquired of the Assistant Librarian where the atlases were to be found, and I was told, under the stairs on the left hand side at the east end.

This is what I found:-

Stieler—Atlas of Modern Geography (published in 1912).

Labberton—An Historical Atlas (published in 1885).

Reclus—Atlas de la Plus Grande France (devoted entirely to France and the French).

Dr. Flange—Landwirpschaftlich Statistischer At las (German pre war publication).

Now, Mr. Editor, I ask you, how could I answer a question on present-day transport with the aid of these archives? The Treaty of Versailles was signed in July, 1919, and new atlases were published towards the end of that year. What was there to prevent one being purchased for the Victoria University College Library? On the assumption that there are six purchases made per annum, the person or persons responsible for the acquisition of books has or have had no less than 69 chances of buying a new atlas since March, 1920, and why he, she, or they has or have not done so, is quite beyond my comprehension.

I would be if I could be, Mr. Editor.
A STUDENT OF MODERN ECONOMIC
GEOGRAPHY."

: :

The above letters were submitted to the Librarian who replies as follows—

- 1. The N.Z. Law Reports are now in their right place, alphabetically, in the series to which they belong. As for inconvenience, I am afraid it is not sufficiently realised that there is probably no University Library in the world where undergraduates are so well served.
- The stairs door is closed in order to keep better supervision. Last year 70 books were stolen from the Library, and it is believed that some of them vanished through that door.
- Some of our atlases are certainly out of date.
 They are very expensive, and our funds are small.
 Stieler, for example, costs £5.

Your correspondent gives a list of our atlases, none of them post-war; yet if he had inquired or consulted the index he would have found:—

- (1) Oxford Advanced Atlas, 1924.
- (2) Bartholomew's and Lyde's Atlas of Modern Geography, 1925 and 1928.
- (3) A large volume of maps in Eycyclopedia Britannica, 1929.

LIBRARIAN.

We believe that A.F.T.C., when asked recently what it was that appealed to him most in a certain debate, wittily replied, "Ladies and Gentlemen.'

The mismanagement of the recent Capping Ball forces us to the conclusion that the subject of "Balls and how to manage them," should be added immediately to the list of subjects taught at Victoria College.

NIRVANA

I turn from a despairing survey of the present women's common room to dreaming of a different common room—a beautiful room set high up in the sun and air, with great windows looking over the harbour, a place from which to watch the passing of the clouds and the procession of the stars; a quiet. dignified, comfortable room with nothing ugly in it; a place for the tired part-timer to have a rest in and the witty to talk in.

I should get hold of Ena Spence and stand her in the window where I could see her Victorian silhouette and the fanciful dancing of her ear-rings, and get her to talk. She would describe people and incidents in precise delicate colours like a Japanese painting. I would sit and listen to Peggy MacDonald giving her views on love and marriage. I should acquire an intellectual atmosphere from Dorothy Spence-Sales. Peggy is too celebrated. I shall avoid the really famous. I shall try vainly to swot there, but as the chairs will be excessively comfortable, I shall inevitably go to sleep.

This is no idle dream. Only let us have the Institute Library Room, and all will come true. Sun is

not good for books-and it is for us.

I have been thinking anxiously of Professors Gould and Brown. Will you find us noisy? I don't think you will. Or shall we make it a common common room, and then if you find us noisy you can come in and have a chat? This after all is just what is needed. Free and easy discussion in congenial surroundings—think what a splendid atmosphere of co-operation would be produced.

Everyone shall meet in this room. Max Riske and Professor Murphy shall talk things over together. Don't let us stay any longer in our dungeon.

To your tents, O Victorians.

K.H.

"Willum the Conk"

The orchestra was a great advance on recent years. Mr. Paul deserves a line to himself. For a little it looked (I refer to the second night) as if the whole show was going well; but after some good hard work by Mr. Bishop and Mr. Larkin, and a good song by Mr. Dowling, it went pretty sharply downhill, and we came to the flat inanities of the politicians and the interminable waste of Mr. Mountjoy's speeches. What was the producer doing? The audience never recovered.

The dresses and decorations were again good, and once again the male chorus sang with gusto. Once again it was clear that there was ability lying about waiting to be used. Mr. Larkin, helped by a good make-up and a well-designed costume, was very self-possessed in a part that was plainly congenial. Mr. Bishop had a lot to do, and did some of it really well. Miss Breen looked very comical, but had nothing to say worth saying. The producer hal his own little flutter (to the accompaniment of Mr. Mountjoy's sonorous elocution) in the scene in the lower regions. It was well down, but had no very obvious place in

such a show—too dashed solemn by half. The dialogue from beginning to end was a nightmare. It once or twice rose to a well thought-out riddle, but immediately subsided to mere gabble. And the whole thing was too long: it ought to be over as near to 10 o'clock as possible. And then there was the mutual admiration society meeting at the end—are these things necessary?

It looks as if the writing of Extravaganzas is a lost art. There is a fairly credible tradition that once upon a time students could invent fresh jokes and songs and scenes, and even put them together with a sort of plot; even—it is darkly suggested—make them altogether illustrate some great notion of cosmic or at any rate municipal or academic interest, Is it too much to hope for a recovery? The best 1 can suggest is that before we have another show we call in one of the pre-war "authors" and gel him to give us a lecture on what an Extravaganza is and how it should be run.

HM

"We are Eleven" or "Gone Before"

(In the proposed new Constitution, the numbers sitting on the Executive will be depleted ιο eight.)

I met a woman student selling badges recently. Her mien was tranquil and detached, her mind seemed all at sea.

She had a lost expression, but an impish roguish frown.

"With or without a pin?" she pressed. "The price is half-a-crown."

"Your Committee—where are they?" I asked. "How many may you be?"

"The Exec.? Eleven in all," she said, and wondering looked at me.

"But where are they, I pray you tell." She answered, "Eleven are we—

And three of us resigned last term and one last February."

We were forced to take a plebiscite, and came off second best.

So two disgruntled comrades resigned and left the nest.

"You say that three resigned last term and one last February-

Yet still you are eleven. Pray tell how this may be!"

And then this strange young maiden said, "Eleven people we,

And now ANOTHER has resigned—that's five since February.

But they're not LOST—just GONE BEFORE." Her eyes were opened wide.

"And after the next election we'll again be side by side."

"And how many will be Exec. be then—when you have learned your fate?"

"Alas!" the maiden made reply. "Alas, then they'll be eight."

Some Suggested Epitaphs

A. E. H-RL-Y

A lone soul waits at Heaven's Pearly Gates, And sighing, lingers-moaning softly-waits! Though A.E.H.'s 'midst the saved all right, None other of the S.C.M.'s in sight!

R. J. L-RK-N

Said Satan to our Reg.: "Come, enter Hell! You played in the 'Xtrav. for two whole nights-And took in it the leading part as well? You're just the man for torturing damned Sprites."

W. J. M-_NTJ_Y. Jnr.

(Who recently had trouble with a certain facial stage property.) A Junior Satan greets the King of Hell, And to His Majesty says, "Well! Behold me now, the great Mountjoy! For yours, is't gum you use-or gloy?"

G. R. CR-SSL-Y

Here lies a great Mover of Motions (If not motions-well, funny suggestions.) Here rests some extraordinary notions (If not notions-well-Crossleian questions.)

Coming Events.

June 12th. - Dramatic Club Reading - "A Silver Tassie" (O'Casey).

June 13th (8 p.m.).—Inter-Faculty Debate. Admission 1d. Supper.—"That Nationalism is a Hindrance to World Welfare."

June 19th.—Dramatic Club Circle Reading.
June 20th.—Science Society and Pug. and Gun Clubs' Dance (1/-).

June 24th.-S.C.M. Address.

June 26th.—Broadcast Debate.

June 25th, 26th, 27th.—Dramatic Club Production.—

"The Dark Angel," Blue Triangle Theatre.

Grand Concert.

A Grand Concert has been arranged in aid of the Law Faculty Club finances. The items will be as follows :-

- 1. Tableau: Old Timers-By the caste of the "Dark Angel.
- 2. Chorus: It may be for years, and it may be for ever.—Recess Committee.
- Dance: Dving Swan.—R. J. Reardon.
- 4. Talk: From Common Room to Executive .- H. R. Bannister.
- 5. Duet: We are the ones, the rowdy ones, who run the 'Varsity .- C. S. Plank and J. L. Macduff.
- 6. Recitation: Farewell, a Long Farewell to All My Greatness.-W. J. Mountioy, Jnr.
- 7. Cantata: Christians, Awake, and Vote-Hurley and the S.C.M.
- 8. Playlet: The Survivors-Played by the Executive.
- 9. Funeral March of the Constitutions.

ETHEL.

NOTICE

In fairness to the Debating Society, it is necessary to state that the Society's rules do not permit of the Union Prize being awarded to the gas heaters in the Gymnasium. A vote of thanks would not, however, be out of place.

"Smad" Committee, 1931

Editor: Miss Ilma M. Levy: 20 230.

Sub-Editors: Miss Julia M. Dunn: 20-765. Mr. R. J. Larkin: 43-087, 22-079. Mr. C. G. Watson: 20-030.

Business Manager: Mr. K. Kirkcaldie: 42-674.

The next issue will be published on July 10. Letters, articles, reports and club notes will be received for publication until 7 p.m. on Friday, July 1st.

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