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V. U. C.
SMAD

AN ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION
AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
Wellington, N.Z.

Vol. No. 4. No. 4.

AUGUST, 1933.

(Price 3d.)

Nazi Heaven.

UNDERSERVED and libellous slurs have been cast on the University and its Professors recently by numerous correspondents in the columns of our daily newspapers.

Just how much of their tirades these correspondents believe we are unable to guess, but if we take their statements at face value we can only wonder into what sort of place they would turn Victoria College.

Perhaps some kind of Nazi Heaven would result from their rule, where only one doctrine would ever be heard—the particular teaching in which they themselves believe.

Although connected with the College for several years now, we have not as yet encountered any examples of the "twisted teaching" complained of and we can only assume that such was a figment of the imagination of the particular writer who penned the lines. Certainly he has never been connected with the College or he would have realised the nonsense of his statements.

"Would Be" Intellectuals.

ALTHOUGH small in numbers a group of "would be" intellectuals at Victoria College, who delight in assuming the roles of Radicals, no matter what the question involved, are stirring up enough dust to haze the whole University.

No matter which Club these pseudo-intellectuals join, they immediately endeavour to use it as the means for shrewd propaganda. We have seen their mark on the Free Discussions Club, whose publication, "Student," whilst it lasted, was about as "free" as a night at the Grand Opera, and on the Debating Society at its regular debates, and notably at the Plunket Medal Contest. Here one of the competitors made it so pronounced that even the Judges commented upon it.

The remedy lies in the hands of the Students and of the Clubs concerned. The Executive of the Students' Association rightly, we consider, took steps to see that the Free Discussions Club placed their house in order and demanded that the unofficial publication, "Student" have the approval of the Association before making its bow to the Student public. No matter what the views expressed, a magazine bearing the name of Victoria College should be subject to this restriction, since not only are the sponsors of a V.U.C. magazine affected by matter contained in it, but the whole College bears the brunt of any trouble that may arise. We are advocates of Free Speech, but we do not advocate the type of Free Speech of which "Student" made such a fetish. Under the gentle censorship of the Club's Editors, this magazine gave the impression that the College was a meeting-place for the Friends of the Soviet Union.

Victoria College is just the same as any other University. It suffers from the acts of a few youngsters, who, on arriving at the College, seem to desire very suddenly to appear intellectual, and have the spot-light of fame focused on them. And we suppose that this is about the only way they could ever achieve their ambition.

"S. M. A. D."

Editor: J. A. Carrad. 'Phone 43-000.
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EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Students are requested to patronise the firms who advertise in this magazine, and don't forget to mention "Smad."

Contributors are reminded that all contributions must be signed, and are requested to indicate if a nom-de-plume is to be used.

NOTES AND JOTTINGS.

We understand that Laurie Bausgrove has recently joined the ranks of the benedicts. Laurie is the coach of the Third A Rugby Team, which is at present undefeated in its grade, and has coached and played for Varsity Teams in the past. His keenness and enthusiasm have lead to the teams under his charge doing remarkably well. We wish good luck to Laurie and his little lady.

* * * * *

"Spike" contributions to the present have been very disappointing in numbers. Prizes have been offered for the best contributions, and here is an opportunity for promising authors and artists. Now let "Spike's" editors see a big line-up of talent.

* * * * *

Ian Macallan, ex-member of the V.U.C. Senior Cricket Eleven, we learn, is now on his way overseas. We hope Ian will thoroughly enjoy his sojourn in the Northern Hemisphere, and look forward to hearing from him on his return.

* * * * *

We are pleased to record that Frank Grant, graduate of this College, and ex-member of the first fifteen, has now recovered from his recent illness, and is now stationed in the National Bank of New Zealand at Timaru. Good luck, Frank.

* * * * *

'Varsity has stalwart supporters in many past students. An example of this was given when Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Shorland recently gave a most enjoyable Bridge evening on behalf of the Varsity Harrier Club.

Evenings such as these entail no little work to those concerned, and the College is indeed grateful to Mr. and Mrs Shorland for their efforts.

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H. F. "Chas." Bollard, for gaining the captaincy of the Wellington Representative Hockey Team in recent matches. Well done, Chas.!

K. N. Struthers, for gaining a place in the Wellington Representative Hockey Team against Horowhenua.

A. Katz, for winning the Plunket Medal Contest for 1933. Congratulations, Alfred.

A. H. Scotney, for his fine oration in the Plunket Medal Contest. And well done, too, "Bonk." See you next year.

J. Foster and K. J. Scott, who gained third equal in the same contest. Keep at it, boys.

F. Eggers, E. H. Lovatt, and S. J. Reid, for making the first Winter Crossing of the Tararua by the Cone Ridge. A stout effort.

MUSICAL CHAIRS.

The Dramatic Club's production for the year took place in the Blue Triangle Hall on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of July. It was an excellent show, poorly patronised by the students. Unfortunately some of us haven't the minds which discover these hidden meanings, otherwise we too might have enjoyed the doubtful jokes which, according to one Professor, were degrading. We're sorry we missed that part of the play. The management of Cedric Wright, Reg. Larkin, and Doris Pow was very thorough, and the whole thing went without a hitch. Without wishing to be rude, this is something new for a Varsity show. The production was snappy, and the stage a picture. The leads, Ola Neilsen and Redmond Phillips, gave very bright performances, and Miss Neilsen's frocks were something for the Common Room to talk about. The others were all good, particularly John Foster and Dorothea Tossman. Of course anyone who heard M. R. Tarmson will now know exactly how an American business man talks. L. S. Tugwell, Kathleen McCaul, and Marie Prideaux-Pridham were also good in a cast without a weakness. The producer, Ralph Hogg, has learned something in London, apparently, and has come back with ideas on things besides German Frauleins. The Dramatic Club is congratulated by us for the first time since "Dark Angel."

WHEN MAURICE TERRACE WENT a la CHEVALIER.

At the residence of Mrs. J. J. W. Harle, in Maurice Terrace, several Plunket Medal candidates and their friends were entertained by Messrs John Foster, Stavelly Ellis, and Jack Harle after the contest at what might be called a post-Depression party. A large number of well-known students were present, and fortunately no representatives of the N.Z. Welfare League. It has been very difficult to obtain any first-hand particulars concerning the activities of the guests, and on questionnaires being submitted to such reliable sources of information as Messrs Osborne-Jones, Kingi-Tahiwi, Nesbitt-Sellers and Clifford-Camp, an impenetrable reserve was assumed, and the attempts of a persistent reporter defeated. Inquiries have been made, without success, in various likely quarters, and it has not been possible to obtain coherent statements from any neighbours so recently as Sunday, 16th inst. A resident of Victoria House was approached, as it

This Month's Fairy Tale.

ONCE upon a time there was a mysterious League of Elders whose aim was to see to the Good and Welfare of Others. And this League had a favourite pastime of reprimanding youthful students who to their august eyes seemed an unruly, worthless mob. And by and by these students said "Gosh! We must be 'real bloods' and 'young devils.' Let us live up to our reputation!" And great was the sorrow of the Elders.

was understood that she had heard disturbances on arriving home shortly after midnight on the night of the riot—er—that is, the party. Her attention had been attracted by the strange behaviour of the lighting system at the above address. It was hoped that information of considerable value might have been extracted from this young lady, but on being pressed for further details concerning the eccentricities of the aforesaid lights, she shut up like an oyster. Mr. R. J. Nankervis giggled nervously when approached, but would say nothing. Mr. R. Wild blushed furiously, dug both feet into the Axminster, and remained silent. Mr. K. J. Scott resorted to violence. Persons suspected to have been at the party were Misses Shute, Harkness, von Keisenberg (3), Aldridge, Briggs, Watson, Wilson; Messrs Sellers, Camp, Tahiwi, Jones, Phillips, Harle, Foster, Ellis, Nankervis, Wild, Scott, MacIntosh, Hawthorne, and Scotney. Miss Pat Harle was a charming hostess. Mr. Nesbitt Sellers was the life and soul of the party.

Quick Turns—No Recalls.

WHAT DID HE MEAN?

First Student Orator: "Well, how did you fare in the Plunket Medal?"

Second ditto: "No good, I spoke on somebody famous!"

WERE YOU CAUGHT, TOO?

Recently we saw one of the neatest hoaxes for many a day take place in the Men's Common Room. As usual, the order of the night was bridge. One of the onlookers had offered to shuffle the cards, and unbeknown to anyone save a discreet crony, had stacked the deck so that every fourth card was a diamond.

When the cards were called upon they were cut quite genuinely. The cut was lucky, and one of the players gasped with amazement as he saw in his hand thirteen diamonds. The bidding, won, of course, by the "lucky" player, matched his hand, and he placed his cards on the table amidst wondering cries from all round, including the one who had stacked them.

A TOAST FOR V.U.C.

Here's to the girls who are single,
And here's to the matrons serene,
And here's to the 'Varsity maidens,
Drink 'em down to the old Gold and Green.

ASKED TO GO.

Max Willis had just lead a haka during the progress of the Annual General Meeting of the Students' Association, and, as the noise was subsiding, a voice was raised moving that Mr. Willis be asked to leave the meeting. This was eagerly seconded, and on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

Max was looking perplexed, but it was Roy Diederich, the chairman, who saved him. Said Roy: "It has been carried by the meeting that Mr. Willis be 'asked' to leave the meeting. Therefore I ask you Mr. Willis, will you leave the meeting?"

Max breathed a sigh of relief. "No, Mr. Chairman, I have a constitutional right to be present," he said, amidst laughter.

ALLITERATION DE LUXE.

We were given a fine example of alliteration during Mr. Scotney's speech at the Annual General Meeting. "No one," said Mr. Scotney, "would have any complaint against a properly run Free Discussions Club at Victoria College, but they do object to the place being turned into a Kelburn Kindergarten for Communist Kids."

Weir Under Fire. Will Residents "Go Native."

"SMAD" SPECIAL SERVICE.

Dear "Smadites,"—

Since last writing there has been a big flare up in our Common Room. It was during the luncheon hour that our spacious chesterfield mysteriously burst into flames, and several of our worthies had a chance of proving themselves. In some mysterious manner the fire started underneath, and the first that the chaps knew of it was when they saw one of the fellows dragging a piece of flaming paper from underneath and throwing it in the fireplace. Then the fun started. Some lost their heads and ran out of the room screaming "Fire!" while others ran to fetch water. The most amusing thing was one of the water-carriers returning with a small "billy" full of water, while one of the alarmists returned with the soaking dish-cloth from the ground-floor pantry. At last some one had the brains to turn the burning piece of furniture upside down and see the true position. Then came the time for action. One chap kindly threw his travelling rug into the flames, and while he was doing so our "billy" friend returned again, but this time with a bucket full of water, and we regret to relate that in attempting to throw the water into the flames he accidentally threw it into the donor of the rug. Then came the real men of action—the heroes in the true sense of the word. This is their own story with most of the drapings cut off. They picked up the burning mass; lifted it shoulder high; carried it to the door; got jammed in the door, and all the time the flames still licking around them; stood there and reasoned out a plan to extract it safely from the position; finally managed to get it outside, and then got the hose turned on them by the "dish-cloth" fire-fighter. Later Bradshaw returned after an unsuccessful hunt on the top floor for the fire-extinguisher that did not at that time stand there. What men we have amongst us! Yes! and we're proud of them, too. The chesterfield has now returned as good as new, and a quiet smile creeps over the faces of our fire-fighters whenever they look at it.

After the storm came the calm in our activities, but something new dawned on Sunday night. Dr. Sutherland gave us a description of his trip around the Islands. Now, don't ask me to talk of those tropical isles. However, in all seriousness, we thoroughly enjoyed the talk, and we look forward to some other interesting lectures on such topics, and

Literary Dislikes Given Good Airing At "Hate Party."

UNUSUAL MEETING AT 'VARSITY.

Unusual and interesting would adequately describe the evening recently held at 'Varsity under the auspices of the Literary Society, at which members had a Heaven-sent opportunity of at last expressing their pet literary aversions.

Four members of the Society led the general "hating." Mr. A. Dunningham convincingly hated nearly all moderns, and all didactic and sociological literature, and argued for a return to the pure vigour of the Elizabethans, the rollicking reality of Falstaff. His views were original and refreshing if opposed to the present trend of University thought.

Mr. R. J. Larkin "hated" James Joyce—"and other sex-obsessed writers who seem, like the Chinese, never to enjoy food unless it is revolting to the eye."

Miss Peggy Macdonald had no soft spot in her heart for Kipling, the "flag flapper," and Miss Ostler told the audience that Rupert Brooke was no poet and suffered from adjective disease in its worst form.

should they be very far off we might all "go native" in the meantime.

Things in the sports line have taken a very definite turn, and the ping-pong players are starting to gain their old form, and those residents who have neglected their football training are regretting it, for very soon it is hoped to arrange a battle between two football teams on Kelburn Park. Will it be a massacre, a game of football or a gas-works picnic? We are waiting to see, and that's all there is to it.

LAW FACULTY CLUB.

Dear "Smad,"—

May I be permitted, through your pages, to call the attention of Law Students to the fact that the Law Faculty Club is still in existence? For some time past this Club has had a very poor following, and an attempt was made last year to bring about its disbandment. This met with very strenuous opposition at the time, but some of those who were eager that the club should continue were not, apparently, sufficiently interested to offer their services to assist it to justify its existence. The Committee

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A scientist (Professor Picard), undaunted by failure, twice ascends to a height of approximately ten miles above the earth, and gains invaluable knowledge of conditions in the stratosphere and of cosmic rays. What an adventure!

A lone voyageur (Alain Gerbault) sails a 30-foot yacht ("The Firecrest") across the seven seas, encircling the globe. A Viking of to-day!

We read of these achievements in science, sport, and travel, and the unique nature of these exploits leaves us wondering if the imaginative writers of to-day may not be on the right track after all.

We go out to play cricket, and the "mug" bowler of the other side skittles our stumps before we have even reached doubles. Or if we are a little better than the average we see perhaps once or so in a lifetime those coveted three figures go up on the scoreboard opposite our name—and here we have a batsman who reaches 452 unbeaten, against "crack" bowlers.

We travel the sea in a 10,000 ton liner—a floating palace, which, under the whip of the sea, is tossed about like a cork. And yet a solitary voyageur conquers those very same seas in a cockle shell of a craft. We can see him in strange ports, in out of the way places seeing strange things—and who better deserves the privilege?

These exploits, actually the News of our day, would have been scoffed at as the products of a lurid imagination had they been told thirty years ago. True, fact has left yesterday's fiction standing—and imagination runs riot.

hopes, however, that a little more interest than hitherto will be shown, and earnestly asks for suggestions for activities in which the Club may indulge. Students are reminded of the Annual Law Ball, to be held on Friday, 25th August, in the Mayfair Cabaret. We do not need to recommend this function to your patronage.

G. A. GALLAGHER, Hon. Sec.

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66 Votes to 20. Reaffiliation Motion Lost.

BAN ON FREE DISCUSSIONS CLUB.

That the Executive had accurately gauged the opinions of the majority of the Students of the College in disaffiliating the Free Discussions Club following the publication of the magazine "Student" after a direction to the contrary was shown at the Annual General Meeting, when Mr. C. G. Watson's motion to rescind the decision or the Executive was decisively lost by 20 votes to 66.

That this was the business of the evening there can be no doubt, for other matters were hurried over, the earlier measures being passed and rejected by the students in a rather summary manner, this showing their anxiety to get down to "real business."

Mr. Watson said that the Free Discussions Club had published two issues of the magazine "Student," when a letter from the Executive was received, stating that before publication of a paper at the College was allowed, the prior permission of the Executive should be obtained. The Club thereupon had humbly apologised for their mistake, and sought such permission, only to have it refused. The Executive had stated that they did not agree with the literary style of the paper, and had said that it was not impartial. It was not necessary for the Executive to agree with the sentiments held by the paper. The issue was whether the paper should be allowed to publish and whether a minority group should be allowed Freedom of Speech.

Miss M. Prideaux-Pridham was the next to speak. She strongly condemned the magazine, quite apart from its literary style and sentiments.

Mr. M. Neal pointed out that the Executive had disaffiliated the Free Discussions Club on the ground that it had refused to obey the Executive. "Student" had purported to be published as a Free Discussions Magazine, and purported to have the weight of opinion of the College. However, "Student's" opinions were not the opinions of the students of the College.

Mr. Larkin said that the Free Discussions Club wished to be likened to the words of Redmond Phillips's song: "... as free as the winds, we'd willingly have sinned—Naked and Unashamed." The College was, according to "Student," to have at last a real Free Discussions Club, a militant body with absolute freedom of speech, subject, that is, to the censorship of Mr. Fortune. As an example of this, he quoted an article of Mr. Scott which had been hacked about badly. If the Free Discussions Club was such a militant organisation and had been unjustly suppressed contrary to the general opinion of the students, the Club could have called a Special General Meeting,

they could have placed their candidate in the field at the general election. Then we would have seen Comrade Riske standing for Comrade President, Comrade Watson for Comrade Vice-President, and Comrades Fortune and Katz for Comrades Committeemen. Who they'd have got for a Treasurer, he, the speaker, did not know. They had not done this. On the contrary, six out of seven members of the Executive had been elected unopposed. The speaker then proceeded to read a review of "Student" in *Canta*, a magazine of Canterbury College, in which "Student" was described as "reminiscent of fourth form days" and "Frankly puerile."

Mr. Fortune said that support for this motion did not mean that confidence was felt in the "Student." (What does it mean? queried the interjectors.) If the Free Discussions Club were re-affiliated it did not necessarily follow that "Student" would be published.

Mr. Scotney then stated the case for the Executive. He protested against the faulty constitution of the Free Discussions Club, and said that the Executive were not against a properly constituted Free Discussions Club. The present Club had, however, sailed under false colours.

Mr. O'Shea said that if the students were going to allow their representatives to be slighted thus, they would land in chaos, and asked the meeting if they were going to stand for their representatives receiving a virtual "slap in the face."

Miss M. Spence-Sales stated the case for the Free Discussions Club from the point of view of those members who, not agreeing with the radical views, had been out-voted by the majority.

The motion was then put to the meeting and lost.

Plunket Medal Contest for 1933.

Speaking on John Reed, an American journalist who ended his life in Russia, a character almost unknown to the majority of his audience, A. Katz gained first place in this year's contest for the Plunket Medal. His speech was unusual and interesting, since, for one thing, his subject matter was novel to the listeners.

A. H. Scotney, who was placed second, gave a fine oration on Cecil Rhodes. That he had his audience with him, was proved once when he made a slip which otherwise would have brought laughter but was received in dead silence.

K. J. Scott (Dr. Schweitzer) and J. Foster (Julius

Caesar) received the judges' nods for third place equal. Dr. Schweitzer, a scientist who has braved the dangers of West Africa, was a good choice, and Julius Caesar, presented from an unusual slant, being shown mainly as a reformer, also held the attention.

Leonardo da Vinci, chosen by Graham Crossley, was a most difficult subject for a Plunket Medal, and the speaker, taking this into consideration, did well.

Kingi Tahiri spoke on Te Rauparaha, and his excellent voice was heard to advantage in a good oration on this Maori warrior and chieftain.

Miss M. Prideaux-Pridham introduced us to Sir Walter Raleigh, and gave a sincere oration on the Elizabethan adventurer and gentleman.

C. G. Watson's subject, according to the official programme, was Karl Liebknecht, a German Socialist, and we were thankful for that programme, otherwise we might have been fooled.

PLUNKET MEDAL RULES.

Dear "Smad."—

Plunket Medal, Rule 4, reads:—

"Each competitor shall be allowed 12 minutes, and the subject of his discourse shall be some man or woman of note in history."

A loose interpretation of the expression "in history" has permitted competitors to take for their subjects living persons, upon whom history cannot rightly be said to have passed its judgment. A looser interpretation of the expression "of note" has resulted this year in a competitor winning with a subject concerning whom the judges confessed that they had never heard. The circumstances that Don Passos (or whoever it was that wrote the article which the winning competitor so ably recited) considered John Reed worthy of note does not seem sufficient to constitute this person "some man or woman of note in history," nor does it serve entirely to allay the suspicion that he was just a second-rate Yankee reporter. Has the Committee of the Debating Society such difficulty in obtaining speakers that it cannot afford to give a little attention to the standards of the Contest?

I am, etc.,

TARDILOQUENT.

WHY NOT STAMPS?

Dear "Smad."—

The convenience of being able to obtain writing materials and post letters here on the premises is often neutralised for many people by the fact that stamps cannot be obtained at any place nearer than the G.P.O. Could not the Cafeteria supply this deficiency by selling stamps in addition to its other stationery?

I am, etc.,

A. N.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EXECUTIVE LETTER.

Dear "Smad,"—

The following activities of my Executive may be of interest to your readers.

The details of the recent action in disaffiliating the Free Discussions Club will be well known to you. The matter was taken up by the Professorial Board, and because of his action in publishing a further issue of "Student," after having received notice of its prohibition by the Students' Association, a reprimand was administered to Mr. C. G. Watson before a full meeting of the Professorial Board.

It is felt by the Executive, however, that the Free Discussions Club should not be allowed to die out. The Executive has therefore taken the initiative in calling a meeting of students to elect a new committee and to adopt a Constitution which has been prepared by a sub-committee of the Executive.

A supplementary grant of £10 has been passed to enable the Tennis Club to erect a new volley board in the Gymnasium.

The Chairman of the Professorial Board has formally approved the amendments of the Students' Association Constitution, which were carried at the Annual General Meeting.

At its first meeting the new Executive appointed the following sub-committees:—

FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Mr. R. J. Nankervis, Miss J. M. Dunn, Messrs R. C. Bradshaw, D. M. Burns, and R. H. C. Wild.

CAFETERIA COMMITTEE.—Miss J. Duncan and R. C. Bradshaw.

Miss J. M. Dunn was elected to the position of V.U.C. Corresponding Member of the N.Z. National Union of Students, the vacancy being caused by the resignation of Mr. R. E. Diederich.

The Executive is again offering prizes of three guineas each for the three revues chosen for the 1934 Capping Revue.

At its second meeting on the 14th inst., the following appointments were made:—

ASSISTANT TREASURER.—L. O. Desborough.

TOURNAMENT DELEGATES.—Messrs R. E. Diederich and D. M. Burns.

I am, etc.,

D. M. PURNS,

Hon. Secretary, V.U.C.S.A.

SONGS WANTED.—HAEREMAI CLUB APPEAL.

Dear "Smad,"—

Per medium of your paper kindly permit me, on behalf of the Haeremai Club, to make an appeal to the Students of this College. It has long been recognised that the Students of this College do not know the songs of their College, and in this respect this Club feels that if such a thing were allowed to continue it would not be long before the little bit of College spirit that still remains would disappear almost entirely. During Capping Week we issued temporary song sheets, and the singing of the College songs at various gatherings was thus greatly improved. We therefore have decided that we could take no better action than issue a College Song Book. It must, however, be pointed out that this book, while it will contain the songs of this Club, will, however, also contain the more serious songs of the College. It may be argued that these songs have seen their day, but on the other hand we would point out that so far no one has come forward with anything better, and we must therefore preserve what still remains. There must still be some students in the College who are quite capable of giving us something decent in the way of songs suitable for a University, and we implore them to get to work and give things a boost along.

We do not necessarily want original songs, since we would gladly welcome anything that is likely to be popular with the majority. Any parody, clever but clean, is a striking type of song, and we would be glad if any student has any suggested songs to forward them to the Club so that they might be considered when the book is being compiled. Should anyone know a good song, yet does not know the complete wording, we shall do our best to rummage round to have the words completed. In sending in such suggestions, it would greatly help the Committee if the tune to the particular song could be indicated. Just try your hand at some parody, and let us see the result. We like tryers, and there is no reason why this book should not be kept as a memento of College days by every student; but first of all we must get the songs.

Please send in any contribution early, so that we can get the publication under way, and even though it might not be out in time for the remaining functions of this year, we must consider the College of the future and start next year with a real revival of the spirit which has been so wonderful in the past.

I am, etc.,

A. F. NAYLOR,
Hon. Secretary,
Haeremai Club.

OUR NEW COVER.

Dear "Smad,"—

Three years ago "Smad" was first issued. The Executive called for cover designs, and offered a prize for the one accepted. After careful consideration of many designs, one was finally selected; and this, although slightly inaccurate in some minor details, met with the approval of the students for over two years, and of the four successive editors, being used from the third until the issue before the last, the seventeenth.

In this last issue the cover paper was changed from our traditional green to white, due, no doubt, to the latter being a slightly better colour for advertisements.

In addition, without having the opportunity of submitting alternative cover designs, and without receiving any explanation why the old one was discarded excepting the general statement in the editorial that "it was felt by members of the Editorial Staff that some change was needed in the lay-out of the paper," we had foisted on us a design which is not comparable in dignity with the old design, and which offends the susceptibilities of more than half the subscribers to "Smad."

Could you tell me, Sir, the significance of the new design, the real reason for rejecting the old design and incurring the expense of a new one, and whether you are prepared to revert to the old design, thereby conforming to the wishes of the majority of students?

I am, etc.,

C. S. PLANK.

THOUGHTS ON THE PLUNKET MEDAL.

Dear "Smad,"—

Competitors for the Plunket Medal and their auditors appreciate the items of those students who endeavour to ease the nervous tension of waiting for the judges' verdict. It is another matter for a performer to follow a long-winded item with an encore rendered unnecessary by the return of the judges. It is to be hoped that those responsible will see that the unfortunate blemish on this year's contest is not repeated. In all diffidence I suggest that as the

Plunket Medal Contest dates back to 1905 it might be advisable to secure the services of at least one Plunket Medal winner for judging, such person to have won the Medal at least five years prior to the contest which he is invited to be one of the judges. This would have the twofold advantage of preserving a continuity of tradition in regard to the form of the contest itself and of allowing present students to benefit by the experience of previous winners. This suggestion is in no way intended as a reflection on the capabilities of the judges in this year's contest or those of any other year—the Debating Society has been particularly fortunate in this respect. A glance at the list of Plunket Medal winners will show that there are plenty of good men readily available, and if necessary the number could easily be augmented by such men as H. E. Evans, W. J. McEldowney, G. G. G. Watson, and Dr. R. M. Campbell, who were previous Union Prize Winners

I am, etc.,

R. J. LARKIN.

JOYNT SCROLL SELECTIONS.

Dear "Smad,"—

In order that no garbled accounts may find credence in regard to my non-selection of this year's Joynt Scroll team, and my resignation from the Debating Society's committee in consequence, I enclose a copy of a considered statement made by me at the meeting of the committee when the adoption of a new method regarding selection was decided upon. I may state that I withdrew from the meeting before the question was put, as it was ultra vires, and a personal affront to myself.

I am, etc.,

CATHERINE S. FORDE.

(The following is an extract from the statement enclosed by Miss Forde.)

Mr. Chairman,—

I desire to make a statement in order that my position may be quite clear, and after I have done that, the committee in its vision will have to decide whether it intends to do the right thing or the wrong thing.

I want to insist that I have never endeavoured to obtain, nor have I obtained, any recognition or honours from the Society to which I have not been entitled. I have not schemed or intrigued at any time or in any way. What recognition I have received from the Society has been owing to hard work, perseverance, and a determination to succeed, notwithstanding the many setbacks and disappointments that I have experienced.

On succeeding in obtaining the highest number of points in last year's series of debates, I never for one moment suspected that an attempt would be made to depart from the rule that has been in vogue for so long that it has become traditional—namely,

that the points gained during the preceding twelve months should be the deciding factor in the personnel of the Joynt Scroll Team. I knew that I had won, and that in doing so, automatically, I had selected myself.

At the meeting before last, when the question of the Joynt Scroll candidature was introduced, there was not one member of the committee who dissented from the fact that I had won my selection, and the only question to be decided was who was to accompany me, the choice resting between Miss Henderson and Mr. Chorlton. Not one word to the contrary was uttered not the slightest inclination or suggestion that there should be any departure from the rule that has worked so well, and so devoid of friction and dissatisfaction, in the past. Therefore, is it not pertinent for me to speculate as to this complete change of front, and to assume that since that meeting influence, or influences, have been at work, with the result that we are now discussing an unjust and unmerited proposal, embodying the complete overthrow and discarding of a system of selection that has been hitherto recognised as just and equitable?

Reference has been made to the fact that I have twice previously represented Victoria College in Joynt Scroll debates; but I must insist that the first time I acted was only after several members of the Society, who had been chosen before me, and had refused to join our team owing to their dislike to the subject which our side had to affirm, that I was selected. I, too, disliked the subject on that occasion; but I succumbed to the pressure that was brought to bear, and, literally, came to the rescue of the Society.

The proposal to discard the recognised best debater of the year is drastic and far-reaching, and I ask members of the committee to pause before they finally favour it being brought into effect. It sets a precedent that cannot fail to be harmful in the future, as it is an incentive to intrigue and cliquism that may have disastrous results to the Society and to our College. It provides a great opportunity for the schemer and the intriguer to accomplish his nefarious purposes, and it gives no recognition to hard work and merit.

DEBATING CLUB REPLIES.

Dear "Smad,"—

The letter from Miss C. S. Forde in this issue has been shewn to me, and is substantially the statement made by Miss Forde to the meeting of the Committee. The Committee, having heard this statement, nevertheless decided that Miss Z. R. M. Henderson and Mr. A. F. T. Chorlton should represent Victoria University College Debating Society this year in the Joynt Scroll contest.

The Committee considered their action equitable if only on this one ground. Miss Forde, over a period of years, has twice previously represented

the College in the Joynt Scroll contest, once in a winning team. It has hitherto been a guiding rule that any member of the Society who has been in a team which has won the Joynt Scroll is ineligible to speak again. The object of such a rule is patent and its fairness to the Society as a whole unquestionable, and the Committee in its action respected the reasons which prompted the rule. Furthermore, Miss Forde has represented the College in the Bledisloe Medal; she has represented the College against Training College; she has won the Plunket Medal and the Union Prize. This everyone will admit is a worthy record which truly evidences Miss Forde's debating prowess.

There are others in the Society, of not inconsiderable ability, who have not yet had opportunity of securing even the first steps of such a record. The Committee decided that two of these younger members should be given a chance, and they were helped in their decision by the knowledge that their action could not possibly detract from Miss Forde's lengthy list of excellent performances.

I am, etc.,

G. CROSSLEY, Chairman.

SUPPORT FOR CHARLIE.

Dear "Smad,"—

Recently I was inveigled into buying a "New" "Smad." The fact that a change had been indicated prompted the purchase. But let me quote from the first page.

"We present you an altered 'Smad.' It was felt by members of the Editorial Staff that some change was needed in the lay-out of the paper, and to this end we have altered the style of our cover."

And the altered cover (and how fantastic that was) is the only justification for the designation "New" "Smad"!

On page eight you printed "CHARLIE TELLS US HOW." This I considered to be the brightest spot in the "New" "Smad." Imagine my dismay to read below the refusal of every recommendation he made. Of course, making the magazine a fortnightly is your own business, and if financial reasons forbid—that's that; but I agree with every other detail of Mr. Plank's assertions, and if you continue pig-headedly to ignore the possibilities of making "Smad" brighter, the future circulation may drop to seven—the Editorial Staff.

"Student" had the right idea—and it sold. It was a little hysterical in advertising its daring, and that hysteria was its downfall. But it was certainly popular, and I second Mr. Plank's appeal for a page or so in "Smad" to be devoted to discussion.

I am, etc.,

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Is N.Z.U. Team to

Possibility of Athletes Making Christmas Trip.

Next Christmas may see an athletic team representing the New Zealand University journeying to Australia, according to latest advices. The N.U.S., whose headquarters are at Christchurch, are endeavouring to arrange this tour, which, if it eventuates, should do a great deal of good to University athletics.

The first and only New Zealand University Athletic Team to go to the Commonwealth was the 1929 side, which comprised F. S. Ransom, J. N. Goodson, and E. K. Eastwood (V.U.C.), E. B. Taylor, H. A. Henderson and D. C. Harley (C.U.C.), and J. Webber (O.U.).

This team met the New South Wales State side and defeated it by seven events to two. The second meeting was against the Australian Universities on the Sydney University Oval. The Australian Team was a powerful one, and New Zealand could win only one event, Australia taking the other ten.

However, the events were closely contested, and although the results look bad on paper, in actual performance they were quite good. New Zealand's solitary win was in the shot putt.

This proposed tour would be a good thing for University athletics, which, at Victoria at least, need rejuvenating. A tour such as planned should serve to interest more students at V.U.C. in athletics and who knows, we may see the athletics shield reposing in the Hall again soon.

MILITARY UNIT WANTED ?

I shall be pleased if you will allow me space in your columns to enquire as to the present practicability, from the students' side of a suggestion that there be established at the College some description of military unit. Otago University has a Medical Corps, and a past student, a graduate of this College, has suggested that Victoria likewise might wish to establish a unit in which specialised military training and the University atmosphere might combine. He added, however, that it would be necessary to have a definite proposal to make before negotiations with the Defence Department could be opened.

It is with some diffidence, and only after considerable hesitation, that I bring the suggestion for-

Harrier Club Runs For Second Half of Season.

Below are given the list of runs for the second half of the V.U.C. Harrier Club's season. With regard to the Club Championship, members are reminded that they must have attended either five runs during the season or three runs immediately preceding the race. All runs are timed to start at 2.45 p.m. on the date shown.

July 29th, Karori.
August 5th, Lyall Bay (Club Championship).
August 12th, Provincial Championship.
August 19th, Shaw Baton.
August 22th, Brooklyn.
September 2nd, Weir House.
September 9th, Vosseler Shield.
September 16th, Wadestown.
September 23rd, Kelburn.
September 30th, Bennett Memorial.
All runs start at 2.45 p.m.

ward, for I realise how many, and how pressing, are existing claims upon the time of members of the student body. Inasmuch, however, as the subject of the proposal may supply a want, even if only a half-felt want, among a sufficiently large number of students, I am taking the step of introducing the topic in your pages. I may add that my own view, arrived at after careful consideration, and in the absence of which this letter would not have been written, is that none need ever regret having undertaken a course of military training.

I shall be most happy to hear, either through your columns or per medium of the letter-rack, from College men who are already members of military units, and from any others who have a constructive interest in the matter proposed. It is not my desire to start a controversy on the issue Pacifism versus Militarism—an issue in which either extreme is injurious. My sole object is to discover to what extent feeling in the College is at present favourable to the general idea of a V.U.C. Volunteer Company

I am, etc.,
H. M. SANSUM.

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Tour Australia?

'Varsity Chess Players Star at Supper Time.

The V.U.C. Chess Club's greatest venture this year has been the entering of a team in the "B" Grade of the Wellington Chess Championships. We have played four matches against other clubs, which have been huge successes, socially, if not from the point of view of wins. Chess is not a game that can be played hurriedly, and many of our best players find themselves too busy to participate in every match. Again, two of our matches took place during holidays, when every 'Varsity team suffers. But the games played more recently have shown a distinct improvement in our level of play. It won't be long before we are registering wins.

There is an idea abroad that chess is a game for the intellectual, scientific mind. That is partly true, but that the game has also some very material elements may be proved by conversing with any member of the team. Supper is a large item in any match. The sight of the men members quaffing ale at the Working Men's Club will not soon recede from the memory of the one women player who was present. The 'Varsity team has had a great welcome wherever it has played. Older clubs have encouraged us greatly, and not a little of our enthusiasm is due to the sincere good wishes received from the more experienced players of other clubs.

We would like to remind all players that chess evenings are held every Tuesday over in the gym., and to urge them to enter challenges. We cannot estimate a player's worth unless he will play competitive games, and we want the best offering for the team. Anyone wishing to take up the game can always find an instructor who will be able to teach, by consulting any member of the committee. We have a small library, in which can be found books to suit all grades of players from beginner to champion. Access to this, and to chess sets, is available through committeemen.

LAW FACULTY CLUB COMMITTEE.

Mr. R. J. Larkin (chairman), Messrs. D. Wilson (treasurer), J. Scholefield, J. White, A. Wicks, M. Willis (committee) are the officers of the Club elected at the General Meeting, and any of these will be pleased to hear from any student with any ideas on the subject of Club activities.

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Who Will Make 1934 Women's Tennis Team?

A succession of howling southerlies, bringing rain and cold to this fair (?) city, precludes the possibility of any topical notes regarding Tennis. The only thing left to do is to cogitate on future events. The first thought which comes to mind is the Tournament next Easter and the Tennis Cup. What are the chances of gladdening the heart of our respected Tennis Club Chairman by bringing the Tennis Cup back from Christchurch?

Our men's team will be very strong with the pick of last year's talent available. But our girls—alas—of last year's team only one, Stella Phillipps, is available. There is an excellent opportunity for any of our junior girls who are willing to take their tennis seriously and to attempt to improve by continual practice. It is to be hoped that the competition for the various positions will be keen, for it is essential that the standard of play be raised very considerably above the present level.

The Committee of the Tennis Club has erected a volley board at the north-west end of the Gym. On account of the drawbacks of the old volley board there has hitherto been little incentive to the cultivation of new strokes or to the eradication of faults. The new board gives an opportunity of improving one's play, which should not be missed. Now is the time. While the season is in full-swing it is more difficult to alter one's style of play, for it involves losing ground in the meantime when others are progressing. The Committee wants to see the new board getting plenty of use, especially by those girls who may expect to gain the coveted honour of a place in the Tournament Team.

MASSEY'S FIRST REPRESENTATIVE.

Included in the New Zealand University Rugby side for the Third Test with the Australians was Cooper, of Massey Agricultural College. A splendid all-round forward, he well deserved the honour, as he is one of the outstanding Manawatu representative forwards. We hope that next time Massey College will be included in the Australian Universities' Team's itinerary, and are certain that the game would be justified both from the playing and financial point of view.

University Ski Championships May Be Held This Year.

V.U.C. ENTRANTS WANTED.

Despite the series of rather damp week-ends, tramping has continued to be popular, as was shown by the party of twenty-six who made the trip to Kine Hut on July 8th and 9th. Snow conditions and weather were not of the best on the Sunday, but it is to be hoped better conditions will prevail when the Varsity Tramping Club make their winter crossing of the Tararua on the 5th and 6th of August. Last year's crossing was, we understand, the best yet, and it is hoped this year to repeat the performance. Intending participants are advised that they should be very fit, as the Tararua can be an uncomfortable place in bad weather. The leader of the party this year will be J. S. Reid, and those going should consult him regarding the equipment necessary for the tramp. Trips which the Club will make prior to the crossing have been chosen with the idea of giving trampers an opportunity to get really fit.

* * * * *

The Mount Cook Tourist Company is considering holding a University Ski Championship Meeting at the Ball Hut early in September. Otago and Canterbury are said to be quite keen. The Company have given a quote of £7 5s. made up as follows:—Five and three-quarter days' accommodation at the Hermitage, return car fare from Timaru to Hermitage, and Ball Hut car fare. The steamer fare to Christchurch, train fare to Timaru, but not the hire of skis would be extra. It is hoped to send a team from this University, and any members who are interested are asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Tramping Club early.

* * * * *

The Secretary of the Tramping Clubs also informs us that this year's Christmas trips will be well up to the standard of other years. As usual, there will be two trips, one of which will have a base camp. The base camp trip will be at French Pass, and is within easy striking distance of several peaks of the 5,000-foot mark. There is excellent tramping country in the Marlborough Sounds of a type quite different from that found in the Wellington district, and the trip should be a popular one.

The other trip is to Lake Tennyson, in the Nelson district, where the party will spend several days in climbing some of the many peaks in the locality. Here is an opportunity for good mountaineering in good country, the peaks running up to 7,000 feet and over.

Field, Track and Court.

(BY "SIDE-LINE.")

A KICK LIKE A MULE.

Four drop-kicks in one game would make Bennie Ostler himself jealous—and yet that was "Gin" Blandford's bag for the Senior B. match against Marist. "Gin" drop-kicked two goals from penalties and two others from the field during play. A most dangerous man with his boot, J.A.R. added another to his score with a further drop-kicked penalty against W.C. Old Boys.

YOUNG AND GOOD.

F. Newcombe, who this year gained his N.Z.U. Hockey Blue, is playing Senior A Hockey for the first time this season. Shrewd judges of the game anticipate a bright future for this player, who is one of the younger players on whom Varsity are banking to recover some of our lost prestige.

BEST THIRD TEAM YET.

In previous years the Third Grade Rugby Teams have been very mediocre, but this year's Third A Side is one of the best lower grade teams we have had. At present undefeated in championship games, the team, after a stern fight with Old Boys for a 3-all draw, dropped one championship point by an unusual 7-all tie with Petone.

NEAR THE TOP.

As anticipated, the V.U.C. Senior Basket Ball Nine has shown a great improvement, and at the end of the first round was in second place. Wellington East O.G. still held the lead, and in the first game of the second round V.U.C. again fell to them, losing 19-15.

KEEN—AND SO THEY WIN.

R. N. Josephson, wing and five-eighths for the Third A Rugby team, recently took the field in the first round game against Petone with a badly injured back, and pluckily saw the whole game out. This is an example of the keenness shown by all the members of Allan Wilton's side.

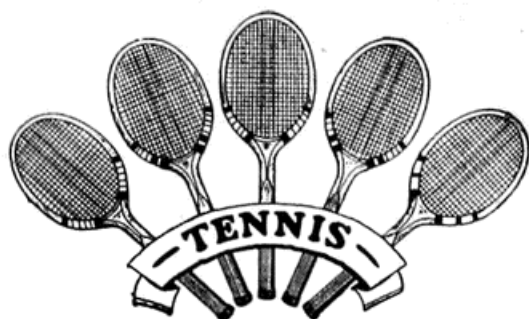
PROMISING MATERIAL.

That the Varsity Harrier Club has some promising cross-country men has been shown by recent runs. A. Murray is one whose recent efforts show great improvement on last year's form. Guy Oliver is another who is on the improve, whilst D. Holmes-Edge and Keith Reid have also caught the eye as good runners of the future.

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