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SMAD

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



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WELLINGTON, MARCH 24th, 1937.

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DRAMATIC CLUB STARTS SEASON WITH A BANG!

ONE-ACT PLAYS GO OVER.

Before one of the best crowds ever squashed into the Gym, the Dramatic Club staged the first event of its 1937 season most auspiciously with a highly successful evening of one-act plays. The whole show went over with a bang and an appreciative audience was kept amused and entertained with a programme that was delightfully varied. We would all like to see more such evenings and feel sure the audience would come again.

"Wurzel Flummery."

The first play on the programme, apart altogether from the brilliance and subtlety of A. A. Milne's argument and situations, provided an excellent opening. A good play very adequately performed.

"And So To War."

A biting satire on the modern totalitarian state and on the motives activating modern warfare. Suggests the excellent idea of conscripting all men over fifty years of age. This play did not have the polish of "Wurzel Flummery," but there was something in it—something into which we could get our teeth.

"Weatherwise."

Gives us Noel Coward in his most farcical and satirical mood. A farce with the underlying idea of the callousness of modern society. The hardest play to do and the least well done. The polish was lacking but the play went over and that is the chief thing.

"Wurzel Flummery."

This play was very well chosen and the players did it justice. It called for mature and restrained acting, coupled with the polish so essential in all A. A. Milne's shows.

The Players—

Pat Macaskill was excellent as Denis Clifton, the eccentric actor-solicitor. His whimsical nature suited the part to perfection. A better portrayal of the irresponsible Clifton could hardly be wished for.

Bill Austen, as Robert Crawahan, M.P., turned on exactly the right kind of hypocritical cant very convincingly.

Freda Sharp, as his wife, played her part with a simpering perfection.

Erica Williamson, the girl in the play, had a minor part which she performed well, adding a touch of feminine sweetness quite successfully.

Jack Aimers, the rising young parliamentarian, Richard Meriton, was a little too heavy and restrained, but acquitted himself well.

The best play of the evening. Congratulations to Pat Macaskill on producing a fine show.

"And So To War."

A winning play in a South of England Drama League Festival, and its writer's first effort, is a work with ideas. It was very scathing and reminiscent of last year's Extrav, "Hell's Bells." A biting indictment of modern dictators, finance and religion. We congratulate the producer on changing the name of the leader of ten million workers to the Right Honourable Robert Temple. The character struck us as possessing many very familiar touches. His exclamation of "watch me put him in dungarees" seemed to make the audience think of certain articles of great assistance to footracers.

Tossman, the dictator with the non-Aryan nose, was outstanding. Everyone enjoyed the manner in which he snorted out his commands.

Dawrick, as Bob Temple, was good, but enjoyed his own jokes too much.

Joyce Cruttenden as Miss Grace Manful, a woman's leader, temptuously reminded us she was not going to have any more babies. Only Fanucci, the dictator, did not seem to believe it. A little bit of over-acting, perhaps, but quite effective. Peter Finch, Norman Banks and Keith Hutcheson all gave satisfactory performances. Neither Brian Fawcett nor David Cohen, however, have yet acquired that essential "stage presence," but a little experience should have a beneficial effect.

Dorothea Tossman's production, although not quite as polished as usual, perhaps from the nature of the play, was very effective.

"Weatherwise."

Coward is always very difficult to stage at any time, but he is most exacting in his shorter pieces. Jack Aimers' task was, therefore, very tricky. Nevertheless, he achieved a creditable success and there was no doubt that the thing went over. This could not have been entirely due to Coward's witticisms and ludicrous situations. As far as one player was concerned, Margaret Shortall was outstanding, while the rest played up to her quite satisfactorily.

THE ORACLE SPEAKS

Brookie—An Institution

In the year of our Lord 1937 a Smadist walked reverently up to Brookie to ascertain that sage's Opinion of how 1937 V.U.C. appeared to him, and as a prophet what prophetic denunciation would he let fall like precious stones upon the barren smadist beneath.

"What do you think of the Freshers, oh Brookie?"

"Better than the old stuff, anyway!" This was hissed in true prophetic growl, "They go where they're put, anyway"; and not to be daunted, the great man, upon the spot, slapped two innocent and timorous youths (much smaller than himself!) on the shoulder, whilst they were harmlessly notice-board gazing; then followed an order staccatoed with finger-clicking not to block up the hall. The kids disappeared and the goat was left in charge—"Smad" prefers the old stuff.

"What do you think of the T.C. students, oh Famous Sage?"

"A rough lot," with a shake of his head, "always will be!" and the little Smadist agreed.

"Then Brookie would you like to meet Mrs. Simpson?" and the answer to that—my pen fails me—one's own imagination is a safe and pure thing—Brookie was feeling his liver that night.—M.B.

EXECUTIVE DOINGS

The Extrav.

On March 16th last the Executive met to consider general business and arrange dates in connection with Capping festivities. It was decided to hold the Extravaganza on 24th, 26th, 27th and 28th April, when it was hoped the Opera House would be available.

Also a request was to be made to the Professorial Board that the Capping Ceremony be held on April 30th instead of May 7th. The Undergraduates' Supper and midnight matinee are to be held on Thursday, 29th, conditionally on the date of the Capping ceremony being 30th, and falling that, on Thursday, May 6th.

The V.U.C. delegates were instructed to make the following recommendations to the meeting of the N.Z.U.S.A. at Christchurch: That students attending lectures should be eligible for the Joynst Scroll competition; that the headquarters of the N.Z.U.S.A. should be fixated in Wellington; and that Mr. A. T. S. McGhie should be appointed N.Z.U.S.A. delegate in England.

The following have direct control over Capping festivities:—

Mr. White—Undergrads' Supper.

Mr. Edgley—Dances.

Mr. Christiansen—Capping Ceremony.

Mr. Blacker—Midnight Matinee.

Messrs. Harpur and Crawford—Capping Ball.

Mr. Wild—General Convener of the Capping Committee.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION FEE RAISED TO ONE POUND FIVE

AT SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF STUD. ASS. GENERAL BUSINESS.

There was a record attendance the General Meeting of the V.U.C. Stud. Ass. held last Wednesday evening. In his introductory remarks, the President, Mr. H. R. C. Wild, pointed out that it was part of the Exec.'s policy to call a Special General Meeting every term.

The minutes of the last Special General Meeting held in October of last year were read and confirmed. The sequel to motions passed at that meeting seems to show rather an obstinate and unfair attitude on the part of the Professorial Board. Mr. Wild said that he had approached the last year's Chairman (Prof. Rankine Brown) and this year's Chairman (Prof. Miles) with a view to having the procession reinstated and the services of the Commissionaire dispensed with, but both gentlemen had declined to take the matter before the Board. (We noticed that the Commissionaire was on duty at the Dramatic Club's show on Friday night.)

An amendment to the Blues Regulations moved by Mr. J. C. White, was carried. The amendment is that candidates for blues in winter sports shall be required to have attended lectures in the year preceding the award of the blue instead of for two years preceding the award.

The main business of the evening was to determine whether the Stud. Ass. fee should be raised to 25/-. An amendment to the constitution to that effect was moved by Mr. J. Aimers. Mr. Aimers said that moving the amendment was not a pleasure, but a sheer necessity. The proposal originated from the Building Committee of which Mr. Aimers is a member. He pointed out that the Stud. Ass. must aim at £40,000 whether it takes five years or fifty years! (A voice: A hundred years!)

The Committee intends at Capping time to launch a big public campaign for funds. It feels, however, that it must be able to show the public that the students are themselves contributing a healthy amount each year. The figure the Building Committee has in mind is £550 per annum. At present, practically the only accession to the fund is the £200 per annum allocated from the Stud. Ass. funds. The remaining £350 the committee hopes to raise from profits on the sale of Varsity publications, from the proceeds of club functions, and from the increase in the Stud. Assn. fee. The Building Committee it first considered making the contribution from students voluntary, said Mr. Aimers, but it was thought, after deliberation that the finest scheme would be to make the contribution compulsory by raising the Stud. Ass. fee.

Government help would be essential, but it was considered that before approaching the Minister for a grant or a subsidy, it would be essential to be able to point to substantial efforts on the part of the student body.

The motion was seconded by Mr. S. P. Walsh.

All the subsequent discussion in support of the motion, or suggested amendments. Mr. R. S. V. Simpson on rising to speak was urged to the stage by vociferous cries, and pointed out in heroic tones, that we must regard the sacrifice as a duty to ourselves, our colleagues and our children. (Voice: Speak for yourself.)

Mr. R. E. Jack suggested that the fee be raised to £1/10/6, but Mr. Macaskill pointed out that such a heavy increase would reduce the takings at Club functions and so defeat its own purpose.

Mr. A. A. Scotney moved an amendment: "That all such moneys to the extent of 4/- per head" be used exclusively for swelling the Building Fund.

Mr. Aimers and his seconder agreeing to the amendment, the original motion was then put and carried with few dissenting voices. Subsequently Mr. Ellingham moved that a request be made to the Prof. Board that the increase be made operative in the current session. This motion was carried.

Mr. M. J. Mason suggested that a loan be raised so that posterity as well as present students should contribute to the Building Fund. The chairman, Mr. Wild, replied that this aspect was covered by the life insurance endowment plan. These policies would be taken out (we hope) by well-wishers of the Stud. Ass. and handed over to the Building Fund. At the end of five years they would be good security for a loan.

Mr. Scotney moved that the Building Committee ask the Council for permission to approach the Minister of Education. (On one previous occasion this permission had been refused). This motion was passed.

The next business was a motion by Mr. Aimers that as there were to be only two club balls this year, they should be held in the St. Francis Hall, as balls in the Gym tended to become brawls through overcrowding. Mr. Macaskill pointed out that the Bolton Street cemetery, although not so handy was very spacious. The motion was carried on a division by a very narrow margin.



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WELLINGTON, MARCH 24th, 1937.

"Brighter Days . . ."

Although the year is still young, although full Varsity life is only just beginning to get under way, there have been manifest even in these few weeks, unmistakable signs of new life and fresh vigour being pumped into the veins of anaemic College activity. People are taking an interest in things—a lively enthusiastic interest—and prospects for a most successful year do indeed seem bright.

Commencing with the excellent Freshers' Welcome, enthusiasm has run the gamut of most College activities so far. The Debating Society, the Football Club, the Dramatic Club, and even "Smad" itself, have all aroused an interest which augurs extremely well for the future.

But the climax of this re-awakening came, we consider, at the Special General Meeting of the Stud. Ass. "Smad" had noted previously the fact that people seemed to be sitting up and taking a bit of notice of things, but we were waiting for this meeting to prove just how true that impression was. The attendance and spirit were both very gratifying. The fact that a motion which should have far-reaching results in connection with the Building Fund was second only in importance to the fact that the numbers were far in excess of any for some years. Our only hope is that this interest will not only be maintained, but rather strengthened during the year. We have got away to a good start, and there is no reason at all why a high standard of achievements should not be set in all branches of College life during 1937.

There is Tournament during the week-end. The re-awakened enthusiasm of Victoria should be manifest here, too. Our Tournament teams in the past have always upheld the College tradition of honest-to-goodness sportsmanship, they have always done their best, no matter what the state of College support. This year, however, with everyone interested in making 1937 outstanding in the annals, there is a possibility of great things. Most of all we desire to lose those Wooden Spoons, and we are sure everyone agrees with "Smad" when we wish our representatives the very best of luck, and may their efforts be crowned with the success they deserve.

Our Dramatic Club

"Smad" was very pleased to see such an excellent crowd in the Gym last Friday night for the opening performance of the Dramatic Club. From their appreciation it was obvious that no one was disappointed. It was a good programme of well-chosen plays interpreted in a manner which was well up to the high standards of the Club.

The Dramatic Club is one of the few artistic clubs up here and it merits the support of everyone. One looks to a University to appreciate and encourage art of every kind. At the moment, the Dramatic Club is presenting artistic productions that are comparable with any, at least in this City.

It was interesting to compare the efforts of the Repertory Society recently with those of our own Club. That such a comparison is possible is a credit to Varsity, but, we are of the opinion that the comparison favoured the Dramatic Club. "Wurzel Flummery" was a dramatic achievement that had a polish and artistry such as we have not had the pleasure of seeing in Wellington for some time.

We wish the Club many more similar successes and hope that they will continue to get the support which they so much deserve.

ESCAPE

I would I might find a city in some
distant land
Of shadowed waters, shivering
dark under long stretching
clouds;
Where winds lift torn straggling
edges of a grey-furled storm
And show the leaping pulse of
sunset blood beneath;

And I might see swirling mists
glide like slim ghosts, up the
river;

I would be such a stranger. No
visitors would ever come
bounding up my stair,
No strident voices, nor unseemly
laughter to break the
nocturne in the evening air.

—VESTA EMANUEL.

NEWCOMER TO CHAIR OF ENGLISH

Professor Gordon Interviewed

Professor Gordon has not as yet seen much of New Zealand life, but apart from the difficulty of obtaining houses, the closing hours (of shops) and similar considerations, his first impressions have been extremely favourable. Someone in Sydney told him he would have to bring his own food or starve.

Wellington is very beautifully situated, but the buildings—V.U.C. is one of the best in the city. Classes and students here are very similar to those in Edinburgh, but New Zealand students are more approachable, and it is easier to converse with them.

In Edinburgh University there is no particular interest taken in politics, but social activities are emphasised. All the departments have active societies. Two people with similar interests or tastes have only to meet and talk together for a short time in order to form a new club.

At Edinburgh, Professor Gordon was particularly interested in the literary society of which he has been both President and Play Producer. Many productions were staged every year, including Elizabethan plays, for which the students themselves did all the work.

In New Zealand the standard of speech is high, and with the exception of a few vowel sounds, it differs little from the standard English spoken in Scottish and English universities.

Professor Gordon is keenly interested in modern literature, especially poetry. During this century a considerable change has taken place, and even in the last four or five years a new school has arisen. T. S. Elliot is now growing out of date. Such men as Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen wrote much good war poetry, but to-day a large public is becoming more keenly appreciative of modern poetry. Many experiments are being tried and from one school we are getting works with political infiltrations, but they are not very helpful.

In drama, excellent work has been done with men such as Noel Coward and Sean O'Casey well to the fore. A great deal of our best modern literature comes from Ireland. In fact, Yeats should be Poet Laureate instead of Massfield.

With regard to the novel, Marcel Proust, a Frenchman, has been responsible for the introduction of a new psychological technique which has exercised an extremely beneficial influence. Examples are James Joyce's "Ulysses," and Galsworthy's novels.

Since 1900, Lytton Strachey has originated a new school of biography with his study of Queen Victoria. The old style of putting a man on a pedestal and eulogising his faults into oblivion has disappeared. The subject is now treated from an objective point of view with a strict attempt of impartiality.

Besides literature, Professor Gordon is very interested in music and in all forms of art—incidentally, in his travels he has visited almost every art gallery in Europe.

HOCKEY CLUB RESULTS

Club Captain.—H. Abraham.
Committee.—F. Newcombe, G. Shaw, B. Denby.
Secretary.—H. Oram.
Delegates to W.H.A.—H. Oram, B. Denby, F. Newcombe, P. Webb.
Treasurer.—J. Evans.

It's Here!

Tournament, the greatest event in the University sporting calendar, has arrived. Once again the Universities of New Zealand will enter the arena to pay homage to the King of Sport. From Wellington, the City of Winds, to Christchurch, the City of the Plains, the contest moves on—commanding added interest each year, widening in scope, becoming still more an essential feature of a student's career, bringing the youth of the country together and propagating a spirit of *bonne camaraderie*.

Victoria, though not great in the realm of sport, has proved to be a stubborn trier and a good loser, never beaten until the winning post has been reached. Non-participants and "Smad" join in wishing competitors "The Best of Luck" and "Happy Hunting." If we cannot be with you in the flesh we will be with you in the "Spirit."

In Retrospect.

Glancing back over the annals of past years we find that the only time that Victoria has held the Tournament Shield was in 1929, when the College won the Boxing Shield, the Athletic Shield, and the Relay Cup. In Athletics we have been, perhaps, the most successful, having held the Shield ten times in thirty-four years, during which time we have secured, and still hold, six track records. The Boxing Shield has fallen to us four times in sixteen years; but in tennis, swimming, shooting, basketball, and rowing, our successes have been few and far between, except for a solitary record in swimming. One memento of Tournament which has rested persistently in the "Pot" case for the last three years, is the Wooden Spoon. But who knows—after Easter we may be able to say, "Oh yes! We had the Wooden Spoon for three years."

Tournament Prospects.

ATHLETICS.

Would You Believe It? We Have A Chance This Year!

Mister Birks (an it please you) had some of his gloom of last Saturday when approached by "Smad." It would be exaggerating to say that he was bubbling over, but he was as near to that state as his dignity as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand would allow.

What about the Discus?—Mason is definitely good, and should throw over 100 feet. One of our best prospects.

Shot Put?—Bowling is capable of 35 feet and should show up in the places.

Javelin—Thos. wasn't so enthusiastic here.

440 Hurdles.—This brightened Thos. up again and he reached lyrical heights. "Our best prospect." "A certainty, especially as Ball, of A.U.C. is reported to be stale." It seems that the shirt (or substitute therefor) may be entrusted to K.J.M.

220 Hurdles.—Much in the same strain.

100 Hurdles.—Not so hot.

1 Mile.—If Boot doesn't start, Black should be good for first place.

(Thos. did not say what is likely to happen if Boot does start.)

Half Mile.—The same applies. (This is getting serious!)

3 Miles.—Scrimgeour is a good determined runner, but he has not the stride of Robinson. He should show up for a place. (With characteristic diplomacy, "Smad" refrained from asking, "What place?")

440 yards.—Bowler should go well, but he will be matched against the redoubtable Watt (O.U.), the All Black flyer. "So What?"

No answer from Mr. B.

220 yards.—Bowler and Robinson are both good, but Watt is in this, too. (Stop laughing, you cads; this is serious!)

100 yards.—A very deep depression is approaching. If you have a shirt at the end of the day, use it for clothing purposes, as the Hundred apparently does not warrant a plunge. Thos. looked very gloomy.

Summing up then, we (i.e. Thos. and his stalwarts) have a fair chance in the Discus and the Hurdles (except the 120) while the mile and half-mile are a bit up in the air. Things won't be so good in the Javelin and Shot Put or the three miles, but we should get places in these and the flat events.

In all, then, we have better prospects than last year.

To encourage Thos., "Smad" asked him about prospects for next year's Tournament. This brightened him up a lot. "We have great prospects. We have . . ."

(Aw, who the hell cares about next year's tournament now?)

ROWING.

The final selection of the eight has been made, and the crew has been getting in some solid work over the last two weeks. Present indications show that while the crew is very keen, the two newcomers to the game are having a little difficulty. An eight is so much faster than a four, and the "feel" of the boat different, that these men may find three miles a fairly hard task. However, they are keen and keenness will overcome many difficulties. The main cause for complaint is probably in the stroke. He has had no experience in the stroke seat, and many a race has been won by sheerly his tactics. Either Hansen or Broad, both good oarsmen and with practical experience, would have been a better choice. The crew rowed at Petone over the week-end, and a casual glance shows that more attention should be paid to timing and to pulling the blade right through to the finish. This "washing out" should be stopped. The two best men in the boat are Bowling and Hansen, with Broad and Burge rowing nice sticks. Provided stroke can overcome his tendency to rush forward when increasing the rate of stroking, the crew should be well up. Rushing the slide is a common fault, and the sooner it is learnt that it is speed through the water and not speed coming forward that counts, the better.

ONCE-OVER ON FUGS.

"Smad" removes the hat and offers congratulations to Bowling, G. A. Dandy, Eric Miller, Ryan, Kent, Walsh, and Campbell, the mit-merchants who have been chosen to represent V.U.C. at tourney.

Anyhow, are we are going to get rid of this wooden spoon.

Look at those names and decide for yourself.

"Smad" sees "Yes." As far as boxing goes. Emphatically Yes! Our boys are the good this year and will take a power of stopping. The respective champs. were in good fettle at V.U.C. Tourney, but with a little extra training Roy Brian will have his team in the pink of condition.

"Smad" stumbled across that boxing stalwart Edgley; he had a glint in his eye and was wringing his hands triumphantly the way Bob usually does.

"Ryan and Kent are certs," he said, "So's Sef. Walsh, but he's got a tough Canterbury man whose got a kick like a mule in both left and right."

However, the "Pahiatua Queen" is a hot favourite, and should have no difficulty in taking the scientific cup. Local fans who saw Walsh in action at the Show Stadium will realise that he is the goods. Showmanship probably detracted from his display, but he was never extended during the whole evening, and "coasted" to take both his matches. This lad has a polish above Varsity class.

"Smad" puts its shirt on the favourite.

With the Feather crown a monty, next chance lies in Kent, the lightweight, who will take a power of beating: a two-handed puncher with a good working knowledge of the ring, he was easily the best in his class. Kent's consistency and fitness should take the lightweight title for V.U.C.

It seems unfortunate that Pat Kane will not be with the team. I hear that he was in great fettle and would have gone far.

However, we have a worthy rep. in Ryan, a two-handed fighter who never knows when he's beaten—nurse that eye, Ryan, or there may be no Tourney ball! "Smad" classes you as third favourite.

Eric Miller, the Middle champ., is aggressive and hard-punching. A little extra polish will see him well up to standard. Eric was very modest about the whole affair, but he packs a solid punch and has an excellent chance of winning on a k.o. His inexperience may go against him. On the other hand, Miller's as fit as a buck rat, and it'll take a good 'un to go the distance with him.

The outsider in the field is G. A. (Tiger) Dandy who carries a thumping wallop in both hands, more he has seen a good deal of the ring and puts over some polished infighting.

Let's hope the fighting spirit of the Dandys will come up to win the Light-Heavy crown for V.U.C. "Smad" is anticipating a purseful on the outsider, Bowling, the Heavy aspirant, who has a hard-hitting aggressive style and a nice turn of speed for a heavy.

Watch that guard, though, Bowling, or you might be going aloft.

Barney Campbell is as fit as a fiddle and should go very close to a Bantam title. Barney, the diminutive heavy is in good trim, and "Smad" wishes the little man all the best.

BASKETBALL HOPES

Short Pars on Players.

Stella Phillips.—Captain—good, reliable player—best on defence.

Marion Bell.—Intercepts well—good defender; enthusiastic.

Nora McLaren.—Stalwart player—steady passer—always "on the spot."

Nancy Bullen.—Good on defence opportunist.

Janet Granger.—Field work brilliant.

Sylvia Hefford.—Last year's fresher makes good.

Joy Osborn.—Has a big advantage—height.

Eric Overton.—Good interceptor—versatile—brilliant defence.

R. Drummond.—Stalwart player.

Sheila Fraser and Jane Withers (Emergencies).—Reliable.

Prospects.—Look bright—teams full of beans—should make three points in Shield—well up to previous Tournament standard—"Smad" confident.

SWIMMING TEAM.

Ladies.

50 and 100 yards—M. Morton and S. Sanders.

220 yards Breaststroke—S. Hefford.

Men.

100 yards—M. J. Mason and R. Z. Webb.

220 yards—M. J. Mason and F. O'Flynn.

440 yards—R. Z. Webb and F. O'Flynn.

220 yards Breaststroke—R. L. Meek.

Relay.

Miss S. Sanders and R. L. Webb; Miss M. Morton and M. J. Mason. Manager and Coach—T. Ennis.

CONGRATULATIONS

"Smad" congratulates our Senior Scholars:—Peter Wells, Bill Combs, Don Currie, and H. Jackson. May they carry on the good work.

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Dorothy Briggs.—Our most experienced and best singles player. Plays a very good game from the backline. Has just recovered from a relapse of form and should be at her best at Christchurch, and therefore hard to beat in the singles.

Stella Phillips.—Has not the same easy strokes as Dorothy Briggs but is extremely determined and has overcome the limitations usually imposed by awkward strokes, and in a match especially, she gets there. Her footwork is not good enough for a player of her class—sometimes not quick enough off the mark. Experienced in singles tactics—at present tops the Club ladder. A better grip for volleying might overcome a certain diffidence in taking the net in doubles play.

Janet Grainger.—Athletic and plays with plenty of vim. Has many interests and so usually finds herself at Tournament time without quite sufficient practice to be able to guarantee the easy ones. More at home at the net than any other of the ladies, and consequently selected to play first in both doubles. Good at volleying and smashing and well able to hold her own in a mixed; in a ladies' double is a little too prone to take the centre of the court. Is proving a very effective partner for Morrison and has a great chance of winning an N.Z. Blue.

Kathleen Pears.—Playing her first Tournament and consequently not so experienced as any of the three just mentioned. Her strokes lack pace at present, but she has a useful backhand and is quiet and businesslike on the Courts. If she gets on her toes more, the weight of her body will give extra momentum to her strokes. Will benefit from the experience at Tournament.

Marjorie Palmer-Brown.—A considerably improved player—also playing in her first Tournament. Plays with plenty of confidence and puts kick into her shots, some of which, however, are faulty. Plays too many of her strokes with her feet at right angles to the net. At present making strenuous efforts to correct a tendency to foot-fault.

N. A. Morrison.—The captain and star performer of the team. Only one previous effort at Tournament, but has played in many open tournaments with good results. A first-class doubles player who excels in a mixed. Service is not particularly forceful, but is well controlled and accurately placed—ground strokes serviceable but not varied—very good overhead—excellent at volleying—watch "the smile on the face of the tiger" as he dexterously wins the point by a well-manipulated stop volley. Has a chance in the singles and is right out for the mixed title.

H. J. Hartley.—One of the "finds" of the season. Has climbed from bottom of the ladder to third place. Not very big, but has wonderful vitality, and plays a very sparkling game with stylish strokes. Not yet in the top class, but improving all the time. Could treat his opponents' "high stuff" with a little more respect.

W. Brock.—A considerably improved player. Is too keen to finish off a point and so walks into all the traps for young players. Inclined to be erratic especially with his overhead work, concerning which one thinks of the saying, ending: "where angels fear to tread."

H. S. Sivyer.—Has had an off season and is only now approaching the form which gained him a place in last year's team. A left-hander with a reach yards long. Very determined and fights to the last ditch. Perhaps takes the game too seriously. Seems to worry about his partner's mistakes as well as his own.

R. Thawley.—An easy-going, unconcerned player who backs up very well, and deals coolly with fast ones and "wrong 'uns." Does not concentrate sufficiently for any length of time. With a little more "tennis" ambition is capable of improving considerably.

POT SHOTS!

Poor Audrey!

Dear "Smad,"—

I wish to protest against the unfair treatment that the Haeremai Club has received in connection with the "last" Capping Procession. "Little Audrey Rides Bareback—But she knows all the tricks!"—This came from an advertisement in one of our local dailies a few nights ago.

If this was in either the capping book or the procession, everybody in general would say it was pure unadulterated filth.

If it is filth, surely "public opinion" in Wellington would do something about it.

Apparently, however, it is not considered filth, as it is published on the front page of a reputable newspaper.

This is just one more example of how Wellington public opinion has an unreasonable bias against Victoria College in general and particularly the Haeremai Club.

"LAUGH IT OFF."

A Bite.

Dear "Smad,"—

Once athwart the forum of ancient Rome lay a gaping crevasse, whence issued the noxious vapours of the nether regions.

To-day, across the mental forum of Victoria gapes a pit whence issue turgid vapours as of a cess-pool, and rumblings as of swine at pleasure. Students—philosophical souls—pass by this with averted eyes and stoic resignation, but poor unwary freshers, lured to the edge of the pit by fair naiad charmers, find themselves embroiled in this degradation of offensive corruption. Any reader of normal intellect will by now have realised to what I refer, but for the benefit of its literary (?) staff, may I explain that my subject is "Smad."

That "Smad," should insult and dishonour the University by its presence and comment is enough, but that it should cast its lecherous eyes on the fair name of Training College is an outrage. Why should this honoured title be dragged down to be spattered and besmirched in the mire of such a wallow? I refer to the truly "scandalous" write-up of the T.C. Freshers' ball. A report redolent of such over-bearing patronage and petty jealousy should never have been allowed to sully clean paper.

I had intended to criticise "Smad" for descending to personalities, but maturer consideration has convinced me of the futility of such a course: "Smad" can descend to nothing.

I am, etc.,

THE BE-MONOCLED ONE.

Re Politicians and Primates.

Dear "Smad,"—

J.N.S. further to his original and enlightening "skeleton" sketch, maintains that he is facing facts.

From his article and reply to J.W.D., we infer that "guff" which is produced daily is only half the truth: "Cavalcade," by virtue of its being "a complete, brisk, news-magazine," is a veritable fountain of truth. Moral: "Guff" which is administered in other than daily forms is not to be questioned.

And so J.N.S. armed with "facts" passed on by the grace of monopoly holders whose integrity must not be doubted, has been pleased to pass judgment.

J.N.S. can be excused however, for in circumstances such as those surrounding the abdication, it has always been part and parcel of man's nature to be pleased to imagine that which does not exist. Even the most everyday occurrence gains lustre if flavoured with some hidden and mysterious force—be it politico-gaiters or armament rings. Fantasy must to a certain degree in such matters invade the prose domain of commonsense.

The Politician and the Primate then remain. The facts do not, nor does Edward, but the honours and the honour—who knows?

—R.H.J.

Borax.

Dear "Smad,"—

I note the following in the previous issue, referring to the V.U.C. versus T.C. debate:—"An excellent debate. The best for years, and well attended."

I can't agree. I don't agree. It was not excellent, nor even good.

It was not the best for years. If, however, it was the best for the last six years that would not be saying much—not much at all.

I can't agree it was "well attended." Attended yes, but not well attended. There were a few more there than usual. Yes. But that's not saying much. No.

NORA M. McLAREN.

ECHOES OF ARABY

A Phoenix Club

Last Thursday a meeting of the embryo Phoenix Club was convened. All those at V.U.C. with artistic inclinations rolled along (there were about forty). A provisional committee consisting of Misses Emanuel and Thompson and Messrs. Wells, O'Reilly and Toas-will was constituted. The assembled highbrows expressed the opinion that the study of modern poetry should be stressed. No one, however, attempted a definition of modern poetry.

The activities of the club are intended to embrace the whole gamut of things artistic, music, painting, sculpture, literature, etc. . . . Taste for beauty is to be fostered so as to give aesthetic satisfaction by a contemplation of all its forms. (— !!!)

FRAGMENT

Old hours have never died
Though past beyond our knowing;
The years dwell side by side
The withered and the growing;
And there's no hand may hide
The summer garden-pride
Though autumn winds deride
And dead leaves mock their sowing.

—I.R.M.

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