

College Elections

June 14th
Nominations Close

June 24th
Annual General Meeting
of Student Association

SMAD

AN ORGAN OF STUDENT OPINION

AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, WELLINGTON, N.Z.



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A Sparkling Success

1937 Capping Ball

Of the more than five hundred bright young people who gathered at the St. Francis Hall on the night of Friday, May 7th for the Annual Capping Ball, it is very doubtful if one could be found who would not declare the show a great success. Of course, opinions as to why it was a great show would differ. Some would tell you it was because there was such a large crowd there, others because everyone was in such fine spirits, others because it was a good floor, others, again, because it was such a marvellous night—in fact, you'd get scores of reasons, but on one point you would find complete unanimity—everyone enjoyed it!

The success which attended this year's ball was not, we think, entirely unexpected. All the events of Capping Week had gone with a swing and it was only natural that this enthusiasm should be sustained sufficiently to make an excellent finale to a fine season. But it is doubtful whether the most optimistic had foreseen a more perfect conclusion than the 1937 ball.

"Smad" arrived reasonably early to find a band of stalwarts entrenched in a strategic position on the stairs. We were not left long in doubt as to their significance—they were the anti-gate crashing gang and from the fierce scrutiny they gave "Smad's" complimentary ticket and partner, it appeared that they were discharging their duties quite effectively. Such vigilance, "Smad" learned, was necessary owing to the fact that some "low-down" graduates had actually been "selling" their tickets—a crime for which it was apparent these guardians of the portals considered death an altogether too mild penalty!

To describe the ball itself would be impossible. "Smad" thoroughly enjoyed the whole show and for this reason, any attempt at reproducing the scene on paper seems hopelessly inadequate. You might get some faint idea of the affair if you take the following ingredients in the correct proportions and shake together appropriately—over everything the same delightful atmosphere of extravaganza that had characterized the undergrads' supper; the college's most charming women beautifully gowned and looking their love-best; immaculately clad gentlemen ready with a bright remark for every minute of the evening and every woman in the hall, if necessary, an excellent floor; a jolly care-free crowd; an orchestra sufficiently bright to be enjoyable but greatly assisted by extrav. excerpts given by Dick Hutchens, John Carrad, Dick Simpson, Derek Christ-

ensen and their jolly lads. There was rather too large a crowd on the floor for successful dancing but that mattered not at all—and anyway if you didn't like it, there were comfortable seats in the gallery, delightfully dark, from which the spectacle below could be admired at ease. "Smad" was fortunate in being in the first supper sitting which was quite good.

No report of the capping ball, however meagre, could be complete without reference to the charming interlude when John Carrad, on behalf of extrav. performers, presented Sheila Fraser with a bouquet on the occasion of her engagement to Tom Innes. Both these young people have given much to Victoria and "Smad" felt that John voiced the sincere sentiments of everyone present when he wished them all the success and happiness possible for the future.

Talking of those present, did we remember to tell you that definitely everyone was there—oh, but you were there yourself weren't you? Naturally! Well you know what a jolly good show it was and how much you all enjoyed yourselves and what a deliciously healthy spirit animated proceedings. Perhaps, you were even one of those who were so successful in converting the lounge into such an hospitable spot for banishing that tired feeling—lucky weren't you!

But then you might not have overheard the following conversation on the floor: Graduate (male): "You know, you can always pick a fresher girl." His partner (female): "How?" He: "By the way she says 'Stop' with such an air of injured innocence." She: "You can tell a freshman the same way." He: "How?" She: "Because he stops."

And so another batch of graduates have been given to the world. To them the ball must have been doubly enjoyable—"Smad" thought it good enough fun for a mere undergrad.

LAWYERS LASHED

Debaters' Disrespect

The ancient question of the merits or demerits of the lawyer was well and truly thrashed out by the Debating Society at the gym on Friday night. Mr. J. B. Aimers opened the debate.

"At the risk of being struck off the rolls before 9 a.m. placed thereon, I move that the legal profession deserves the disrespect of the community." "that the legal profession actually does receive the disrespect of the community."

If we study the matter historically, we find that opinion has always been against lawyers. I could quote innumerable passages from history and literature to show that they have always been regarded with scorn, ridicule and hatred. The rise of the lawyer to power dates from the Industrial Revolution, where the momentous changes had to be translated into law with the consequent increase of the lawyer's powers. He became wealthy, an owner of property—when property was of primary importance. He is a parasite on society and when the parent thrives the parasite thrives. Thus, is it, that he is a vicious opponent to reform. By reason of his security, he opposes social progress. Under the present system the lawyer is justified in carrying out the law without reference to the context of the law. The law is used to maintain social and class relations.

Also, the legal system is a maze of ill-coordinated, ill-applied, and ill-understood dogmas. It professes to give judges guidance through the confused utterances of the dead. What is the attitude of the lawyer? Does he strive for reform? No!

He is contented with the picture of law triumphant and justice prostrate.

The system of legal education needs revision. No law school is justified unless law is taught as a science. To-day students are taught the acceptance of judgments without a critical insight of the law. The legal profession cannot be respected unless its attitude to the law changes, until the law student is given a broad sociological training and the law is regarded as a sacred trust, the legal profession deserves disrespect.

Mr. Riddiford, for the negative, disputed the assertion that lawyers oppose progress or change. "Take the case of the American Colonies, the reaction against Charles I. Parliamentary Reform. All these were largely encouraged by lawyers. The success and impartial justice of our democracy as compared with other lands is due to the free co-operation of the lawyers and the people. Our judges and legislators build up laws that are based on the wishes of the people. The jury system gives

people a share in the administration of the law. It is due to this democracy of the law that the British people are the most law abiding in the world, simply because they have a law that they respect. Surely in these days of dictatorships, when law and order are laughed at, surely University students should realise that the legal profession stands for the victory of mind over force.

Mr. Ellingham accused the legal profession of being avaricious.

"Lawyers should not be tradesmen who hawk their goods before the public. Ask the man in the street why he does not consult a solicitor. He will answer that the fees are too high. They scrape together every case they can get hold of. Again, take the case of the Lawyer's Fidelity Fund, which reimburses people who have had their money embezzled by lawyers. Over a period of about seven years there has been almost £50,000 paid out.

Think of it, £50,000 worth of disrespect!"

Mr. White defended the legal profession. "Charges of lawyers are not too high, considering the amount of work they have to do. Anyway cheap litigation is just cheap gin, people take it, who should do without it. The statement that lawyers oppose reform of their own profession is wrong, as can be demonstrated by a recent law conference at Dunedin, where every paper read, dealt with reform. It is not the fault of the lawyer that reforms are not carried out, it is the fault of the legislature."

ances of Mr. Aimers as mere personalities carrying but little weight.

Miss Stock classified the utterance of Mr. Aimers tells us that the legal profession is not aiding progressive reform, but that assertion is disproved by the large percentage of lawyers in past and present parliaments. There is no doubt that the legal profession does pull its weight."

Mr. Freeman, "I propose four major indictments of the legal profession.

One, that of pecuniary interest. Lawyers have a pecuniary interest in truth, and therefore, truth to a lawyer is based on £ s. d.

Two, in law, ethics are non-existent. Lawyers are concerned only with the interpretation of laws already given. In persuading a jury, they can use any fallacy, thus making truth the balance between two sets of lies.

Three, the neglect of the vast psychological developments of recent times.

Four, the relation of the lawyer to society. The private lawyer is the inevitable adjunct of private property.

Mr. Seotney stated that the lawyers are the instruments by which one class forces its will on the nation. The lawyers oppose social reform. They have a specialised knowledge by which they could change the law, yet they do not use it.

GLEE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Before a small attendance of the Glee Club such matters as minutes, the annual report, and balance sheet were duly presented and adopted with little discussion.

But definite plans were made for two concerts in the second term and, in arranging these, the meeting became very animated.

The first concert is to be held early in the second term—just to show the College what the Glee Club can do, and to draw crowds along to practices for the second concert.

The big effort will be a concert towards the end of the second term, composed of choral, unison and solo singing, and of instrumental items and elocution, to be followed by supper and a dance. It is to be hoped that this will be well supported by the College.

A regular practice night has been arranged at 7 p.m. on Friday in the gym, the first practice to be held on the first Friday of the second term. The Club expects the gym, to be crowded.

The following officers were elected:—Patron, Professor Kirk; president, Dr. Keys; vice-presidents, Mr. R. L. Hutchens, Mr. L. E. Sandford; secretary-treasurer, Miss Berys Ball; committee, Misses V. Emmanuel, M. Fletcher, B. Sargisson, B. Turner.

MATHS AND PHYSICS SOCIETY.

On May 4th, the Baths and Physics Society presented a lecture on "The Infinite," the lecturer being Mr. G. W. Hutchings, M.Sc. He approached his knotty problem first by showing how difficult it was, then the mistakes people made about it and finally he showed how super-mathematicians like Cantor solved the problem for once and for all. He attributed lots of mistakes about the subject to taking things too much for granted. "You must cultivate the habit of looking at things intensely."

Working from the simple beginning of integers, he progressively introduced his audience to the various members of the mathematical hierarchy, hyperbolic cosines, points at infinity, partial differentials, etc., to the climax of Cantor's theory of transfinite numbers. Infinity was then interpreted in the various branches of mathematics and the various assumptions were examined.

After a discussion, the meeting adjourned to the physics lab., where a fine supper was provided.

The judge, Rev. Mr. Day commented on the debate. The debate could have been improved, he said, by the infusion of more humour and more fire into the speeches. He placed the speakers as follows:—Mr. Freeman, Mr. Seotney, Mr. Riddiford, Miss Stock. The motion was carried.



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WELLINGTON, JUNE 10, 1937.

And What Now?

First term, 1937, has been notable for the very pleasing outburst of enthusiasm that has been displayed in all college activities. The various events of capping week went off more successfully than any for some years with gratifying effect on the Building Fund. Now we find ourselves settling down to the winter term. What is going to happen now? Is the promise of last term going to be fulfilled? Can this enthusiasm be maintained or was it a flash in the pan? "Smad" sincerely hopes that a reaction will not now set in. There is plenty to be done, plenty of activities needing support. There is the Glee Club which is so important as providing a nucleus for extrav. choruses, the Dramatic Club, whose efforts are a sufficiently good advertisement in themselves and the Debating Society which it behoves everyone to support.

In the immediate future is an event which should be of vital importance to everyone in the college, despite the fact that freshers are not actively interested. We refer to the forthcoming college elections. Nominations for candidates for the several positions on the executive close on Monday, the 14th. Now the executive is the governing body of the Students' Association, and as such it governs YOU. It seems logical, therefore, that YOU should be expected to take some notice of the personnel thereof and their election. Most of you have ideas on how you think things should be run up here and by whom. Now a peculiar thing about all elections is that before a man can be elected to any office he must be nominated. And if a man is not nominated it is only the fault of himself and his supporters. "Smad" dislikes very much the idea of people being elected unopposed, to official positions. It doesn't seem to be a fair go for one thing, and for another it indicates a certain degree of apathy. We consider this should be avoided, as keenly fought elections can only be an indication of the wide-awake keen spirit of a healthy student body. If you wish to nominate anyone, if you particularly fancy someone for a certain position—get to it and don't hesitate to have him nominated, it's your opportunity now.

A word to nominees. Elections are only a little over a week off—the annual meeting is on the 24th—and there are bound to be lots of people in the college who have never even heard of you, let alone know what you do up here. Now, it is "Smad's" opinion that some form of electioneering should be instituted. We realize, however, how strong are the bounds of tradition. Nevertheless, we do think that prospective candidates should do something towards getting themselves and their views more widely known about the place. Another thing—what about thinking out your position with regard to executive policy? The people we want on the executive these days are people with ideas and ideals for which they are prepared to fight. We have had too much indecisive rail-sitting in the past due to a paucity, not of intelligence, but of ideas. Now when the tide of student life is once more rising, a strong team in office with definite progressive ideas, a strong arm and a stronger will, could pull the old ship out of the Sargasso, where it has been drifting once more on to the High Seas.

I WONDER . . .

I wonder how feels the flautist
Who has always been able to take
melody

And transform it from mere notes
Into a living vivid form.

How feels he, when one day
He finds no longer can he waken

Passionate pleadings, dancing
beams,

Translations from a soul in pain?

Perhaps he whispers, "Gone!
Gone!"

And sits in cold terror at the
mocking echoes.

His eyes mist over—sunlit streams
in the door;

His music jumbles into black
blobs—unintelligible—

THAT STATUE AGAIN.

(When it was hoped controversy
over the Auckland Domain statue
had been hygienically disposed of,
a petition was signed by 1100
people asking for something to be
done about it.)

The prurient puritan that you
Observe criticising the statue

As a figure fermenting lust
Is hardly the type to trust.

Nor admit to your home and your
hearth;

He is shocked at himself in his
bath;

And if such a mind be pure,
Then so is a slaughterhouse sewer.

—H.W.G.

And the flute slides from limp
fingers to the floor.

—Vesta Emanuel.

DEFENCE RIFLE CLUB.

The V.U.C.D.E.C. held a supper at the end of the first term as a wind-up to the season's work. The chair was occupied by the club president, Mr. H. M. Sansum, and the Stud. Ass. President, Mr. H. R. C. Wild, was present as a guest.

Mr. Wild congratulated the club on the performance of its 1937 tournament team, and presented certificates to the Haslam team members. Before making the presentation, however, he spoke of the unfortunate incident which had occurred in Christchurch during the recent tournament. The executive had inquired into the matter as closely as possible, and had accepted the explanation that a regrettable oversight, and nothing more had been responsible. He thought it would be profitless to take any further action, and asked the fusiliers to bury the hatchet, which, in any case, was not their distinctive weapon.

The chairman thanked Mr. Wild for his attendance, which was the first compliment of its kind tendered to the Club by any member of the executive during the entire five years of his (the chairman's) club service. He said that the executive as a body, deserved the thanks of the club committee for the attention given to the riflemen's complaint, and assured Mr. Wild that in view of all circumstances the disagreeable incident could, should, and would be regarded as closed.



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SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

Reviewing the week-end's results one is left with a depressed feeling: ten losses and only one win. Where is the former glory of Victoria College sport? Is that damning accusation that it is merely a glorified night school true? You may say that you "Play the game for the sake of the game." That is all very well, but in looking into it you find that it is results that count in this little world. Do not be content to plod along in the same old way—do a little extra training, give your particular sport a little extra time, bolster up your keenness with a little extra keenness; that "Little Extra" will make all the difference to our sports standard.

In the Rugby sphere the first fifteen have earned a well-merited promotion; one which has been looked for by Varsity supporters for a long time. To maintain this position is going to be a hard struggle, but if the College knows anything about the calibre of the players in that team, it can confidently say, as was revealed in the first match in the First Division, that Varsity will turn on the goods for the public of Wellington, with that spectacular and open football which has won her championship honours in former years. On the game against Eastbourne, the team is likely to frighten even the strongest of clubs, and with more of Jim Parker's coaching, it should attain the necessary "Extra" polish for top grade football.

Looking at the position briefly with a little more enthusiasm, and a little more "do or die" spirit, this winter should "Put Victoria on the map in the realm of sport."

MASSEY v. VICTORIA.

A scratch team drawn from Senior A, B and Junior players went up from Victoria to play Massey during the vacation. In wonderful weather and before a fair crowd the game proved to be hard and fast. Massey were definitely superior, backs and forwards combining well, and hooking the ball in most of the scrums. Three tries early in the game made things look black for Victoria. Turnbull opened the scoring for Victoria and Mason missed a sitting shot right under the posts. The score at half time was 14-3, Massey's favour.

In the second spell Massey tried considerably and Victoria pressed hard. Redwood scored after the ball had been passed in from the wing, and Hoy added the major points. This brought the score up to 14-8. Considering the adverse circumstances under which the team went as a whole they performed well. At full back, Hoy gave a faultless exhibition, and Redwood, as half, was responsible for many good movements. Turnbull was a great asset to the team, being very safe on defence and just as sound on attack. The forwards played well as a pack, Meads and Rasmussen showing up well in the line-out. Cuneliffe played a useful game as loose forward, while the balance of the pack toiled hard without being brilliant. Taking everything into consideration, it was a most enjoyable game.

Goshul Searchlight (hic!).

A dinner and dance were held after the game in honour of the visitors. Of the two the latter was perhaps enjoyed the most by members of the team. Edgley, although still "Kean," managed to remain faithful—at least, that's his story. Mason came without a partner, but managed to enjoy himself with other people's. Jeffs was on top form as a "Lady Killer," and even a hot water bottle in his pocket did not dampen his passions. (Ed.—I was assured that this last word was the correct one to use.)

Some of the other members of the team were not to be seen very often during the evening, and it is not known whether this was a good point or a bad point. Still—who would want to stay inside on such a night, with such a moon! Ruth,

Joy, Nan, and Maisie, and all the others didn't want to—and, after all, one does not get tired after a mere game of football. The music was good, the supper was good, but er—the partners weren't "good"! So what better combination could you wish for? Many thanks, Massey, for your great hospitality, and when you come down Victoria will repay you.

EASTBOURNE v. VICTORIA

Weather: Hail, snow, sleet, rain, biting wind, heavy ground—conditions generally atrocious. Varsity's first match in the top divisions was played at Eastbourne. Eastbourne kicked off. Plank received the return and threw a bad pass to Berridge, who fumbled. In a quick rush Varsity profited by the mistake and Edgley dashed over the line to score. Kissell failed with the kick, 2-0. After this lightning score Eastbourne bucked up and very shortly scored between the posts. The try was converted, 5-3. Both sides tried to open the game up, but the greasy ball made handling difficult. Forwards were packing well and Varsity was winning the majority of the scrums. Kissell had a chance when offside play gave Varsity a free kick—but he narrowly missed it. Eastbourne scored again from a line-out and the try was again converted, 10-3. It was snowing lightly now and the game developed into a hard forward tussle. The Varsity forwards were playing a great game and more than holding their own. The half time score was: Eastbourne 10, Varsity 3.

In the second half conditions brightened slightly, but the greasy ball was very hard to control. Varsity attacked stubbornly and narrowly missed scoring on several occasions. Wild, Larkin, and the wingers were prominent. The team showed some of the old flashes of brilliance associated with University football of former years, and a few of the passing rushes left Eastbourne standing. Kissell played a sound game at full back and was seldom troubled.

A field goal by Eastbourne brought the score up to 14-3 and after a forward rush, Eastbourne added three more points to their score. The scoring ended at Eastbourne 17, Varsity 3.

The score is a bad indication of the game, and Varsity was unlucky

to lose by such a margin. The game was very evenly contested and Varsity were by no means overshadowed or disgraced, and with more experience against tougher teams should prove to be a thorn in the side of any Wellington first division team.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY.

Senior A.

Poneke and Varsity played a keen game at Newtown Park. The improving Poneke team showed superior combination and understanding and the goal shooting was smart and forceful, Varsity played well but lacked sting in the circle. Poneke won by 5 goals to 2.

NUTSHELL RESULTS.

Rugby.

Senior A: Eastbourne 17, Varsity 3.
Senior B: Hutt B 9, Varsity 3.
Juniors: Marist 12, Varsity B 3.
Thirds: St. Pat's 8, Varsity 0.
Thirds (2nd Div): Wellington A 29, Varsity 0.

Hockey

Senior A: Huia 5, Varsity 4.
Senior B: Taubman's 6, Varsity 1.
Junior: Varsity 3, Hutt 2.
Thirds: Warriors A 4, Varsity 2.
Fourth: Karori 5, Varsity 1.

Women's Hockey

Senior A: Poneke 5, Varsity 2.

Basketball.

No games played.

Harriers.

Sherwood Cup.—Hutchens 1st, Hoffman 2nd, Scrymgeour 3rd, Bagnall 4th.

SHERWOOD CUP HANDICAP.

Harriers in Action.

Saturday afternoon saw the fifth race for the Sherwood Cup run from Rongotai College, 20 men competing, on sealed handicaps, over a three-mile course. The trail was altered slightly from that of previous years, to avoid forbidden territory, and most of the hill by Minorgan Road had to be cut out. Weather turned badly against the runners during the race, a cold southerly, verging on snow at times. After a preliminary battle for places, Scrymgeour struck out on a good lead and set the pace around the beach road, with Cairns and Bagnall in 2nd and 3rd positions, and Burge and Mellroy hovering near. The pack had by now struck out considerably, but Gretton came through from a late start, bringing McLean, Hutchens and Hoffman. At the golf links Scrymgeour still had about a hundred yards lead on Cairns, with Bagnall another 80 yards behind, but both were closing up on him somewhat. It seemed that there two, knowing their man, were using heads as well as feet, and allowing Scrymgeour to tire himself in the heavy going through the lupins. He proved too good for them, however, and, making up his lead again on the flat roads, was first to the tape in the time of 18 min. 51 secs. Cairns (19min. 6sec.) was second, Bagnall (19min. 21sec.) third, Burge fourth. The time made by Scrymgeour was very good in the circumstances, as weather conditions and slippery going undoubtedly held up the men considerably.

On revision of the times according to the sealed handicaps, Hutchens was placed first, and received the Sherwood Cup, with Hoffman second, Scrymgeour third, Bagnall fourth.

N.Z. University Rugby Team.

Smad wishes to compliment the following players on being picked for the N.Z. University Team:—Burke, Wild and Reid, and emergencies: Stewart and Russell. It is understood that there is a possibility of this team playing the Springboks at the end of the latter's tour. A game such as this would be not only invaluable from the point of view of experience, but also as an indication of the Rugby strength of the Universities. It is to be hoped that it can be arranged.

"This ain't Nanny! It's Bill!"

Late Tennis Jabs.

Burning Question: "Who are the Tennis Champs for the year!"
Plaintive Echo: "Nil." Mid-Winter, and events uncompleted.

Atta Boy, Jim!

Jim Parker, super football coach, has sure put beans into our rugger reps. Keep 'em up to it Jim! Sticks!

No nominees from Varsity players for N.Z. Hockey team? We are certain that something is amiss here. Have none of our seniors reached representative standard? Sweet Sultan.

Sultan: Bring me a girl.

Servant: Very good, Sir.

Sultan: Not necessarily.

—Also Otago.

A Suggestion.

What about a few "Cheer Parties" being arranged to speed our senior teams to victory? Let's go "American" in a big way. Such encouragement undoubtedly has a tremendous effect on the team.

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The Seddon Stick Hockey Tourney

AT AUCKLAND

We have first of all to extend our warmest congratulations to Auckland University Hockey Club on winning the Seddon Stick. They undoubtedly showed themselves the best team on the run of the play, and deserved their win. We have also to express our appreciation of the hospitality shown to the team during the tournament. Nothing was left undone to further the success of the tourney, and the only matter meeting with the disapproval of the visiting teams was the arrangements with regard to the weather!

Victoria's first game was on Wednesday afternoon, against Auckland B, and was won 3-1. Auckland B were the first scorers, but Victoria soon settled down and the result was never in doubt. Johnston equalised with a quick shot following a good run by Oram on the wing, and soon after Shaw put us in the lead with a snap shot from a penalty corner. The second half was very even, a lack of finish in attack resulting in only one goal being scored, when Shaw beat the goallie with a back-hand drive into the corner of the net.

On the Thursday afternoon, Victoria played Otago, the game resulting in a win for the latter, 1 goal to nil. The conditions were anything but pleasant, a heavy misty rain falling incessantly. Something of the dismal conditions was reflected in the play of both sides, the greasy surface making good stickwork impossible. Victoria, especially in the second half, had much the better of the play, and territorially held the upper hand during most of the game. The cohesion among the forwards, which had been such a feature of the first game, was not here apparent at all, and our attacking movements generally led to a melee in or near the circle, from which the ball was cleared. There was too much aimless hitting by the backs, and penalties for various breaches, particularly for offside and obstruction, were far too frequent for a University Senior XI. The result was that there was little open play, and to say the least of it, the exhibition was a very drab one.

One possible goal was lost when, in taking a penalty bully, Shaw slipped and sat on the ball. As another ball was not handy at the moment, play was held up for quite a considerable length of time.

The game against Massey College, in the first qualifying round for the wooden spoon, held on Friday morning, was another scramble. Victoria displayed more finished movements to win 4-2. Newcombe scored three goals by fast following in, and Chisholm flicked in a fast goal when the right wing's centre came across in perfect position.

WANTED KNOWN.

Lonely young Varsity gentleman, S.A. (Hons), wishes meet or correspond young Varsity student, opposite sex, blonde or brunette, view friendship. Reply "Desperate," C/o. "Smad."

POT SHOTS

To What End?

Dear "Smad,"—

I hope that my letter to you before the vacation on the subject of better seating accommodation will not be overlooked. In view of the approaching executive elections, might I bring this matter to the notice of intending candidates and suggest that they might take as a platform plank the cry of "Softer Seats at Victoria." May I even appeal that the present executive, most of whom are graduates and, therefore, are not "sitting" at present, make a recommendation to the incoming members that the matter receive urgent attention. I do not know the feeling of the female element in the college, but I am certain that it must be sore.

Instead of worrying about such abstruse things as building funds and raising students association fees, the executive should get down to business and attend to a matter that is urgent and vital, and which as I have said previously, "strikes at the very root of the student body." This question is becoming so pressing that I am seriously considering the purchase of an air cushion for myself.

But what of other unfortunate sufferers? What are you going to do about it exec.?

I remain, etc.,

BONO ENDO.

P.S.: I have referred to grads. on the exec. as "not sitting at present." They have already "sat" at lectures, therefore, they should have vivid recollections about the subject.

Thanks!

Dear "Smad,"—

Now that our effort on behalf of the King George V. Memorial Fund is over, I should like to thank all those students who helped V.U.C. to make such a splendid contribution to the fund. Quite apart from the large sum raised in the street collection and in the mock court, the way the boys made their presence felt was responsible for an astonishing increase in the number of flags sold. As a prominent member of the Citizens Committee said, the difference between the V.U.C. part of the procession and the remainder was the difference between the living and the dead.

To those who did not help, I can only offer my sympathy for missing a great deal of fun, and to those who did take part I give my sincere thanks.

I am, etc.,

DONALD CURRIE.

"TILL THE DAY I DIE."

Clifford Odets has been hailed by many leading American critics as the most important dramatist since Eugene O'Neill. His reputation was made by three plays—"Waiting for Lefty," "Awake and Sing," and "Till the Day I Die."

"Till the Day I Die" is the story of the underground struggle against the Nazi terror. It is a magnificent play technically, displaying Odets' talent at this best; it involves a new attitude of the dramatist to changing social conditions—an attitude which must excite the keenest of discussion. "Till the Day I Die" will be presented in the V.U.C. Gym. on Friday, June 11.

Our Contemporary:

Dear Sir,—

Notices clamouring for contributions to "Spike" are now appearing on the college boards, and in case any of your readers are wondering what they refer to, I would like to explain their import. The origin of the name and symbol "Spike"—whether phallic or pinnate, or both—is not known; but the alternative title "The Victoria College Review" is more explanatory. In fact, that is just what it is, a review of all college activities during the year, and a clearing house for the exposition of all shades of opinion from bloody red to Chinese white, while for the artist, the storyteller, and the poet, "Spike" is the fitting place for the appearance of their new-created masterpieces. There will be again, it is believed, prizes for the pre-eminent in letters and photography. In its 64 issues to date, "Spike" has, by its reputation, spread Victoria's name throughout New Zealand. The best of her past is preserved, and the course of the future foreshadowed when the present is recorded in "Spike." So, now that everybody knows what and why "Spike" is, let all to their pens and write their thoughts, phantasies and sublimations for the 1937 issue. Time is short, start now.

Thank you, "Smad"—and future contributors.

N. T. CLARE,
Editor, "Spike," 1937.

THE FISHERMEN.

And as he read,
The smoke-white pillars melted,
and the church,
Still as the bush of the skies at twilight, vanished . . .
I stood by a great lake, flushed with the sun's setting.
With the sweetness of hyacinths borne on the wavering breeze; Scarcely a ripple, so quiet, so far from the sea-surge.
And the rhythm of men's backs, swaying and straining,
Swelling sinews, flashing bronze in the gleam of the sun;
And the gentle splash of the ropes in the lapping waters.
And the smooth silver fish, wildly leaping and darting.
Leaping and darting, and glittering now in the shallows,
Spilling silvery light as they twisted and leapt in the water.
And the net drawing nearer, nearer the lake-shore,
And the tall men heaving, hauling the net in;
The lake a bowl of molten gold. . . .
A stranger came.
The lake-shore listened, and the breathless air was stirred,
And soft, cool Evening swept across the Heavens.
They turned and saw, the two who strained at the net,
And they saw the Stranger standing there by the lake;
This radiance shone like the stars on the waters at nightfall.
And they left the net, and they went away with the Stranger
The fish still struggled, still spilling their silvery light;
The lake transmuted to silver—an alchemist's dream—
And the ends of the ropes trailed uselessly in the sand. . . .
"Fishers of men!"
Here endeth the lesson.
R.L.M.

V.U.C. Dramatic Club

presents

"TILL THE DAY I DIE"

by

Clifford Odets

in the

V.U.C. Gymnasium

FRIDAY, JUNE 11th

at 8 p.m.

Admission 1/-

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