

THE
MAGNET

For Men's Wear

144 Featherston St.
Wellington

Salient

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

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STUDENTS' FOLIOS
with
SLIDE FASTENERS
from
25/-
LANDS for BAGS

Tournament at Christchurch EASTER UPHEAVAL

ONCE again Victoria goes South in their unending quest for the Tournament Shield. All teams travel down by the boat on Thursday daylight, April 6, and depart again on the Thursday night. It will be possible for some to travel back by Tuesday daylight but they will miss the grand finale on Tuesday night—Tournament Ball!!

In the next few days, if you see two rather perplexed young men crawling round the college grounds in the small hours of the morning or doing a fan dance with a sheaf of papers and a typewriter, treat them gently. They are the Exec. Tournament delegates. And they want to see all the Tournament Team on Tuesday night, April 4, at 7 p.m., in the College gymnasium.

We have representatives in Cricket, Boxing, Swimming, Athletics, Outdoor Basketball, Defence Rifles, and Tennis. Please let us not see the WOODEN SPOON again, Victoria. Veul, vidi, vici, wikitoria!!

Athletics

VUC has a strong team this year, with several provincial and many near champions.

Dave Batten needs no introduction. An NZU blue for four years, he holds NZU records for the 100, 220 and 440 yards, also the VUC record for the 100 yards. He was selected in the New Zealand team for the Empire Games, and holds the New Zealand record for the 220.

Dave reached the semi-final of the 220 and ran third in the final of the 440. Has recently returned from a highly successful 10-day trip to Australia at invitation of Victoria and New South Wales Athletic Unions.

D. L. Kelly is a former National junior mile walk champion. Was second in the three miles and third in the mile at the National Champs. in Napier. Is the present NZU champion.

L. Lisslenko has reached 140ft 6 3/4 in with the discus. Was placed third in this event in the provincial Games trials. In the Provincial Champs. he came second in the discus and third in the hammer throw, and in a night meeting at the Hutt was placed second to Dr Moody in the discus.

G. J. Barnard holds VUC records for the 440yds and high jump. Won the Provincial mile title this season.

J. McLevie has been steadily improving, despite lack of competition, over the 440yds hurdles. Won the Provincial title convincingly.

L. Hyslop, a NZU Blue, 1949, is a good all-round field events man. Was second in the hop, step and jump in the Provincial trials and third in the champs.

A. Marshall, a NZU Blue, 1948, turns on consistently good performances with the shot. Won this event at the Provincial trials and was second in the champs; placed second with the discus and the hammer. He holds the VUC shot and discus records.

Barbara Hill, NZU Blue, 1949, won the 100 and 220yds at the trials and represented Wellington at Napier where she reached the final of the 100. At Provincial Champs. retained 220 title and against English women Games representatives at the Basin. ran third to them in the 100 and second in the 220.

Helen Burr, NZU Blue, 1949, holds VUC and NZU records in the women's high jump. First in this event at the Provincial trials and third at the National trials and championships at Napier. Retained Provincial title, jumped 5ft against Canterbury at inter-provincial meeting, and against Mrs. Tyler at the Basin.

L. Brewer and J. Riseborough have some good performances to their credit over the half-mile, Brewer

being placed third in the Provincials. Three good performers over the mile and three miles are Goodwin, Turnbull and Ingram, the last two being Massey types.

The women's relay team should be very strong again with Barbara Hill, Julie Hunt and some promising talent from Massey.

DEFENCE RIFLES

AT the beginning of the 1949-50 season the club embarked on a campaign to increase its membership by sending circulars to all those students who had stated on their Students' Association cards that they were interested in shooting.

The results were very encouraging and we started the season with good attendances, which dropped off, however, over the vacation, as was to be expected with many of the members living out of Wellington.

There was a good muster for the Army Qualification Shoot and seven of the club members are now classed as marksmen, while fourteen men are qualified shots.

The A Grade team is well up in the local Union Shield competitions, and the C Grade team is giving a good account of itself. Eight members entered a WRA competition and all were in the prize money, as also were the three members who entered the NRA competition. The WRA Tyro competition was won by one of our members. Members are looking forward to the Haslam Shield competition at Easter Tournament, and the annual Massey-Victoria match to be held in May.

We are disappointed that so far no freshers have joined the club. If you are interested all you have to do is catch a Brown Owl or Upper Hutt bus to Trentham Military Camp Road and walk down to the range. Buses leave at 12.15 p.m. and 12.35 p.m. every Saturday. The fare is only 2/8 return.

So roll up and enjoy an afternoon's sport with the VUCDRC. Accurate club rifles are available to all and ammunition is only one penny per round, obtainable from the club at the range.

Those representing the club are J. R. Fletcher, D. V. Henderson, I. M. Henderson, J. Hogg, A. S. Howarth, M. Martin Smith, B. J. Perry.

CRICKET

THE only team we have been able to get hold of is a team of ten. (New rules for the old game probably): J. H. Murray, P. M. McCaw, R. G. O'Connor, M. E. Murphy, D. McLeod, B. P. R. Phillips, J. M. Dobson, D. Dalgety, B. H. Blackwood, S. L. Spiers.

Boxing

SOON Victoria's pugilistic plenipotentiaries will be setting forth on their annual mission. Prospects seem bright, and we hope to be able to return with the boxing ashes. Charlie Keith got the boys training early and instilled into them keenness and technique.

Though unable to fill all weights, our prospects are good in some. We do feel the loss of some last year fighters. Our team is as follows:—

Middleweight: R. STREET. An experienced fighter. Powerful yet graceful.

Welterweight: B. M. BROWN. Another experienced fighter with dynamite in his gloves!

Lightweight: B. H. BULL. Strong, quick. Should do well.

Featherweight: L. DEISART. This year's "find." Agile, packs a punch.

TENNIS

SAME with the tennis people, we haven't heard much from them. According to the Exec. Delegate's file the following are in the team:— Anne Walker, Juliet Burrell, Bill Pritchard, Bice Young, Gill Foden, Harold Titter, Janet Young, Bal Reddy.



DES DOWSE
Present N.Z.U. 220
Breaststroke Champion

URGENT

THERE are still about 10 berths available for anyone who wants to travel south with the tournament teams.

Get in touch with Les Swindale at once if you are interested.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR BASKETBALL

THE tournament team is as follows:—

Phyllis Ashwin, Betty Dibble, Isla Edgar, Barbara Edwards, Sue Francis, Dorothy Gemmel, Shirley Hicks, Juliet Hunt, Alison Merington, Hilda Spencer. May duke a win.

WATER BALLET

AGAIN we leave Wellington at Easter to compete for VUC. This time two important things have happened. Firstly, there is an all-time low for women swimmers; secondly, a brighter aspect, as we are sending a strong water-polo team, one that played together all the season.

Of the three girls that have been picked, JEANETTE MURRAY probably has the best chance of gaining a place. Her style in breaststroke is good and all that is needed is more and more hard swimming. GILLIAN FODEN and SUE FRANCIS, breaststroke and freestyler respectively, are more or less unknown quantities in the swimming world, and again with more swimming before tournament they may do quite well.

Our hopes in the men's swimming are considerably brighter. We have DES DOWSE again competing in the breaststroke and butterfly events, ably supported by DICK SIDDELLS, who is at present training very hard and setting a fine example to the rest of the team. PIP PIPER is diving again and competing in the medley and 440yds freestyle. A newcomer to Varsity sport is LYALL DOMNEY, the best exponent of the 100yds freestyle and backstroke that VUC has seen for years. A fine distance man in DAVE LAW (OU last year) has been added to the team, together with PETE TARRANT to swim in the freestyle sprints.

WATER POLO TEAM

FRANK GAWN: Goalkeeper. Has the advantage of two seasons' experience. Fits in well with rear attack.

KEN HANDCOCK: Back. Newcomer to team but has had season's solid work. Throws the ball cleanly and accurately.

MIKE MARTIN-SMITH: Back. Latest addition to team but very useful player. Good man in close play.

PIP PIPER: Centre-half. Often plays centre-forward; knits back and forward well; consistent goal-getter when in range.

JIM STOTT: Centre-forward and half. Very clever player; dangerous in attack. Played for all-England University team last year.

DES DOWSE: Forward. Excellent player on attack and scores freely. Probably the hardest but cleanest player in the water.

PETE TARRANT: Forward. A very hard-working player in the front-line. Combines well with other forwards and rattles opposition frequently.

DAVE LAW: Forward. The biggest player in the team but certainly not the least. A very solid player and makes a hole in the goal net every time he scores.

Salient

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1950.

THE NEXT TARGET

IT IS A PITY that the college, with so many part-timers, lacks the cohesion and sense of unity which would enable it to recognise fittingly the reaching of its Building Fund target.

As we point out elsewhere in passing, the appeal for money for this Student Union Building has been going now for over thirty years. The largest percentage of students whose effort and money has gone into this appeal have been unselfish enough to realise that they should work even though they would never see the end-product of all the striving.

It is a very big achievement, and the erection of the building—when it is finally raised—will do a lot to overcome the sense of nebulousness which pervades the students of Victoria. A home of their own will do much to act as a centre of activity and feeling. It would be easy for us now to sit back and say that the target has been reached, the building can now proceed—all's right with the world.

But there is still a great deal to be done before Victoria can even cope adequately with the numbers at the moment. Since the war, the roll numbers have pretty nearly doubled: the accommodation has been extended by a few huts. There is no need for us to point out to you how crowded the limited facilities of the college are—you must know only too well. The urgent need is for new buildings—new lecture rooms, new staff accommodation (the present chaotic staff rooming is appalling), new space for the activities which should go on in a university.

The achievement of this pretty state of affairs must be our next goal. The Council, the staff, the principal and most others concerned are aware of the problem. Students who are here now may never see or never use the buildings which must be raised. But we have got to work for this.

—D.G.

LATEST ON EXTRAV.

AT the time we go to press the latest information available is that the Exec. met last Sunday to consider a report from Dave Cohen representing the Extrav. Script Selection Committee. Two important things were decided.

1. A script was selected; but important amendments were to be made to it.
2. It is probable that Extrav. will take place in the 1st week of the May vacation; if not this, then the 2nd week.

The authors of the selected script have been asked to have their amended version ready by Monday, April 3. The next nine days will be taken up in typing the script and printing it for general distribution.

So for all concerned it is to be noted that the Casting meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13.

This will give four complete week-ends and Anzac Day to rehearse with—not too long and not too short for the average Extrav. competitor.

This year it will be advisable for controllers and cast to remember not to follow the example of last year. The time and effort taken by everyone was not worth the profit that was made on the show—only £50. It is probable that a little austerity in some departments and a more widely circularised advertising scheme will help in this direction.

—P.

NO MAN'S LAND That Castle

SIR,

Will you grant me space to rant and ridicule on the subject of the Student Union Building?

Regarding rooms for clubs, I regard this as senseless and insanitary, as such rooms once the first flush of enthusiasm has passed, tend to become mere receptacles for mouldering rubbish. Rather a room or rooms with amply proportioned lockers for the use of clubs, together with possibly four rooms well equipped, of sufficient size to accommodate 100 persons, these to be available for club functions. For activities needing greater seating accommodation the hall should be available.

The provision of a cafeteria is a feature of paramount importance and it should receive the most earnest consideration and forethought. It should, I suggest, be of the most modern design and appurtenances, for it may be required to do service for the next 100 years. It should feature a milk bar for all-hours service. (WFDY might be asked to have seconded to us a native American soda jerk to warrant the payment of our affiliation fee.)

Finally I would regard the installation of a large lift as a vital necessity in a building of the proposed dimensions. I take it that we are building for the future, and this structure will demonstrate that the spirit of progress still thrives in our academic surroundings. Modern equipment within, we are morally bound to supply, to justify a modern exterior.

Trusting that our successors may not live to curse us for being hide-bound and lacking in foresight.

C. Breeze.

Do It Now

Sir,—The idea for a Students' Association Bookshop in the new Stud. Ass. building is an excellent one. But the Stud. Ass. building will not materialise for some time. This means that unless something is done we will be in exactly the same position next year, the year after and possibly longer.

Therefore I suggest the Stud. Ass. take steps now to obtain details of the books which will be required next year, together with estimates from the Heads of Departments of the number of students likely to be requiring them and forward them to the Booksellers' Association. If given time I am sure that these people would take reasonable steps to order the books required in sufficient numbers so that this irksome position will be at least partially alleviated.

NGA NATH-FHACEIL.

Coming Events

Friday, March 31: First Debate of 1950, Gym, 8 p.m., "That Socialism in the Western Democracies has had its day." Affirmative: Frank Curtin. Pat Hutchings. Negative: Con Bollinger, George Goddard.

Athletic Club Ball at the Roseland Cabaret, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4: Meeting of all Tournament types in the Gym. at 7 p.m. Distribution of tickets, information and what have you?

Tuesday, April 11: Easter Tournament—surprise victory for Victoria forecast.

Thursday, April 13: Extrav. casting meeting.

Wellington celebrates World Youth Week

Led by the Waterside Junior Band, and with remarkably little preparation, members of the Wellington affiliates to the World Federation of Democratic Youth marched with banners in support of peace, higher bursaries for students and daylight training for apprentices, from the Government Printery to the Public Library last Friday night. Members of the V.U.C. Students' Association, the Progressive Youth League, and the Police Force were present in varying numbers. Many passers-by took a friendly interest in the procession, some called out encouraging remarks, and a few joined in.

After the procession had dispersed, participants made their way to the St John's Ambulance Hall in Vivian St., where a most successful dance was held, M.C.—Mr George Goddard.

Celebrations were a great deal better than in previous years, but we trust that 1951 will be able to put on an even better show. World Youth Week has a great tradition. Founded in 1943 by the World Youth Council—wartime predecessor of WFDY—World Youth Week was set as the first week in the European spring, symbolic of the aspirations and energies of the new generation. May it be even here an annual occasion for rededication to the cause of world peace and a better life for the young of all the world.

NOTICE

DUE to the intervention of the Easter vacations, there will be no issue of "Salient" next Thursday, April 6. The next issue will appear on the Thursday after Easter, April 13.

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ANTICIMAX

SECOND National Symphony concerto programme, Wellington, March 25.
Leonora No. 3. Beethoven.
Sixth Symphony: Vaughan Williams.
E Minor Violin Concerto: Mendelssohn.
Don Juan: Richard Strauss.

Dr. Bainton has undoubtedly improved the tone and balance of the Orchestra especially in the rearrangement of the basses and brass. There were times, most of all in the Vaughan Williams, when we were unrestrainedly glad that the old order had gone—for their tone would have ruined it. Bainton's economy of gesture in conducting seems to be very effective, and the whole orchestra is much more a unit.

But the programming for this concert anyway, was bad.

The Vaughan Williams Sixth is an impressive and exciting work—the sort of thing which makes one wish that it could be repeated at the end of the programme. It has a most unusual arrangement; it is virile, strong, and almost sardonic in parts. It leads to a climax in the second movement with the relentless repetition of the trumpet figure and ends in a whole thoughtful quiet epilogue. The orchestra hung together well through most of it—only at the climax in the moderato section was there any hint of the old battle for supremacy between strings and brass. The almost jazz first movement and the depth of the varying scherzo, with the startling second and quiet last movements, gave no hint of any decline in Vaughan Williams power to handle a major work.

After this, the Mendelssohn could have been, perhaps, a reminder that romanticism has its appeal and its effect. But even though the orchestra was well balanced throughout, and though they accorded reasonably with the spirit of the concerto, the soloist—certainly after the astringency of the sixth symphony—appeared to be hamming his way through. Perhaps the extravagant gesture, the grandiose sweep, the tossing head and the dramatic drop of the arm as the orchestra took over were not intentional striving for effect; and the somewhat smug look of the soloist in the centre of attraction may have been accidental. But it succeeded in spoiling the whole effect of the concerto for one of the audience at least. His technical skill was made more pointed occasionally by a deliberate slowing down of the tempo to emphasise his technique, but the skill did not compensate for the lack of any convincing tone. The whole thing lacked the joi-de-vivre which could have made the romanticism acceptable; and the slow movement impressed us as more boring than moving.

The Leonora No. 3 was not well enough done for the opening of the
(Continued at foot of column 4.)

Student Union Building Fund

£35,000 REACHED

BY an order of the Supreme Court on March 20, the Students' Association Building Fund benefited to the extent of £10,000 from the estate of the late Mr. W. E. Bidwell.

"This money is part of the estate originally left to his wife for use during her life. His will stated that when his wife died the money was to be used for charitable and educational purposes. Further details have not come to hand yet, but we understand that the estate was originally valued at £55,000 and the trustees have generously seen fit to donate £10,000 of it to the VUCSA Building Fund.

"This means that the target of £105,000 has been reached. From the public appeal over £20,200 is now in hand and together with the donation we have just received, we now have nearly £35,000.

"With the Government subsidy of £70,000 this gives a total of about £105,000. The target has been reached, and we can now go ahead with the plans for a Students Association Building with confidence in the knowledge that we have adequate finances."

This statement released by the president on the day of the order broke the news in VUC—the news for which a great number of students have now been working over some 30 odd years. As "Salient"

commented in its tenth anniversary issue two years ago "it may surprise some to learn that the plans for the financing and construction of the Building have been under discussion since a few years after the completion of the present gym 'way back in 1909. . . ."

That means that a large number of students who must have known that they personally would have little chance of even seeing the dream building have worked over the years. We didn't quite see—as "Salient" headlined in '45—"1945 Freshers May See Foundations Laid," but maybe the 1952 Freshers will.

From here on, as we have noted recently, the work of planning is largely over to you.

A STUD. ASS. BOOKSHOP

M.D.'s suggestion of a co-operative bookshop to import and sell textbooks at cost is at first sight an attractive one. The sale of dozens of standard textbooks looks easy. But what of the other side?

1. It is true that booksellers do not at present carry the stocks necessary for good service. Reason? Mainly a general post-war disinclination to carry warehouse stocks, typical of most businesses. Shortage of supplies overseas, and the dead hand of import restrictions are also to blame. This means an automatic profit on all books, with a minimum of loss on out-of-date or shop-soiled copies. But trading conditions are coming back to normal, and service is improving each year.

2. What is Victoria's textbook business worth? My guesstimate is £4000 p.a. for new books (2000 students doing two new subjects at £3 is £12,000. Divided by three years' use equals £4000). The management would be too onerous for students, yet £4000 turnover would not support a paid staff. Remember that the good work of the S.C.M. Second-Hand Bookstall does not cover ordering, nor does it have to carry over stocks from year to year.

3. The textbook business is so seasonal that we would have a room set aside for it, and with stock locked up unused for about 10 months of the year. Commercial booksellers work this in with other seasonal

sales such as Christmas cards. We would strike to a far greater degree our great problem of an eight-months working, four-months closed Caf.

4. "With the co-operation of the college staff" is easy—on paper. The staff naturally leave the setting of books as late as possible, for a variety of reasons, some valid, some less valid. It is surely naive to expect that the establishment of a college bookshop would effect a sudden transformation.

5. How would we fare for publishing texts by New Zealand authors? If we took to ourselves the main student book business, could we set up as printers and publishers, too? I think not.

Further, we could not expect to buy textbooks from commercial sellers if we were out of stock at Victoria—the booksellers would no longer bother at all about advanced texts, which are a nuisance to them at any time.

6. Finally, it is the writer's view that businesses of this kind are best left to commercial houses. The cafeteria has been sufficient financial worry—and it we must have. Too often are we dependent on the well-intentioned work of students like M.D., who continue to promise books at two-thirds of their present price, after stating the present "profits" to be 25 per cent to 50 per cent. Such a reduction is possible only when the mark-up is 50 per cent, and takes no account of salaries, rent, losses on stock, or bad debts.
—A.W.C.

ROWING CLUB

LATELY, serious training has meant attendance at the sheds every morning at 5.45 a.m. and also in the evening if water conditions are favourable. The Club has been a bit unlucky because it draws so many of its members from other town clubs, most of whom finished their activities later than usual this year after the Empire Games. The eights crew are chosen and are shaping well—they will have had a race together on 25th March in the White Horse race. So far, the four have not had this chance to race together—partly because they have to rely on the generosity of the Star Club for a boat. We could really do with a four-skiff if we are to take a proper place in Tournament rowing.

Among the members from whom the crews will be selected are:

Dave Horsely—stroke—held the position last year, and came from the Wanganui club.

Wif Taylor—a junior oar and sculler from Wellington. (A good bet for the Double Sculls, with his partner.)

Paul Sadler, who rowed in last year's eight. From Star.

Bruce Wright, from the same club. Formerly of West End, and has been an AUC rep.

Mark Pownall—has been a VUC rep in fours and eights.

Dennis Pinfold—from Star—has regained CUC.

Ivan Vodanovich—a recent gain from Canta. Has been a CUC and an AUC rep, in eights, once as a stroke.

Les Smith—Star—has rowed at Tournament twice before in fours and double sculls.

Wyn Heald—a junior who will partner in the double sculls and row in the fours.

Paul Cotton—Star—first year at Tournament, and will be in the fours.

Ted Abraham—learnt his rowing at Wanganui.

John Yaldwyn—will probably be in the fours.

Charlie Harkin, who rowed in last year's fours.

"Paddy" Webb—a junior oar who has had more experience than anyone else in the club.

programme, though it certainly showed the improved standard of the orchestra. And to end on Strauss when Vaughan Williams had had his say was rather too clogging on the digestion. We found ourselves listening with only one ear to the latter half of the programme while the spirit of the Vaughan Williams hung like a guilty conscience round the hall.
—D.G.

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Ron Smith reports on WFDY Congress

YOUNG GENERATION DETERMINED FOR PEACE

THE World Federation of Democratic Youth's 2nd World Youth Congress in Budapest was a demonstration second only to the Paris Peace Congress of the desire of ordinary people for peace. There were 637 delegates and 97 observers from 72 countries, and every speaker emphasised the importance to the young of a lasting peace—and their active work to achieve it.

Thus a special report to "Salient" from Ron Smith, VUC graduate, and leader of the New Zealand delegation to the Congress.

"We met in the lofty chamber of the Hungarian Parliament. It was a week of hard work—the beautiful national costumes of the previous week's Festival were put into cold storage—and we struggled to listen to all the speeches, get copies of all the material issued, attend all meetings, meet delegations (eg. Indonesian and Russian) in which we were especially interested, and write reports home.

Unity

"As speaker after speaker mounted the rostrum, from David Busby of the Canadian Student Christian Movement to Mihailov of the Soviet Komsomols, one felt the power and confidence of youth to prevent war and to open the paths of a peaceful and abundant future to the young people of all the world.

"Words cannot describe the enthusiasm with which the delegates supported WFDY policy, and greeted outstanding figures in the fight for its achievement. The youth of China, struggling for literacy, health and higher living standards, were led by Hsiao Hua, youthful General in the Liberation Armies. The Chinese were the friendliest and liveliest group you could wish to meet. There was young Anna Mangou in British battle dress captured from the Greek fascists.

"From Britain, straight from six weeks in prison, came Alan Leicester. He served sentence for protesting at

the U.S. Embassy in London at the statement of Congressman Cannon: "In the next war, as in the last, let us equip soldiers from other nations, and let them send their boys into the holocaust instead of sending our own boys..."

"The American delegation, 39 strong, was led by a negro automobile factory worker.

"Then there were the Russian Komsomols—Ivan Kozhebut, war-time hero; Alexander Shashkov, young, tough steelcrafter from Kuznetz, leader in industry; and Sergel Nongoljan, Doctor of Mathematics and Professor at the Erevan University at 21!

"I shared a hostel with the Canadian delegation, with young men and girls from Ceylon, Iran and Irak.

Peace

"The Congress was not limited to Budapest. Its most significant feature, as of the festival before it, was the fuller mobilisation of youth organisations all over the world behind the fight for peace. Committees worked for months, fired by the spirit of the Partisans for Peace Congress. From Norway to the Argentine, from Tunisia to Viet Nam, and even far away New Zealand.

"There is room here to quote only one example. In Australia, headed by the Eureka Youth League, students and young workers united in one committee, Christians, Jews, Atheists—meetings, petitions, rallies. Two hundred thousands people sent 112 delegates from all corners of the country to Canberra, where they protested to the Government at the decline in living standards, at the White Australia policy which is used to divide Australians from their brothers in Asia, and at the policy of exterminating the Aborigines.

"They also protested to the Dutch and French legations at protracted wars against the people of South East Asia, and against the British High Commissioner at the military terror in Malaya.

"Result? A firmer unity of young folk around the programme of WFDY and enthusiasm for the Congress and Festival. This was the pattern all over the globe."

(To be continued)

Coriolanus

WHAT attitude are we to take to Shakespearean productions in New Zealand? Should we criticise or condone? Are we to accept them merely because the performance of Shakespeare is often presumed to be above criticism, or should we view them simply as plays whose entertainment value may be compared with that of any other play? Too many people, I feel, lacking a standard by which to judge these productions accept what they see to be good instead of exercising any critical faculty. Also, we appear to have a tradition of Shakespearean acting, handed on, no doubt, by those who fetishishly admired this type of performance, so commonly seen at the beginning of the 20th century. A grandiose type of acting, with large gestures, and oratorical dialogue where the sound means more than the sense.

Mrs. Evison's production of Coriolanus was well planned. The staging was interesting. The scenery could have been better except in the last scene with its waving banners. For the acting, throughout a large part of the play the orator took over from the actor. The scenes at the end of the last two acts impressed one as being sincere and impassioned. Here we had people simply speaking to one another as individuals and not as if they were addressing a public meeting. Maureen Ross-Smith's pleading with Coriolanus was very effective. The rhythm and the pauses in her delivery gave a dramatic tenseness only to be equalled in the last scene of the play where Klaus Neuberger as Aufidius watches Coriolanus falter and die. In these scenes we saw acting, in the others, mainly action.

Paul Treadwell, as Coriolanus, was not positive enough in his portrayal of a young leader, torn by the conflict of conscience and family pride. To my mind, the generals, Cominius and Aufidius, were more dominant and convincing, overshadowing Coriolanus in depth of characterisation. It is on the character of Coriolanus that the whole plot rests, and, if we are not made aware of his psychological struggle, the rest of the play is comparatively meaningless.

The crowd scenes were well organised in the matter of group spirit and reaction. It is interesting to note Mrs. Evison's idea of tableau grouping—i.e. having a well designed picture on the stage for each moment of the play—but this, at times, did appear to lead to theatrical gymnastics when each player endeavoured to find his correct placing.

I do not think it is a wise policy to present plays for public performances where the acting of the minor

characters is at such disparity with that of the principals. The tribunes, the soldiers and the crowds, though well-disciplined, did not have the necessary ability to carry the play in their scenes. In order to put a bold face on for the paying public it would perhaps be better to present plays with a small able cast than those with a large cast who, while gaining stage experience, nevertheless detract by their lack of technique from the dramatic whole.

I do not wish to be unduly critical as I can appreciate the vast amount of work that must have gone into the preparation of this production and credit is due to the producer and the cast. But I think the old maxim of "making haste slowly" might well be applied to the Victoria College Drama Club!

—M.W.

Sports Council

IT is essential that this body be formed immediately. The reason is that the building fund has reached its target and plans can be drawn for the Students' Association Building. All clubs should therefore put forward recommendations as to what facilities they want. In several cases these may overlap to a certain extent. If it is left to the Exec. to determine where they overlap, several people will probably miss out. If a Sports Council sends in a recommendation embodying the needs of all clubs there will be a far better chance of getting what you want, as you—the experts—will have supervised what overlap there is in clubs requirements.

We therefore convene a meeting of all Sports Clubs secretaries or their substitutes, and other interested parties, in the upper Gym on Tuesday, April 4 at 8 p.m.

This is extremely important. Upon what we do now, to a large extent, depends the virility of sports at V.U.C. for many years to come.

—J.N.J.

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