

Craecum

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE STUDENTS' PAPER



XXIX—No. 2

Auckland, N.Z., Thursday, April 8th, 1954

Gratis

CO-ORDINATING SECRETARIAT IN ACTION

Fourth International Student Conference, Istanbul

Istanbul: A city where two worlds intersect, a visible expression of the history of half of a continent, a city of contrasts — this was the place where the delegates of students from more than forty countries, of all regions, met for the Fourth International Student Conference.

For eight days they worked together at the Palais Sale, a former pleasure palace, overlooking the Golden Horn, which had been most conveniently adapted to these purposes. They worked so much to be able to devote to the city and the country, which gave them hospitality, at least that measure of attention courtesy would have required.

That the Conference started, on January 8, at a rather easy pace was a safeguard that its dynamics would become ever stronger towards the end. When, on January 16, at 7.30 in the morning, the delegates were to state that the Conference had ended, they may well have desired to stay for some days, looking around Istanbul, Ueskuedar, Troy, or at the Bosphorus, but few of them still had time enough to make use of the arrangements their hosts, the National Union of Turkish Students (N.U.T.S.) had provided to this end. In any case they departed expressing their heartfelt gratitude to N.U.T.S. and its omnipresent manager and secretary, Mr. Silvio, thanking them for the many troubles they had taken in the organisational work, thanking the translators and all those who had made possible the Conference by their support or their efforts.

Co-operation consolidated

The fact to be noted as the most significant result of the Fourth International Student Conference is that the co-operation among Student Unions has become consolidated in all its forms and in its present form, without any alterations of organisational schemes ever being put up for discussion. However, the points placed before the Conference have undergone considerable extensions. Compared with the previous Conferences, the agenda as well as the working hours grew in extent, and a number of delegations from Africa and South America entered as newcomers.

Conference opening

The first provisional plenary session was devoted to the election of the Credentials Committee which was agreed upon to be composed of seven members. The committee's chair was taken by Britain (Mr. Fred Jarvis). The regular opening session of the plenary commenced in the morning of January 9, after the Mayor of Istanbul, the host city, had made a speech of welcome. The day's chairman was Enrique Joaquin (Philippines), who had chaired the plenary already of the Third International Conference, at Copenhagen. The Danish delegation handed to the President the wooden hammer which had been donated in 1953 by the Indonesian delegates to the Conference.

Organisation

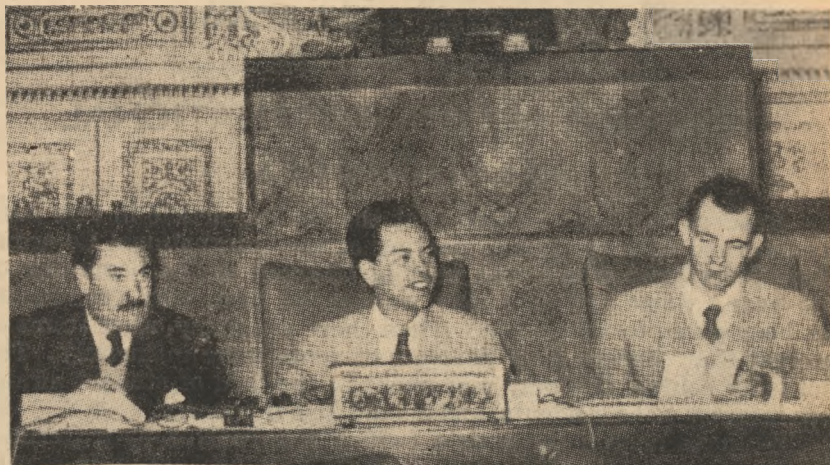
For the election of the steering committee it was decided to fix the number at three members each from Europe, America, and Asia-Africa. After that the report of the Co-ordinating Secretariat, agency and motive power of the International Student Conference, was presented by John Thompson. Its work last year had been concerned with: co-operation with those National Unions which had undertaken "delegated responsibilities," and with the Experts' Conferences preceding the Internal Student Conference; with the ever urgent task of distributing information, among others, through the "Information Bulletin" which is published in three languages; with contacts with International organisations such as U.N.-E.S.C.O., W.U.S. and the International faculty associations; with contacts with National Unions, promoted, among other things, by a tour of Latin America made by Enrique Ibarra; and, of course, with the preparation of the Fourth International Conference.

Commissions established

The work of the Co-ordinating Secretariat was supervised by the Supervision Committee, which last year was composed of representatives of France, Germany, Paraguay, the Philippines, Scotland, Sweden and the U.S.A. The committee's report was presented to the Fourth International Conference by its convenor, Arvid Moeller, Sweden.

The plenary session of January 10, under the chairmanship of J. Diaz de Vivar, Paraguay, had to elect the chairmen of the four Commissions which had to concern themselves, during the further course of the Conference, with the groups of themes on the agenda. The following were elected: Canada (M. le Blanc), Commission I.: Social Questions; Yugoslavia (J. Bucevic), Commission II.: Student Exchange; Mexico (A. A. Sotomayor), Commission III.: Information; and Uganda (J. Rubadiri), Commission IV.: Mutual Assistance. A Special Commission was appointed to present the plenary with materials for a discussion of the fundamentals of co-operation.

The various Commissions then settled down to the extensive and strenuous tasks of debating in detail for each field the work done last year



Officers at the first plenary session of COSEC were: A. A. Sotomayor, Secretary (Mexico), Enrique Joaquin, President (Philippines), Antonio Enriquez, Chairman of the Steering Committee (Canada).

and the efforts necessary for next year. The day's presidents as well as the plenary were patient and conscientious enough to permit each debate to reach its conclusion.

Freedom or political pressure?

Special mention should be made of the passionate consistency shown by some South-American delegations in advancing time and again their demand for autonomy and freedom for universities and students. Apparently, many universities in Latin America are exposed to strong politi-

This report of the recent meeting of Cosoc which was written by a correspondent of the German publication "Student Mirror" has particular significance for N.Z. students for this country sent delegations to this overseas conference for the first time. Messrs. M. J. O'Brien and D. J. Dalgety of the N.Z.U.S.A. will be presenting their report to the forthcoming A.G.M. of the Association.

cal pressures. Though impressed by their urgent demands, the Conference participants were unable to give general expression to their feelings, owing to the lack of an opportunity for a close examination of the facts in question.

Recommendations

The Commissions' recommendations which were accepted by the plenary for the greater part refer to investigations into circumscribed problems, such as had been delegated as in the past in the form of "delegated responsibilities," by the Conference to various National Unions. Another part of these recommendations refers to projects which are dependent for their implementation on the raising of funds through COSEC, which means that it is not as yet assured that all of them will eventually be capable of realisation. The topics of Commission I. were: student housing, text-books, health, student exiles, statistics, student influence on the administration

of the university, and the student's role in society. Commission II. discussed: university autonomy, opportunities for study abroad, structure and methods of university education, equalisation of diplomas, staff exchanges, sports, student travel, International Student Identity Card, student seminars, cultural activities. Commission III. was concerned with: "Information Bulletin" of COSEC, survey of the structure and functions of National Unions of Students, "Student Mirror," Student Press Conference, future publications. Commission IV. dealt with: technical work-teams for under-developed areas, student delegation to investigate study conditions in Africa, scholarships, exchange of information (ISIS-Bulletin, SMAP-Library), seminars and camps, World University Service.

It was with regret that the Conference had to take notice of the fact that the French National Union (U.N.E.F.) had decided to restrict its collaboration within the framework of COSEC for at least the nearer future; neither before the beginning of the Conference, nor during the discussion of Commission II. on the Centre of Archives and Documentation in Paris, was U.N.E.F. able to present a written report on the work of the Centre. No representative of U.N.E.F. was present in the Commission at the time when the discussion on the Centre's activities was scheduled, as a result of which the Commission was compelled to make its recommendations on this point without having first held a debate on the subject. In connection with the report of Commission III., the U.N.E.F. delegation later declared in the plenary their disinterestedness in the work of the International Student Conference by way of stating the occurrence of "manoeuvres malhonnêtes" within the Commission and of incorrect rulings on the part of the plenary session's chairman.

The Special Commission of the fundamentals of co-operation, under

(Continued on Page 8)

CRACCUM

Auckland University College Students' Paper

The Editor accepts as little responsibility as possible for the contents of this paper, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor nor of the A.U.C.S.A. Executive.

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TOWARDS BETTER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Readers will have noticed that the leading article in this issue is concerned with the latest meeting of the International Co-ordinating Secretariat which was held in Istanbul at the beginning of this year. Some students may wonder, at first, why prominence has been given to this subject when there are many other items of interest that concern New Zealand students more intimately. The fact is, of course, that any movement in the field of student affairs does interest us as students, and should be our concern.

We have chosen the article (which was written by a German correspondent to the "Student Mirror"), not because it is a particularly exhilarating piece of prose, but because the whole question of international participation in student affairs will interest N.Z.U.S.A. much more this year than it has done for some years. The reason for this, of course, is that the national body of New Zealand students has just sent overseas three delegates who attend conferences in different parts of the world and will be reporting their findings to the Easter meeting of the N.Z.U.S.A.

The more important of these visits was that of M. J. O'Brien, President of NZUSA, and D. J. Dalgety, a member of the Resident Executive, who attended the meeting of COSEC that is covered by our leading article. It is, we think, unique in the history of student affairs, that this country has been able to send to such a conference, delegates who have been able to return immediately and to present their findings in person. Other delegates have been sent in the past, but due to financial reasons, they have, of necessity, been representatives who have been living in that part of the world and who have had the necessary time to attend. No matter how capable those representatives have been, they have, of course, been forced to present their findings in the form of a written communique which is not a substitute for a personal report.

This will be different this year, thanks to the kind services of the overseas organisation that supplied the funds for the travelling expenses, and the 1954 Annual General Meeting of N.Z.U.S.A. should benefit from the presence of these two delegates and should produce some lively and informed discussion on the position of New Zealand in the international student world.

The remaining traveller who has returned from his wanderings overseas is the Auckland President, R. M. Smith, who was sent to Australia as the official observer from N.Z.U.S.A. It has been the custom for some years now to send a representative to attend the annual meeting of N.U.A.U.S., the national body of Australian students, and Auckland were particularly fortunate this year, that their president was chosen at the Winter meeting of N.Z.U.S.A. to fill this position.

Although Australia is close enough not to be regarded as a foreign country and for some students to journey there in search of vocational employment, it is still far enough away to permit a profitable exchange of ideas and to warrant sending a specific representative annually. Mr Smith, too is to present a report to N.Z.U.S.A., and from what we can gather, we are sure that this should be both profitable and interesting, and we shall endeavour to reprint extracts from it at a later date.

N.Z.U.S.A. has been fortunate in the quality of the people it has chosen to represent the country, and, if nothing else, this Easter should see a meeting at which at least some of the delegates know what they are talking about when the debate centres round international student affairs.

Broadly speaking, the big international question that arises every year is to which international bloc this country should be affiliated. There are two principal parties offering, that headed by

MEN'S HOUSE COMMITTEE

We are now in a position to announce the completion of Common Room refurbishing, with the provision of chairs and tables. The radiogram has stood up fairly well to continued use, and will soon be opened for record-playing.

Now that Bookstall has vacated Table Tennis Room, this will be reinstated as Recreation Room, with table tennis tables and dart-board.

Locker sales have proceeded well this year—at the time of writing there are only nine still available, so hurry!

After Easter, an auction will be held of unclaimed goods held by M.H.C. These are mainly items left over from last year, and include a fine offering of lab. coats and overcoats. Anyone wishing to claim lost property should waste no time in contacting M.H.C. Proceeds will be to Gymnasium Fund.

NOTICE TO READERS

If you find yourself unable to obtain a copy of "Craccum" regularly on the day it appears, arrangements will be made for a copy to be kept for you in the Association office.

If you want a copy kept for you, leave your name with Mrs. Chisholm at the Stud. Ass. Office.

Combined House Committees' Tournament Coffee Evening, Saturday, April 8 p.m. Prizes Galore First Class Supper Tony Shalfoon's Band Roll Up N.B. All members Tournament Tea admitted free.

The Next Issue "CRACCUM" will appear on Thursday, 29th April Copy will close at the Exec. Room on Wednesday, 21st April i.e., during the Easter Vacation.

CAPPING ISSUE will appear on Thursday, 6th May Copy will close on Wednesday, 28th April, at the exec. room.

the International Union of Students (I.U.S.) which has members all over the world, but with its headquarters mainly in Eastern Europe, and that of the International Co-ordinating Secretariat which also has members all over the world, and which was formed to co-ordinate all the student bodies that had not affiliated to I.U.S.

Apart from the whole question of whether or not blocs should be permitted to be formed, as seems to be the situation in international politics, both alternatives have their drawbacks. The charge laid against I.U.S. is that, instead of being an impartial body concerned with student affairs, it seems to be financed by political groups and used for the propaganda purposes of those groups. COSEC too, has its disadvantages, not the least of them being the way to combat an international bloc is not to set up another and there is, too, the ever-present danger that this body will, in its turn, become liable to be used for political purposes.

As it has been for some years, this question is still very unsettled. The local Association is at as much of a loss as the remaining members of N.Z.U.S.A. as far as suggestions of a solution are concerned, and it is noteworthy that the delegates from this college have been instructed to oppose any move on the part of N.Z.U.S.A. to re-affiliate with I.U.S., but only if I.U.S. has made any prior moves in that direction. In other words, the Association apparently feels that this country should not, of itself, make moves towards reconciliation, but should not close the gate entirely.

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—P.W.

CAPPING... WHAT CAN YOU DO!

It is reasonable that those who are asked to take part in Capping Ceremonies at the end of this term should know the why and therefore of Capping.

What is Capping?

Rather too many of our serious-minded students frown on the frivolous side of Capping without realising its deeper importance. Capping is merely an outburst of exuberance on the occasion when the authorities confer the honours of graduation, it is an ancient and mystic tradition. It has its origin in the desire of students to show themselves as apart from the routine existence of the respectable citizen, and represents better than anything else the essential spirit of the University. In fact, you're hardly a student until you've been Rabelais, or better, been in Capping.

Being such a tradition it carries with it responsibilities, upon which every student would do well to ponder. Am I accepting that responsibility? Or am I standing by and seeing others preserve these traditions and get the best out of their time at University?

It is not an exaggeration to say that Capping is perhaps the one event which keeps the university before the public eye, and in doing that performs a vital function.

Capping also gives the Students' Society a chance to augment its funds for YOUR welfare. Remember that this year we are trying to raise money to build a gymnasium.

What can you do?

Here are some of the ways you can help us.
Capping Book:
It is a sad reflection that the burden of writing this publication should fall on a few people. Don't you know any printable humour? Mate Frankovich has the unenviable task of editing our chief blast against puritanism. If you can't write, then come along and help in organisation of sales.

S.A.-COSEC & I.U.S.

A declaration of policy USNSA (National Student Association) on Co-ordinating Secretariat, the USNSA welcomes the development of Co-ordinating Secretariat as the administrative agency to insure implementation of the decisions of the International Student Conferences and the major instrument in the promotion of international student co-operation. The USNSA reaffirms its support of, and co-operation with, Secretariat, and instructs the International Vice-President to implement the programme of the Secretariat in every possible way.
In regard to the International Union of Students, the USNSA has seen that the partisan political programme and policies of the IUS have made co-operation impossible between the IUS and the majority of national unions of students. Notwithstanding the unrepresentative nature and partisan policy of the IUS, the USNSA is aware of its responsibility to continue to observe carefully the activities and policies of the IUS for any change which would provide the opportunity for co-operation which would promote wider international understanding. Such co-operation must be initiated under conditions which give a reasonable guarantee of equality of expression, fair representation, and just and impartial administration and supervision. (Information Bulletin, Co-ordinating Secretariat.)

Revue:

We have this year what we think is a good script. Unfortunately castings will be over (if not the Revue) by the time this is published. Front of house helpers, stage crew and others are still needed, so get in touch with Norman Butler, this year's revue director.

He will be able to give you something to do. In the final analysis the best way to help us is to come along to Revue and bring your friends. After all, you're not doing something you won't enjoy (we hope).

Procession:

Procession is the most important part of Capping from the public's point of view. Bill Alington and his enthusiastic committee are organising things this year. The success of our Procession is often judged outside the university by the amount collected. Bill Zak is looking for collectors. Start thinking up your floats and stunts now as the day is only six or so weeks away.

I well know that I have not touched upon every aspect of Capping in the space and time available. I do hope however, that when we repeat the oft-heard plea for your support, that we will not be asking you to do something which will not benefit yourself and the College. We do rely on your co-operation. The Committee are working to make this Capping a success, so don't let them down. They are always glad to have your ideas.

I would like to urge every student to realise their responsibilities, not only to Capping but to the University. They do not cease with the mere fact of your enrolment as a student. Academic honours are one thing, but it is a poor benighted student who leaves the College with nothing but letters after his name. He has received qualification without the spirit of the University, and deserves to die young in intellectual squalor. Above all, enjoy yourselves this Capping, that is the main thing.

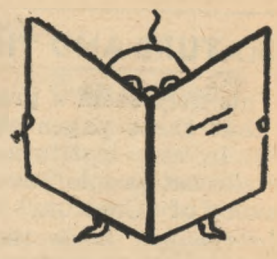
—B. R. Horton.

Ye Anciente Clubbe

Field Club has flung itself gleefully into its thirsty fourth year of activity. Still earbashing one another with their trips from Northland to Stewart Island, and from caves to the Alps, they have found time for a Fresher's Evening, a well attended trip to Bethels by truck, and the Annual General Meeting. At the A.G.M., the following Officers were elected:

- President: Dr. Brothers.
- Vice-Presidents: Dr. J. Rattenburg, Professor McGregor, Dr. Mil-lener, Dr. Laws, Miss Segar.
- Student Chairman: Ian Atkinson.
- Secretary Treasurer: Nancy McMur-ray.
- Committee: Ola Shreeves, Mary Griffiths, Niel Bellingham, Gordon Hard, Colin Percy.

—J.S.E.



Ponderables

There are none so blind as those who cannot see.
The longer I live the more I become convinced that tolerance cannot but engender intolerance.
It is indeed regrettable that so few people realise the exceeding limitations of language as a means of communication.
One is forced to admit that man is a creature of habit.
Experience blurs the edges of one's dogmas.
It is necessary to reflect upon the nature of the self.
Why does everybody lay such stress upon the significance of the present? After all, the present is merely that which separates the past from the future, and as such is surely non-existent.
You cannot make omelettes without breaking eggs.
One of the functions of an intelligent human being is to become a person.
Tastes are changing.
"What one fool can do, another can."
(Ancient Simian Proverb.)
I have never seen the quintessence of living so aptly expressed as:
"Higamus, Hogamus,
Woman is monogamous;
Hogamus, Higamus,
Man is polygamous."
—Foxglove.

Capping Committee, 1954

- Chairman and Capping Controller: B. R. Horton.
- President AUUSA (ex officio): R. M. Smith.
- Secretary AUUSA (ex officio): B. Connell.
- Secretary: Miss J. Frost.
- Chairman Capping Book Committee: M. Frankovich.
- Chairman Procession Committee: B. Alington.
- Chairman Revue Committee: N. Butler.
- Amenities: P. Boag.
- Publicity: C. Macleod.
- Materials: D. Watson.
- WANTED: BUSINESS MANAGER.

Norway

Plans for a new Student Home in Bergen are now ready, and the Bergen Student Unions will probably undertake a final fund-raising campaign this autumn. At the Norwegian College of Agriculture, flats for 16 married couples have been completed this spring and plans for more are being drawn up. In Oslo, a committee has been appointed to investigate the possibility of building flats for married students. In Oslo a new section of the Student Town is under construction and will add a restaurant and rooms for 250 students to the 350 rooms already completed. The new section is expected to be ready for the autumn of 1954.



Are you in Revue?



This was last year's—Remember it?

LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

This may seem a pretentious heading, but it is our hope this year that these pages shall indeed embrace "literature and the arts." In any institution such as the University, it is to be expected that people have widely varying interests, and it is the endeavour of "Craccum" to cater for as many of these as possible.

In the last issue there appeared a criticism of the Drama Society's production, "The Duchess of Malfi," a report from this society giving its officers for the year and its general aims; and a review of the film "Julius Caesar."

In this issue we turn to Opera, and "Craccum" has reviewed the Auckland season of the National Opera Company in student criticisms of "The Barber of Seville," "Faust," "La Boheme," and "Il Trovatore." In the next issue there will be a review of "Gianni Schicchi" and "Il Tabarro" which appeared after copy had closed.

For those who enjoy interesting biography, we bring to their notice Arthur Koestler's "Arrow in the Blue," while those who delight in a carefree hour or two at the cinema should not miss the film "Genevieve," reviewed in this issue. Finally we have the good news that the Drama Society is to provide us with enjoyable fare in their main production of the year, William Congreve's Restoration comedy, "Love for Love."

In the next issue we intend to cover the Auckland season of the New Zealand National Orchestra, and the New Zealand Players' latest production, Noel Coward's "Private Lives."

Our policy is to bring you articles of both specialised and general interest. If you have any inclinations towards Literature and the Arts, you have something for "Craccum," and we invite you to submit articles, reviews, or club reports for this, the Students' paper.

—D.J.S.

BOOKS

Communism, Zionism & Journalism

The writing of autobiography is full of pitfalls for the unwary. Understatement and self-restraint do not make good autobiographies, and where, on one hand, may be the starch of the stuffed shirt, the other extreme may be the exhibitionist which is worse.

Arthur Koestler, in his book, "Arrow in the Blue," neither hides his light nor spares himself to relate humiliating experiences. The theme of his book revolves around the historical background of his time, intermingled with spiritual development and personal experience.

Born of Russian-Jewish parents in 1905, Arthur Koestler was a precocious only child far in advance of his age; a curious mixture of infantilism and an advanced intellectual outlook. Of neurotic disposition, he regards adolescence as a "kind of emotional seasickness . . . funny, but only in retrospect."

Torn between an inferiority and a superiority complex, the former of immense size, he is constantly battling with himself and at odds with other people. His childhood was a lonely one ridden with fear and guilt, and these three factors form the basis of his mental outlook as a child. At ten he was an infant prodigy and at twenty-five still an adolescent, which is apparent when he is emotionally carried away by political events.

The book covers the period from his birth to the time of his joining the Communist Party and his venture into another world in 1931, which is dealt with in his book, "The God That Failed." In his fourteenth year he had his first contact with Communism during the Hungarian Revolution of 1918. During Party demonstrations, members were killed and he describes his emotions during Chopin's Funeral March, an experience which made a

romantic Communist of him long before he realised the meaning of the word.

At seventeen he matriculated at the Polytechnic University of Vienna for Engineering and at this time became a member of a duelling fraternity. The next three years changed the whole course of his life and ended in his running away to Palestine and working on a collective farm for what was to be the Zionists' Revisionist World Organisation. He had neither the temperament nor the ability to apply himself there, and thence drifted into a period of poverty and near-starvation which lasted for several months.

After a succession of oddly assorted jobs, he established himself as Middle East correspondent for the Ullstein chain of papers, a position which placed him among the ranks of the Journalistic "aristocracy" of Europe. Later he was transferred to Berlin



Arthur Koestler

as the Science Editor of this chain, Germany's most respected newspapers. At that time he was only twenty-five years old. His final experience while still with the Ullstein chain was as a member of the North Pole Expedition of the Graf Zeppelin; he was still only twenty-six.

Arthur Koestler is not a morbid intellectual trying to convince the reader that the world is crashing about his ears. As many readers of his fictional works have this impression, here is his autobiography to disprove it.

His political passages are fast-moving and are so co-related with his personal experiences that the atten-

OPERA

The National Opera Company of Australia has just completed its season in Auckland. The literary and arts pages bring to you the impressions of four students of the college who attended their productions.

"The Barber of Seville"

The Australian Opera Company chose one of the finest comic operas in the operatic repertoire as their first offering to the New Zealand public, and succeeded in giving us a very lively and entertaining presentation of the "Barber of Seville." The opera owes its popularity to the fact that a well-knit, humorous story is matched by sparkling, spontaneous music—spontaneous, no doubt, because Rossini dashed it off in a matter of a few days. The atmosphere is set right from the beginning of the overture (which, by the way, doesn't belong to "The Barber of Seville" at all, but was lifted bodily from one of Rossini's earlier, unsuccessful operas to replace the original which he or someone else had lost).

In this performance the orchestra did the overture ample justice and indeed all of their playing was most creditable, especially considering the short time its players have had for rehearsal as a group. Its performance was tidy, restrained on the whole, with a good breadth of tone, and marred only by some uncertainty in the brass and a lack of depth.

The success of this company's "Barber of Seville" hinges mainly on the character of Figaro, played with great distinction by Geoffrey Chard. He combined an extremely good stage presence with acting ability and a fine, smooth voice, and his rendering of the famous Largo al Factotum was a masterpiece. From this point onwards the opera really went with a swing.

By contrast with the energy of this artist, Robert O'Donnell, as Almaviva was disappointing in Act I. His serenade outside Rosina's window was uncertain, with a hint of faulty intonation, and at this stage of the opera, the few movements he made were most unnatural. In spite of the jolly overture and fine setting I found Act I on the whole, depressing until Figaro arrived on the scene. Later Almaviva managed his comic appearances as a drunken soldier and a fake music-master very well indeed. He was so enthusiastic about them, however, that he tended to steal the limelight, especially from Rosina during her solo song in Act II. This fun at the piano was a hilarious parody of the sort of thing we often see in films, but was out of place in that it distracted attention from the soloist.

Betty Prentice played the part of Rosina adequately, although she, too, was not as impressive in her first appearance as later. Her acting was good, better than her singing, which did not always penetrate the orchestra, nor really convey much intensity of feeling, a fault most noticeable in "There's a Voice Within my Heart," in Act II. Alan Light's Basilio was a masterly interpretation and his

tion is held throughout and there is not the temptation to skip historical parts. He is interested and curious about his childhood, but not too interested to forget that the public will not be carried away by pink ribbon sentimentality.

J. A. Hilford.
"Arrow in the Blue" by Arthur Koestler. Collins and Hamish-Hamilton, London, 1952.

"Slanders Whisper" one of the lights of the performance. and the minor parts were the singing of the chorus was and its acting very half-hearted.

The setting of Act I was unfortunately it was all but out by the unimaginative which appeared in both Act Act III. I don't know why have been done about this, uneasy about some of the pro for example the rickety ch those delightful big black in the 16th century? Rosina's pink dress against her fair most effective, and helped also tract from the uniform dra the surroundings. On the costumes, genuine or not, to the delightfully carefree sion which the opera gave.

"Faust"

The company's performance Gounod's Faust, in spite of grave faults and some minor comings, was on the whole enjoyable.

Sets and lighting were most ive and though the same fl used all the time, they served well as trees, pillars or building Act II set for Marguerite's with its shrine and flower particularly attractive.

As Marguerite, Tais Tar pleasing in appearance and the whole, a most moving ance. Her acting, notably jewel scene, showed real though her voice in its upper especially when she was loudly, had an unpleasantly quality. In the duets with Act II, where soft singing quired, her tone was faultless.

By contrast, Douglas Pars Mephistopheles, had neither ability nor a sufficiently striking At no time did he succeed in veying the diabolic power of Mephistopheles. His movements were and stilted, so that his most scene was in the cathedral had only to stand still in the the spotlight. It was a bad here, on the producer's part, Mephistopheles come from inside church, and to have him stand front of the altar. Mr Parnell's ing seemed breathy and was jerky, and his diabolic laugh com most unfavourably with the Y Kwei Sze. His sombrero the huge striped sleeves of his did nothing to counteract the impression.

Ronald Dowd, in the role of sang well throughout, but though the old scholar Faust in Act acting was convincing, after his juvenation he seemed to lack vitality one might have expected. Again his costume gave him the mulberry colour of his tunic the cerise of his oddly draped clashing all too violently with scarlet of Mephistopheles cloak.

The minor roles of Martha, played by Heather Begg, and Valer played by Neil Easton, were tionally good both musically dramatically. Jacqueline Siebel was also well sung, but acting was even more hesitant the character required.

The singing of the chorus was certain in Act I, and the amoz joyousness suggested by it hardly have encouraged anyone wish for a return to youth. market-place scene the singing

(Continued on Page 5)

sure and the bustle of the market-place was well portrayed. The scene in this scene was particularly performed, and unlike most stage scenes, really appeared to be part of the life of the market-place.

The playing of the orchestra was normally good except for an occasional wrong note from the horn, and in some places a volume which quite ruined the singing.

Production faults, such as gaps in scenery, and the failure of wine to appear when Mephistopheles tapped the side of the tavern, which marred the first performance, were later rectified.

It is a well-known opera, and it has been really well done, would have established the reputation of the company. As it was, the performance was good, but not of first class international quality.

—P.M.G.

"Il Trovatore"

Any opera company attempting "Il Trovatore" is, at the outset, at the advantage of having to handle a complicated, romantic plot and familiar choruses. The chief factor, then, in assessing the merit of a performance of this opera, is to determine whether the interpretation presented is the most satisfying to the taste of the audience. It is impossible to make the plot appear convincing, and the most suitable method of presentation, therefore, is to present it as a melodrama.

The interpretation of role was uneven among the four principals. Acting hours undoubtedly go to Heather Begg, as Agucena. New Zealanders are apt to depreciate local talent, but any standard Miss Begg's was an excellent portrayal. She delivered her words with the exact depth of feeling required, and the account of the child's death, especially, was movingly told. Voice and acting ability were of an equally high standard—her presentation of "Home to the mountains," illustrating this particularly. This is a hackneyed melody which requires delicate handling to "put across." Heather Begg sang it bravely and with feeling, and in the end did not try to vie in volume with Manrico and Leonora. The result was particularly effective.

Malcolm Dowd, as Manrico, used a strong voice to advantage, and his performance was impressive. It was unfortunate that his voice was so distant in the "Miserere," as it was completely drowned by Leonora and the chorus in places where it should have come through.

Leonora was played by Gladys Mawson, and one always felt she was easy in the part. Her movements were unsure, and even tended to become ludicrous. In the cloister scene of Act II, when Manrico puts in a most lovely appearance, Leonora turns and looks at him passively while the Count is speaking, then launches forth into an impassioned "Can I believe my eyes?" Miss Mawson, too, clasped her hands in a concert-platform stance during her arias, but further stage experience should remedy this.

Alan Light as the Count di Luna, was somewhat disappointing. In this part, the part of a man sworn to vengeance, the actor can afford to exaggerate, but Mr Light seemed hesitant to completely abandon himself to melodramatic, and his performance was, therefore, too restrained. Perhaps if Mr Light had not given such a magnificent portrayal as Count di Luna in the "Barber of Seville," we would not have felt dissatisfied with his performance.

The fault of the chorus in "Il Trovatore," as in the previous operas, lay in its "woodenness." The "Anvil Chorus" should have been far more abandoned, more rollicking and rowdy;

after all, it is the one bright spot in the surrounding gloom.

Costuming, setting and production was good on the whole. The opening scene could have been livened up more, but this again was partly due to the inadequate acting of the chorus, and due, too, to Ferrando's choppy delivery of an already staccato arrangement.

The performance of "Il Trovatore," then, if not first-class, certainly did provide an agreeable evening's entertainment. Auckland audiences, I feel sure, will look forward to a return visit from the National Opera of Australia.

—D.B.

"La Boheme"

La Boheme is the world's most popular opera, filled with tuneful music and changing moods. It appeals to all sections of the audience, for it is at once one of the gayest yet most pathetic of operas. Despite the English libretto (which as a purist I consider unpoetical and anti-lyrical), this production had an astounding amount of spirit and joie de vivre. Let me give my only serious dislike

voice. The devil-may-care swagger of Geoffrey Chard brought life to every scene in which he appeared. He was fortunate in having a correspondingly good Musetta, for much of Acts II. and III. depends on the by-play of these two. Betty Prentice was not always strong enough vocally to come through the orchestra, but she is a reliable performer with a good stage presence.

The sets were one of the greatest joys of the evening—conventional in style, but imaginative in detail and use of colour. For sheer beauty I shall remember the line of ghostly trees beyond the gates of Paris, while in Act IV., in the final duet, Rudolph's blue coat stood in vivid contrast to a harmonious background of greys and browns, the effect being increased by a greyish spotlight.

The chorus is prominent in only one scene—the Cafe Momus. I was somewhat disappointed. The movement was 'stagey,' while the Pargipol incident was positively messy. I have nostalgic memories of the



Tais Taras as Mimi in "La Boheme."

first. Tais Taras, as Mimi, looked sweet and her acting, with its keynote of simplicity, was always good. But her voice! When soft, it had a 'woolly' vibrato; when loud, a harsh edge. At all times it was thin, lacking in any roundness of tone. I missed Faust, in which she was said to be even less good—poor Marguerite! Her Mimi gradually improved during the performance, and the death scene was vocally her most pleasant achievement.

For the rest, it was a fine evening. Ronald Dowd has the most distinguished tenor voice in the company. His acting is not quite so good. He over-gesticulates and since his repertory movement is small, he must perforce repeat it ad infinitum—but only in the last scene was this irritating.

Neil Easton as Schaunard and Geoffrey Chard as Marcel, were really good, the former restrained, the latter flamboyant, and both in excellent

Italian company that played in Auckland in 1948. Their Cafe Momus scene was so alive that it was impossible to take it all in; the spirit of gaiety and congestion was better caught; and one never felt that the chorus was just standing there.

By and large, this was a good performance and very good entertainment.

—J.P.A.

"Under Milk Wood"

A combined reading of this play, one of Dylan Thomas' last achievements, has been mooted between Literary Club and Drama Society. This will probably take place after Easter, and should be of interest to all students of English, as well as drama enthusiasts.

FILMS

"Genevieve"

If you are tired, bored, or just browned off, take a tonic—take yourself, your friends, your family or anyone to see "Genevieve." For sheer diversion and lots of laughter its the funniest picture we've had for a long time.

By now you've probably heard about the story—the vintage cars' annual run to Brighton. A simple theme, but one that has been developed and broadened into a first-class comedy. And don't worry—it's not all about cars. It is actress Kay Kendall who says of her boisterous boyfriend: "He only thinks of two things—antiquated cars, and . . . the other thing!"

There are more than liberal dashes of wonderfully constructed farce throughout, and the whole is capped off with the hilarious race back to Westminster Bridge, in which the men indulge in one of their favourite past-times—showing off to their women-folk. On the other hand, there are words of wisdom and actions to back them up when Kenneth More shoves his girlfriend out of his car, and makes her push the old rattletrap out of a flooded ditch.

Kay Kendall is supremely funny throughout, and even if her trumpet-playing at the night club was dubbed, it must have surprised everybody. She was the perfect foil for Kenneth More's self-tyled Casanova. His efforts at love-making (in all seriousness he termed it "emotional experience") were delightfully frustrated. His acting was definitely more successful.

John Gregson—I liked his bemused expression—gave a wholesome performance, and he was well supported (!) by a very fetching blonde who happened to be his wife; the part was played by Dinah Sheridan. Then there was the all too brief appearance of that splendid character actress, Joyce Grenfell, whose hotel proprietress provided an hilarious interlude. The music came from Larry Adler's world-famous harmonica—an unusual and remarkably effective background.

This is definitely a film to see—but a word of warning—if you wear false teeth, remove them before the show or you may be like the man next to me who lost his in a bout of laughter.

—D.J.S.

DRAMA

Drama Society Main Production

At a recent committee meeting of Drama Society it was decided that the main production for the year should be Congreve's Restoration comedy, "Love for Love." The producer will be Prof. Musgrove.

The date of performance will be the week of August 9th, in St. Andrew's Hall. Rehearsals will take place on Sundays through the second term. Professor Musgrove will want to cast the play before the end of the term after the Easter break.

Anyone interested in taking part should have a look at the play and watch the notice boards for further details.

Pith of the Week:—

Prof. Musgrove describing the stage of the College Hall: "A hiatus between two pianos."

ROMAN CATHOLIC CONGRESS

TRUTH—THE DUTY OF THE SCHOLAR

A uniformly high standard of addresses, and the attendance of a widely representative group of students were features of the sixth annual congress of the New Zealand University Catholic Society, held over the week-end of February 5-7, at Knock-na-gree camp, Oratia.

The general theme of the congress was "Truth the Duty of the Scholar," and the papers on various aspects of this theme were followed by vigorous and often provocative discussion.

Apart from the largest contingent of Aucklanders, there were large representations from the other colleges.

The total attendance of about 100 was better than that at any of the five previous congresses.

Three French students, two Australians and Miss Rosemary Goldie, M.A., L-ès-L (Sorbonne), a member of the Secretariate of the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of the Lay Apostolate, gave an international flavour to the gathering.

Mr. Anthony McGowan, B.Agr.Sc., of Melbourne University, is on a six months' visit to this country to have a quick look at our farming methods. The other Australian representative, Mr John Connor, also of Melbourne University, is studying to be an optician.

All the University Catholic societies in Australia were contacted and their members invited to be the guests of the N.Z. Catholic students at the congress.

At the first session on Friday, February 5, the president of the N.Z.U. Catholic Society, Mr B. W. Hare, of Auckland, introduced his Grace Archbishop Liston, who gave the students some thoughts on their life's aim and work, and officially opened the congress.

Over the next two days a total of five papers were delivered. Speakers and subjects were as follows: Rev. J. Mackey, M.A., Dip.Ed., "Truth — the Challenge and Response"; Rev. C. Bowler, S.M., M.A., of Timaru, "Truth — Does it Matter?"; Miss Mabel Rice, B.Sc., Editor of the general section of the N.Z. Journal of Science and Technology, "Science in the Service of Truth"; D. P. O'Connell, B.A., LL.M., Ph.D., of Adelaide University, "Law and Its Responsibilities to Truth"; Rev. F. H. Walsh, D.D., B.A. (Oxon), of Featherston, "Tolerance, the Climate for Truth." A panel consisting of Rev. Dr. Stephen, B.A., of Sacred Heart College; Rev. Father E. A. Forsman, M.A., and Mr P. J. Downey, M.A., with Mr John Reid, M.A., as chairman, discussed "Art and its Reasonable Service."

Catholic Society's Academic Mass and Annual Meeting

The Catholic Society's annual Mass for graduates and undergraduates was celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral by his Grace Archbishop Liston, on Sunday, March 21. About 75 were present at the Mass and the breakfast which followed. In the evening, in the Women's Common Room, members elected their officers for 1954.

The president of the society, Mr J. D. Golightly, before delivering the annual report on the past year's activities at the breakfast, welcomed Archbishop Liston and congratulated him on the occasion of the jubilee of his priesthood.

The annual report dealt with the highly successful congress of the N.Z. University Catholic Society at Knock-na-gree camp, Oratia, which was

organised by Auckland students; the popular psychology lectures given by the chaplains, Rev. Fathers Fitzmaurice and Butler, O.P., for Catholic and non-Catholic students of the College; the need for members to support the occasional social and study week-ends at Knock-na-gree during the year; and the low financial condition of the society.

Rev. Father Butler announced that a room has been provided in the College for the use of the various chaplains and he extended a warm invitation to both Catholic and non-Catholic students to meet him there and discuss anything they wished. The location of the room and the times allotted to Father Butler will be placed on the society's notice board outside the cafe.

Matters under discussion at the annual meeting included the organisa-



Clubhouse and sleeping quarters at Knock-na-gree.

tion of the society's annual bail, week-ends at Knock-na-gree, the need for sending in reports of the society's activities to "Craccum," recommendations to the N.Z.U. Catholic Society concerning the annual congress, and the question of assisting more refugee students. It was announced that the society had contributed a total of £175 to the support of the two refugee students at present sponsored by N.Z. Catholic students.

The following officers for 1954 were elected: President, Mr W. P. Dowd; secretary, Miss M. Mechen; treasurer, Miss P. Harrop; committee; Messrs. M. Freyne, J. Angland, I. Barker, Misses J. Ellis, M. Budge, L. Quinn and T. Lennane.

—M. J. Freyne for Cath. Soc.

Who would be a Canadian President?

The new President of the National Union of Students N.F.C.U.S., Mr. Antonio Enriquez, will be the first to receive an annual salary of 1800 dollars for the execution of his official duties. (Le Carabin, Quebec.)

Why Be Moral?

There is a little poem by G. K. Chesterton in his rollicking but pointed humorous style called "The Song of the Strange Ascetic," in which he amusingly exposes the muddled morality of the modern unbeliever. It runs:

If I had been a Heathen,
I'd have praised the purple vine,
My slaves would dig the vineyards,
And I would drink the wine.
But Higgins is a Heathen,
And his slaves grow lean and grey,
That he may drink some tepid milk
exactly twice a day.

If I had been a Heathen,
I'd have crowned Neaera's curls,
And filled my life with love affairs,
My house with dancing girls;
But Higgins is a Heathen,
And to lecture rooms is forced,
Where his aunts, who are not married,
Demand to be divorced.

And after a couple more verses he ends up:

Now who that runs can read it,
The riddle that I write,
Of why this poor old sinner,
Should sin without delight —
But I, I cannot read it
(Although I run and run),
Of them that do not have the faith,
And will not have the fun.

This piece of witty extravagance implies the essential truth that everyone has some standards — even Higgins the modern Heathen. But like so many people today, Higgins was quite illogical; with his lack of real moral principles he should have gone completely off the deep end. Higgins did not believe in God; and there was the perfect reason for letting his hair

down. He neglected the opportunity. Why?

Because possessing human nature, Higgins, though warped, was basically sane, and even from a natural point of view he could see that at least some things didn't pay.

The Catholic chaplain to the University, Rev. Father Butler, O.P., S.T.L.R., is giving a series of topical lectures on Ethics every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in room 39. In effect, he is telling you why it pays to be moral, why it is natural to be moral. Father Butler is not speaking simply as a Catholic priest; he is speaking as a philosopher presenting fundamental, common-sense truth.

- If you do not believe in morality (especially that nasty absolute kind, come and put your case to Father Butler at question time.
- He will show you why you "will not have the fun" if you are not moral.
- If you do believe in morality, perhaps yours is like Higgins', a negative variety, and rather warped. Come along and have it reinforced.
- You Communists, "logical" positivists, existentialists, atheists —

Evangelical Union

Christianus Sum

In ancient Roman times election time drew near, the mob was more restive than when they just wanted a bit of excitement, the Government throw a few Christians to the lions so that everyone could water die for their faith with the 'Christianus sum' on their term, the same sort of thing been happening at this College part of the programme of In this more humane age, done away with the lions, Christians "butchered so far" a Roman holiday" have all the arena exclaiming 'Christianus sum.' The lack of lions, detracts somewhat from the Christian-baiting, but the tyrs still give a good account of selves — pronouncing 'Christianus sum' as Cicero himself would have done had he been a Christian fortunately and inevitably, the men, not being classical, don't know what the phrase means but they still give a very interesting lecture on why they are Christians and what difference that makes to their lives and thought. So many martyrs have included two men, who should, quite naturally expected to die for their faith two businessmen, one of whom a lawyer, who are definitely expected to die for any reason. Three students have also been included in the massacre—one was the President of the Evangelical Union because he was a Maths student who knew instinctively what "Christianus sum" meant. The other was a University Professor of English, who of course needed no explanation of the phrase and translated it all in one go, a Badmintone saying such things as: "I have found my Christian faith to be my life, my thought or my vocation. It is a student," which was so unscientific and out-of-date that it was immediately condemned with the same fate as the rest; and a Sunday Tea.

Now, if you enjoy sport of a kind, and if you don't think that one could possibly have any other reason for becoming or being a Christian, and you want to learn a few, may we suggest you come along and watch the —rather lively deaths, we are the remaining two Christians in term. They will be two from one from a Theological College and one from Peru. The series of lectures is being held in Room 2, at 7 p.m. Thursdays. All the seats are provided and don't let Latin worry you provide a translation free with the lecture, and the rest of the words are in plain English.

Union of South Africa

Foreign non-European students not be permitted, in general, to institutions of higher education in South Africa, as of the beginning next year. A corresponding prohibition was announced in November 1950, but its going-into-effect delayed for three years. Those students who are already enrolled at South African universities, but come under this prohibition, must complete their studies. (Varsity, Town.)

Father Butler will teach you to think your theories out to their own insufferable conclusions.

—B. F. Freyne

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EASTER TOURNAMENT — CHRISTCHURCH, 1954

At time of going to press, the A.U.C. teams were:

N.Z.U.S.A. Delegates

- R. M. Smith
- P. W. Boag
- Miss M. W. Solly

Tournament Delegates

- K. J. Treacy
- T. J. Eagle

Rowing

- R. Stanich
- R. Shiel
- D. Bodley
- C. Cambie
- C. Martin
- P. Irvine
- A. Hackett
- J. Geddes
- B. Arthur
- R. Campbell
- J. Thompson
- J. Hall
- N. Lynch

Shooting

- G. R. Moir
- N. E. Richards
- J. D. Dexter
- W. K. Brockelsby
- T. Henson
- D. B. Hoyle
- M. Paltridge

Athletics

- Miss S. Baird
- Miss B. Duncan
- Miss C. Moran
- Miss N. Denman
- Miss B. Montgomery
- Miss M. Mellsop
- E. B. Ashby

M. L. Chatfield

- A. I. French
- H. M. Hilliam
- C. Masters
- J. P. Millar
- B. Irwin
- D. Pain
- R. M. Sheehy
- D. I. Smith
- A. G. Stevenson
- W. G. Travers
- G. H. Ward
- D. Utting

Swimming

- Miss N. Cox
- Miss M. McMahon
- Miss A. Lund
- Miss J. Broderick
- T. J. Eagle
- P. Heim
- T. Russell
- M. B. Francis
- A. C. Clarke
- A. B. Warwick
- J. G. Cox
- M. T. Gotlieb

Tennis

- Miss F. Cotton
- Miss V. Teat
- Miss M. Solly
- Miss E. Dickson
- R. W. Burns
- D. C. Light
- R. A. Wright
- M. H. White
- J. Montgomery

Basketball

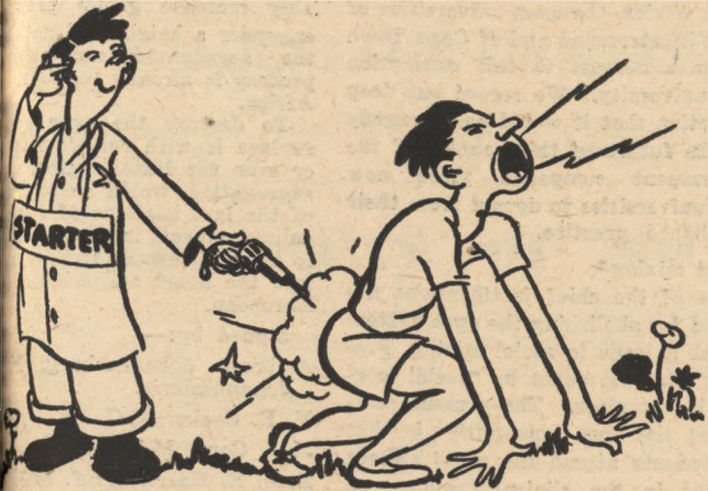
- R. Tilly
- S. Davison
- B. Duncan
- G. Li
- J. Brown
- S. Baird
- J. Watkins
- E. Woods
- R. Fillery
- B. Bridgman
- I. Bowman
- P. Gibson

Boxing

- C. R. Thomas
- T. B. Pilcher
- W. G. Mitchinson
- C. G. Grice
- M. D. Hill
- C. B. Shorter
- D. L. Ogilvy

Cricket

- D. M. Carter
- P. F. Clapshaw
- L. Cossey
- J. Dykes
- J. B. Earnshaw
- D. T. Hunt
- P. M. Irwin
- D. McLeod
- G. N. Murray
- P. D. Naqasima
- J. E. Scott
- N. M. Uluviti



Next Wednesday, April 14th, yet another Tournament team will leave Auckland on its way to do battle with the representatives of the Southern Colleges.

On the eve of their departure the leaders of this invasion, K. J. Treacy and Trevor Eagle, the Tournament Delegates, wish the teams every success and an enjoyable time. "Craccum" joins them in their messages, and hopes that the teams enjoy representing Auckland as much as we hope for their success.

Badminton Club

The club was formed a year ago and its foundation members and in the first space of time, it has forged with its numerous activities, regular weekly practices, club matches, both friendly and competitive. The Badminton Association has translated all in organising, for the time being, a Badminton Tournament in the four constituent Colleges of N.Z.U. during the Winter months. It undoubtedly proved a great success and we can be sure that Badminton has come to the fore with the annual winter tournament; and although it is still in its 'trial

around Auckland Province.

You need not be a champ to join the club as we have beginners' classes with competent coaches to teach the 'know-hows' (if necessary). As long as you are keen, come along and join the gang at Parnell Library Hall on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with also possible night plays at Grey Lynn Library Hall on Monday nights at 7 p.m. Beginners, budding champs, and even professionals are welcome.

T. Gan,
Club Captain.

year we have a load of activities on hand and are anxious that students join the club and make winter success than ever. Some notable events for this year are the Winter Tournament in inter-club competition and trips to other centres.

...Africa. ...success" of the apartheid system 2, at ... University is described by ... organ of the National ... of South African Students as

European students are crowded into a building called Sastri College which also houses the only secondary school in Durban training college. Students and ... have to share class-rooms, ... time-tables accordingly must ... to permit this duplication ... There is one small com- ... at the back of Sastri Col- ... which must suffice for the stud- ... a library with a supply of ... is completely inadequate for ... education. On the other ... magnificent new library has ... recently for the Europeans ... College, but a Non-Euro- ... debarred from using it. In ... segregation has in actual ... to inferior facilities for the ... Europeans and Non- ... do, however, pay the same ... A. Student, Cape Town.)



Easter Tournament, Dunedin, 1953.

Statement on the Threat to the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Capetown

A Commission of enquiry has recently been appointed "to investigate and report on the practicability and financial implications of providing separate training facilities for non-Europeans at universities.

We the undersigned, wish to express our alarm at the exclusion from these terms of reference of what must surely be regarded as the fundamental underlying questions. These questions are: Can it be shown that "separate training facilities" are in fact necessary, more especially at those universities which traditionally do not practice academic segregation? Is there any need to interfere with the existing rights and freedoms of such universities? And, finally, is there any advantage to be gained, either educationally or in the field of race relations, through imposing academic "apartheid" on all South African universities?

Four different systems operate in South Africa at present. There is, firstly, the University of Potchefstroom, whose Charter permits it to admit European students only. Secondly, the Universities of Stellenbosch, Pretoria and the Orange Free State, though not restricted by their Charter, in practice, do not admit non-Europeans. Rhodes is in like position, but does admit non-European post-graduate students. The University College of Fort Hare, affiliated to Rhodes, gives preference to non-European students. Thirdly, there is the University of Natal, which conducts separate classes for Europeans and non-Europeans. Fourthly, there are the open universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town which, with certain exceptions due to practical considerations, admit non-Europeans on the same criteria as Europeans.

The practice followed by the open universities has not given rise to

COSEC (Continued)

the chairmanship of Bill Dentzer, U.S.A., did some particularly well-substantiated pieces of work. Its recommendations are, in essence, a statement of practical measures, intended to bring about real assistance to various Student Unions in underdeveloped countries, and a kind of assistance, at that, which the other student communities should well be able to give if only they have the will. The Special Commission's report further includes a definition of political questions with which the International Student Conference should deal. These are questions, quite outside the sphere of partisan political interests, which directly affect each and every student. Thus, the decisions adopted include one to set up a standing committee for the investigation of all cases of suppression of academic freedom or of university autonomy, as well as of other questions pertaining to free access to universities, etc. The International Student Conference in a resolution has promised its support to the National Union of South African Students in their protest against their Government's racial policy in the university field.

Finally, the Conference elected, in a very harmonious composition, the Supervision Committee for 1954-55. The countries now represented on the Committee are: Italy, Canada, Norway, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Mexico, Gold Coast and Lebanon.

The Fifth International Student Conference will be held in April, 1955, probably in combination with a Cultural Festival. Offers to play host to the Conference have so far been made by the Philippines, Mexico and Britain.

Hanno Kremer.

friction or internal tension. On the contrary, successive generations of students have enthusiastically affirmed the wisdom and correctness of opening the university to non-European students, while similar resolutions have been passed by the University Council and Staff. It is significant that the students of Rhodes and the Convocation of Natal voted by overwhelming majorities against academic segregation.

In a country like South Africa, where race attitudes and prejudices vary so greatly, it is understandable

Bishop's House,
Westcliff,
Johannesburg,
15 Feb., 1954.

Dear Sir,

You may possibly have heard that the Government of the Union of South Africa is threatening to exclude non-Europeans from the universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town. A group of citizens here who are deeply concerned by this threat, issued the enclosed statement to the press on Monday, February 15th.

I should be grateful if you would take whatever steps you can to bring this matter to the notice of your membership.

Yours very sincerely,
(sgd.) Ambrose Johannesburg

that the tradition and practice of different universities should reflect these variations. This is, in fact, the present position. Students are therefore able, within certain geographical limits, to make their own choice of the type of university environment which they prefer. The Prime Minister, however, considers the mixing of races in certain universities, "a crying anomaly," and the unmistakable implication of the Government's proposed action is that it intends, without the assistance of the Commission, to deny students the right to exercise their own choice and to interfere with the traditional right of universities to order their own affairs within the limits of their Charter, in order to impose an artificial and stultifying uniformity.

Importance of freedom

It is because the true aims of a university can only be promoted in a free intellectual environment that the inviolability of this freedom is of such paramount importance. The functions of a university are not only to impart method and fact and to train students for a profession, but to create a body of men and women who share a sense of civilized values. It must encourage the fearless pursuit of truth and knowledge and teach students to think for themselves. To fulfill these aims it must be free to attract the most able students from

every racial group, to welcome independence or outlook and to promote the fruitful interaction of mind upon mind. We consider that, within South Africa, the open universities of the Witwatersrand and of Cape Town approach nearest to this conception of a university. We record our deep conviction that it would be a tragedy for the future of this country if the Government compelled these now open universities to depart from their established practice.

Social mixing?

One of the chief justifications advanced for abolishing the open system is that it leads to social mixing. Precisely what is meant by "social mixing" is not clear. The present position at the open universities is that all students attend the same classes (except in the clinical training of medical students), use the same facilities and can participate in student government and student cultural activities. Non-Europeans do not take part with Europeans in dances and sports activities. What the opponents of the open system apparently have in mind is that it leads to miscegenation. We believe that this fear is mistaken. Experience both in South Africa and the United States of America has shown that racial intermixture takes place predominantly at the lowest economic and educational levels. The problem has not, in fact, arisen at the open universities. To wreck a fruitful experiment for fear of such imaginary dangers is both arbitrary and fanatical.

Greater tolerance and understanding

The very fact of the existence of the two open universities has enhanced South Africa's reputation overseas. But it has meant more than that in South Africa itself. It has made possible contacts between students outside lecture halls and laboratory classes—an essential part of university education. It is these contacts which promote the transmission of Western standards and values to all students, European, African, Asiatic and coloured. It has given concrete expression to the desire for goodwill between Europeans and non-Europeans. It has led to greater tolerance and understanding, for it is only by meeting together that

people of different groups can learn to understand and respect each other.

The isolation of non-Europeans from European students will not only increase group prejudice but will also engender a heightened nationalism. The segregated university system process is already manifest in South Africa.

To destroy the open system and replace it with complete segregation, or even the Natal system of segregation, would be to destroy the last bastions of tolerance and enlightenment in South Africa, to drive bitterness and despair into the heart and mind of the European.

Signed by:—

- Ambrose Johannesburg, Johannesburg.
- N. E. Coaker, Q.C.
- John Cope, M.P.
- Errol E. Harris, Prof. of Psychology, University of Witwatersrand.
- R. Harvey, Director of Commission of Enquiry into the Racial Situation of the Council of the University of Witwatersrand.
- Trevor Huddleston, C.R., Secretary of the Community of the Coloured People in South Africa.
- Phyllis Lewsen
- L. Lovell, M.P.
- J. S. Marais, Professor of Psychology, University of Witwatersrand.
- Walter Pollak, Q.C.
- Robert Pretor, Bishop of Port Elizabeth.
- L. Rabinowitz, Chief Rabbi of Johannesburg.
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- Lewis Sowden
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- J. B. Webb, Chairman of the National Union of Swaziland Districts, Methodist Church.
- M. C. Weiler, Chief Minister of the Transvaal Association of Reformed Congregations.
- John H. Wellington, Prof. of Geography, University of Witwatersrand.

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