Student Union Building Discussed

The Gym?

One of the topics most bitterly discussed was the question of having a separate gym building. The sentiment seemed to be that such a building would be welcomed. One was that it seemed uneconomical to build a gym in an expensive concrete structure, and take up space in the building, and space would not be as easy to spare. Another was that a separate gym building would bring out the preferences better, and the present gym possibly could be in the changing over periods.

The floor of the gym was the basic raw material, as it were, too. To be spruced up, or not to be spruced up? To be sawed, or not to be sawed? The clubs don’t want to be quite agree to the Exe’s reports of the fence rather than one or two, and Piper purchased an awning for a swimming pool under his arm. The Exe, however, was somewhat surprised at this late stage. This matter, too, seems one which cannot be except the Swimming Club and the Rugby Club (for those who play rugby). Various other points raised in discussion were of much importance. The floor of the gym was the basic raw material, as it were, too. To be spruced up, or not to be spruced up? To be sawed, or not to be sawed? The clubs don’t want to be quite agree to the Exe’s reports of the fence rather than one or two, and Piper purchased an awning for a swimming pool under his arm. The Exe, however, was somewhat surprised at this late stage. This matter, too, seems one which cannot be except the Swimming Club and the Rugby Club (for those who play rugby). Various other points raised in discussion were of much importance.

The Chapel?

One thing most people seem to agree on is the chapel. This has been thought of for a long time, and everyone has had their minds made up on the question. An extremely pertinent point is the availability to all denominations whenever necessary, was the only way the chapel was not all occupied by special musical evenings when they had already had one early and several people simply gathering at the music department.

Lord real continence was the question of the excruciating: It was argued by Mr. Garrett that he would have to care sleep next to the floor of the basement or the basement or the basement or the basement. The Exe, rather than one or two, and Piper purchased an awning for a swimming pool under his arm. The Exe, however, was somewhat surprised at this late stage. This matter, too, seems one which cannot be except the Swimming Club and the Rugby Club (for those who play rugby). Various other points raised in discussion were of much importance.

Soc Club Weekend

The VUC Socialist Club is holding its weekly weekend school on Saturday and Sunday. Three have already been held successfully, and this one should be quite as good.

The theme will be "Socialism Today," the speakers include J. P. Lein, F. W. Cobbe, K. Stinson, and others. The event’s place is the Music Department.

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NO MAN'S LAND

Malaya?

SIR,

Regarding the present condition of Malaya, the British Labour Government proposed a new constitution for the Malayan Federation (Legislative) Assembly consisting of 24 Government officials and 16 nominated by the High Commissioner—not one elected representative. (2) A Singapore Council with 16 nominated members and six elected on a limited voting list.

The people rejected this sham "consultation," organized a general strike against it (1947) and boycotted the so-called "elections" in Singapore. (Under 10 per cent. of those eligible voted.)

Today laws forbid meetings of more than five people. The Press is strictly censored. The Malayan fighters are called "bandits." In fact, they are the same heroes, trade unionists and peasant leaders who led the resistance against the Japanese, liberated Malaya in August, 1945, were in control before British troops landed, and were thanked publicly by Lord Mountbatten.

A number marched in the Victory Parade in 1946, led by Lau Yew, who was shot dead by British led police in 1948. His battered corpse being photographed by a U.S. "Life" reporter.

The presence in the Malayan "bandits" and "terrorists" are 10,000's of people who have lost absolutely everything. Why after 20 years of full scale warfare is the war not dying down but freezing up? Why do the imperialists need 130,000 police for "bandit suppression?" Why send the Colonial Secretary to Malaya?

Fighters for freedom have been called "bandits" before the ruling classes—Joan of Arc, Robert Bruce. Overhanging of Vietnam, we are denounced as lawless criminals for our struggle in the world's national liberation.

Why Chapel?

SIR,

At the Special General Meeting of the Association which was held before the vacation, I understand that it was stated that a chapel has been agreed on by all sorts and conditions of students.

Having now read the Executive report, I must enter one in the lists to disagree with the idea.

Why should it be necessary to set aside a special room for this? From the report it seems that there are already plenty of small rooms which could be used; in fact it seems that too many of the small rooms the space in the hall will already be cut into little pieces and doing out. This is a waste of a good building.

The answer will be raised that all the other clubs have facilities, and the religious clubs also have theirs. This is fallacious—why is it not the same for all the other clubs?

International Student Service

A COLLECTION FOR ISS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE STAFF-STUDENT DEBATE

This Friday, 8th September. Little Theatre.

"THAT THE ADVANTAGES OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ARE OVERTURBED."

Staff: Dr. J. C. Beggbleie; Mieo Iseena; Max; Mr John McCrery.

Students: Maurice, McInre, Burton Newneman; Denny Garrit.

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR—DON'T MISS THIS.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

MAY 21 edition of Rhodes University College paper "Rhodes" (Grahamstown, Rhodesia), has just reached "Salient." It front- pages the story of a general meeting of the student body where bitter discussion ended in the (sawed) passage of two resolutions on racial discrimination and segregation at present rampant in South Africa. Apparently Rhodes representatives at the conference had supported segregation in inter-college sports. The meeting condemned their representatives to the far left of the Rhodes Student Representative Council would not attend any conference observing racial discrimination.

"Rhodes" remarks: "These liberal and worthy resolutions, representative of the democracy which is upheld at this college, reflect creditably the view held by the S.R.C. . . ."

IUS Questioned in Birmingham

"Guild News" (Birmingham University) for February 16, recounts incidents during the visit of the International Union of Students Executive to the University following an International Students meeting in London the previous week. Speaking to a gathering in the Mixed Lounge, delegates from Ecuador, Hungary and the Soviet Union stressed the importance of young people engaged on study of world peace, economic security and spiritual freedom. Questions about the expulsion of Yugoslav student organisation were satisfactorily answered by reference to the unrepresentative nature of the regime, and that too was the question raised. One question ran as follows: "In your opinion, is the International Students Soci- ety for the Return of the Sturmers in Poland a society in Russia for the return of the Poles in Poland?" P. Gennisa Fominov refused to answer this question, but remarked that he "could think of no section of Russian society which might be represented by [the International Students Society]."

The meeting closed with mutual expressions of goodwill, and support for the ideals and fight- ing programme of the I.U.S.

Hysteria and Korea

Latest "Paragone" (July 12) describes Melbourne University Labour Club meeting addressed by Ian Tur- ner, M.A. on the Korean question. The report says: "A section of the audience tried all through the meet- ing to make up its mind what to ask the speaker. Some sections of the demonstrators seemed to dispute Mr. Turner's right to speak at all. But the speaker, with an ease that was impressive at the close of the meeting described the situation as "hysteria." Mr. Turner was reported as saying: "The people of Asia have taken the future into their own hands. They are our nearest neighbours, but have lived under the most degrading con- ditions, with never any say in their government. The present struggle in Korea is part of a great upsurge of the Asian people, which has grown out of their experience against Japan and promises of self-government made by the Allies . . . You can look at least 10 per cent. of what you read in the daily press . . . The Communists or Capitalists can only in law and justice be decided by the peoples of each country themselves. We are not go- ing to throw away Australasia lives to keep.

Prof. Rhodes in Stalingrad

"How it is possible for us to want anything but peace," said a young Russian who had fought in the battles not far from Stalingrad, as we gathered together at the bare open spaces and the blasted remains of the town in once a seaside workers' flats. "We have so much to do," he added, "and must continue to build the happy life which the war inter- rupted. We are restoring our broken homes, but we want to set our lives on a footing of living."

And the young man who had lived much of what he said was true.

The same had written Winston Rhodes, Associate Professor in English at the University of Sheffield who has been staying during the past few years in the rau- cously city of Stalingrad where he has been staying during the past few years. They want peace," he writes, "and to them, as it should be to us, Stalingrad is a symbol of the destructiv- e war, as well as a symbol of the reconstruction the whole world wants...

"After I had discussed university matters with the Philological Faculty of Moscow University, the first ques- tion asked me by the vice-rector was: "Is there a strong peace movement in New Zealand?" As we were leaving the Stalingrad Tractor Plant, the deputy director said to me, "Will you take this message from us to the people of New Zealand?" He meant us to try to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries."

His letter, which is full of detailed information about life in 1950 on the other side of the ferrom conrum, is printed in full in the latest issue of the United Nations Society for Clarity Relations with U.S.S.R. paper "Soviet Life."

World Students

Latest I.U.S. news bulletin (May 6) brings news of activities among students around the world for con- (Continued on page 4.)

Two Books on . . . Crisis of Empire . . .


"Once the older term "Empire," which in which Dierker, Chamberlain and Kipling took pride, has begun to stick in the minds of millions; and to become a term of abuse," writes Mr. Dutt in his introduction, "a euphemism which can be found by the neatly-muscled apostolate of imperialism—Commonwealth of Nations. In this book the British Empire is reduced to the British Empire."

In his short but pungent polemic Dutt declares the following theses—(a) that the Empire continues to operate as a system of exploitation and oppression of hun- dreds of millions of colonial and de- pendent peoples in the interests of the American imperialists (e.g., United Fruit Co.); (b) that the Eust calla of the old empire is now in a stage of acute crisis due to the struggles of the subject peoples coupled with the increasing weakness and economic de- crimation of the powers of Western Europe (c) that the Foreign Office policy of aligning with the U.S. entails the increasing domination of American capital over Britain as we approach the end of the Empire, thus intensifying the crisis in Mr. Dutt is a hard man—he not only has his thesis but now he is able to convey them fully with quotations from leading British and American states- men, and with abstracts from Col- onial Office statistics. For example, the general line that present schemes of Apache development is merely altruisitic moves to benefit the white man will be strengthened if blacks should be seen as Dr. Strachey's words in the (14/2/49) "the scheme is a thorn in the heart of two and not philanthropic proposition..." painful readjustments for the African popula- tion... this is not a philanthropic scheme started purely and solely for the Africans' benefit."

Mr. Dutt, in the words of Sir Stafford Cripps, because "the whole future of the British Empire and its group and ability to serve the world as a centre of friendship between two countries."

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CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA

UNITY's production of this Shaw play had only one lack—not a serious one—and only one real fault.

The show was the shortage of manpower. Maybe it is a sign of regret that many of the Roman army; perhaps we shouldn't have found our imagination strong enough to picture the Roman thousands behind the actual three. Not that mere numbers and show can make the acting real (the Repertory "Devil's Disciple" proved that) but it might have helped the illusion along a bit. The Concert Chamber stage is not a large one and, as in all theatre, Unity did suppose, quite crudely, with the men and space at their disposal to suggest the vastness of the classical and the actual armies of soldiers. We still regret (even making this concession) the trio's "Hail Caesar" at odd intervals: it reminded us too much of the Jazz-ballet trio in this year's Extrav.

The real fault was Cleopatra. As we read Shaw, Cleopatra was designed as a hellen—amoral, a sunny little schoolgirl. Reine King made her rather a cat. The over-acting of the voice was a large factor in this glaring fault: and later she was supposed to be growing up, her behaviour was less like the sudden switch of a character of a new view, as says, than a sentimental person of the sort of which she should have improved. The only one to come up to the rightness of this casting was George Ethel's Brittanica—a most fantastic character totally, when she sees the middle-class arrogance of an Englishman among the pomp and fury of Egypt. Aposmodorus was, and looked the part: Ptolemaida, on the other hand, perhaps by contrast with one of Plinius's more recent roles, was not quite vicious enough. The story started with a promise of unimproving voices coming out of the gloom of the courtyard scene: but in spite of the rapid scene changing and the necessary long breaks in the beginning, it held attention thereafter, and climaxed properly in the fourth act. The audience in the crowd in the final scene was something to come down. On the whole, it succeeded: an Egyptian setting was a great excuse to go to town on the set: but Colleen Renner did with a great deal justice to both art and effect.

Unity's certainly appears to be strength, though not in strength.

(Continued from col. 2, page 1)

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(Continued from col. 4, page 3)

NO SPIKE

A recent Exec. meeting was decided between the Exec. and the editor (Cliff Strathern) and the business manager (Pete Jenkins) of Spike 1950, that there would be no issue for this year. Reason: lack of money. There is not much in the rumour that it will appear as a Capsicum Literary Supplement.

UNICEF APPEAL

A UDREY COOK, the organiser of this appeal, has announced that the total gathered in from VUC students was $21.39. This is about 22c. per head of the student roll. It may perhaps not be quite as bad as it seems, since many students will have already given money through their offices or other outside organisations: but no one would call it an inspiring response.

The Executive has set up a small committee, as suggested at the AGM, to act as a liaison between the Wellington United Nations Association and the Students' Association. The committee consists of Colin Vance, Bob Blaysey and Audrey Cook. Anyone who is interested in doing anything, or who has ideas for functions here at VUC, should get in touch with one of these people.

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