

CRACCUM

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A.U.C., MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1934

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Students' Association Finances

The chief difficulty confronting the Executive of the Students' Association at the present time is the payment of grants to the various Clubs and Societies. There are many, no doubt, who consider that the delay should not have occurred. We think, however, that when the matter is discussed several misconceptions will be cleared up. At the beginning of the financial year the Executive considers a draft budget which serves as a guide throughout the year; and a determined effort is always made to keep within that budget. Our revenue comes from the Students' Association fees and an estimate of the net revenue is drawn up on the basis of the number of students taking lectures, allowance being made for a certain percentage of hardship cases. These will be discussed later.

According to the Constitution of the Association and also under College Regulations, the payment of the Student's Fee is compulsory. Let students who think it optional disabuse their minds at once. The Executive acts therefore in the hope that a high percentage of students attending the college will pay. That presumption is a perfectly reasonable one. We are entitled to the payment by Constitution, and students may as well know that the Association does not intend to curtail activities as a result of default of payment on the part of a large number of students. Action, and drastic action if necessary, will be taken to secure payment.

We are increasingly finding that students abuse leniency. At the present time approximately £200 is outstanding. If we had that money our financial difficulties would be negligible, and the grants could be made to the Clubs.

A complication has been introduced into student finance by the fact that so large a proportion (60 per cent.) of Students are now paying their ordinary lecture fees by instalments. Payment of these at present takes precedence over the Students' Association Fee. This means that even on the assumption that all students finally pay, the grants are held up until late in the year. What is more serious, however is nothing more or less than wilful default on the part of an unduly large proportion of students. Six students who are still in the College owe fees for three years. Thirty-seven owe for two years, and the balance of the defaulters are for the year's fee only. Criticism is not directed against those students who have been cautious enough to apply to the Appeals Committee for consideration, nor against those who have made personal arrangements with our Business Manager. The type of student we are going to take action against particularly, is the one who makes use of the facilities provided by the Association yet never pays and never answers, unless offensively, the letters sent out

by the officers of the Association. Still more obnoxious is the type who boasts of never having paid, and who urges others to do likewise. This is not a figment of a disordered editorial brain, but is borne out in the case of certain students still in the College. We consider this conduct of such persons exceeding reprehensible, and an example, we hope, will be made of them in the near future.

The case of those students who claim exemption on the grounds that they do not take part in College life either in sport or socially, and (but this is suspect) never use the Common Rooms, requires careful consideration. There are those who consider this a reasonable claim particularly when it comes from part-time students. We cannot agree with this view. Surely a University to fulfil its true function must be something more than a night school, something more than a mass producer of examination-stamped minds. Corporate life is worth something, and those who are anxious to preserve it are pained beyond measure to find advocates of the above view even among members of the staff.

We consider that if a student has to pay he is thereby more inclined to use the institutions provided. Consider what would happen if payment were entirely optional. Revenue would drop sharply, and the only thing to be done would be to throw back on the various societies the burden of financing their own activities. This would bear particularly heavily on certain sports; tournaments would be only for the relatively opulent students; we should be unable probably to main-

tain the Common Rooms in a habitable condition. It would, in short, be a hand-to-mouth existence. It is unthinkable. The principle of benefit cannot, we consider, be applied to the payment of the fee.

Ability to pay is the test, and machinery is provided to see that hardship cases are met. In a country where free education is provided over such a wide range, we consider that University students might show their appreciation of what has been done for them by contributing themselves to the further development of educational institutions; or don't they consider education an advantage? or don't they consider that they are being educated at all? It seems to be over again the old tale of things easily obtained not being appreciated. If access to higher education was more difficult than it is, perhaps students would realise its true worth more than they do.

In any case the institutions for those that care to support them are there. We consider them of value. Without them a University would not be worthy of the name. If students do not care to enter into College life that is their affair; but we will not have that life stained and crippled because of that altogether narrow view. All must pay. The onus is on the individual to prove that the payment of £1/1/- per annum would cause undue hardship. There are struggling students who meet their obligations without complaint. It is very often the case that those who make most noise have least justification for so doing.

Rowing Enterprize

PURCHASE OF AN EIGHT—A CLUBHOUSE AIMED AT.

The Auckland University Rowing Club has at last established itself as a factor in Auckland rowing circles. The club started off the season with all the gusto shown in previous years, but finished off with a flourish that has been sadly lacking before.

Ever since the club was started its aim has been to own its own plant and clubhouse, and this season, through the inability of the local association to lend the club an eight, the members set to work, and with the help and encouragement of the Students' Association, which has previously taken an apathetic attitude towards rowing, purchased an eight from Australia.

This has spurred on the other 'Varsity clubs in New Zealand, and it can safely be predicted that all four colleges will be using their own eights at Dunedin next Easter. In fact, Victoria have already purchased a boat from Sydney.

But the Auckland club do not intend to rest with one boat, and it is the hope of the club to have a clubhouse and plant of its own in the near future. This can only come about when the club has a large enough membership to warrant it setting out on its own and although the committee are very pleased at the large number of new members who have joined this winter there are still plenty of vacancies for more.

All the new members who joined this winter are showing promise, and with the seasoned material available and others in the making, the club hopes to make Auckland the home town of the Hebbler Shield for some time to come.

Any students who are interested and wish to take up rowing, should leave a letter in the rack for the Secretary.

—S. B. SHEATH.

Athletic Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Athletic Club was graced by a fair attendance. The following officers were appointed:—President, Professor J. A. Bartrum; Club Captain, Mr. P. Hackett; Deputy Club Captain, Mr. E. G. Kedgley; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. D. Ball; Committee, Messrs. J. E. Healy, A. R. Hill, R. C. Haszard, J. D. Lewis and J. Prendergast.

Several important alterations to the club constitution were made.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. H. D. Ball explained the conditions of the new scratch racing system, which came into operation this year. The annual report showed that the club had had a successful season, being second in the Inter-University tournament, and third in the Auckland Championships. H. K. Brainsby, Empire Games representative, and P. J. Hackett were congratulated on their performances.



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CRACCUM

The Newspaper of the A.U.C.
Students' Association

New Year's Proposals for the Stage

Craccum is pleased to be able to give students definite information concerning the proposals for a Gilbert and Sullivan show next year. To allay any misgivings that students may entertain, let us tell you now that it will be a bona fide Gilbert and Sullivan. None of the local rhymsters (with all due respect to their efforts in other spheres) will be permitted to mutilate the true original. The opera selected is "Patience." It is one of the simpler operas, and it is agreed that we should begin in a modest way, yet those who know it will look forward with pleasure to the rehearsals of tuneful and colourful scenes. We are privileged to have as our general supervisor, Professor Hollinrake, whose enthusiasm and energy will do much to flag life into this at present rather dull institution. Professor Hollinrake has a nucleus of enthusiasts in his Friday morning music lecture. These will be continued next year and an additional lecture it is hoped will be given on one evening of the week. This will enable interested part-time students to come into the show. We want their support every bit as much as that of the full timers.

Rehearsals will commence on Wednesday evening of the second week of next term in the Women's Common Room (provisionally) at 8 p.m. All students who wish to take part in chorus work or who have higher ambitions still must attend the rehearsals regularly. The opera will entail hard and persistent work. There will be no room for the dilettante. In particular we extend an appeal to the men students to favour this new departure. It opens up opportunities for interest to many more students than did the Carnival Plays of

the past. It will be your opera: and only if the standard is high will Professor Hollinrake be prepared to stage it. The appearance or non-appearance of the show depends entirely on the interest and efforts of the students.

The principle has been extended in addition to the financing of the show. The Executive is not prepared to lose money. Enough has been lost in the past on Carnival Plays. Members of the chorus and other students who are sufficiently interested will be asked to guarantee at least the running expenses of the show by the sale of the tickets. This should not be difficult for University students. If the houses are not guaranteed in this way the show will not go on. Again the success or failure of the venture depends on the students. We have no doubt whatever that they will rise to the occasion.

Costuming is one of the difficulties of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, likewise stage effects, but we have no doubt that there is sufficient enthusiasm and talent in the college to overcome these technical problems. The women students will be of particular help in the former, while it is hoped to obtain the services of our very competent architectural students to solve the latter set of difficulties.

The scores will be ordered from England, and will be here by the beginning of next year. Any students who can lend or otherwise make available for use musical scores of "Patience," would receive thanks from the Students' Association. Scores are expensive and rehearsals will be all the easier if a goodly number of copies are available.

This is all until next year. Remember we want you to take an interest. Rehearsals must start with a bang early next year, and will entail a lot of work. But it will be worth it. Can you do it?

The Lit. Club Meeting

For some unknown reason about fifty people attended the annual meeting of the Lit. Club. Miss Lusher gave a spirited, if somewhat inaudible rendering of the minutes of the last general meeting, where, it appeared Mr. Holmes had been playing ducks and drakes with the constitution. However, when the chairman proposed that the minutes should be taken as read, Mr. Holmes and Miss Odd said aye, and no one was awake to say no. So that was that. At this stage Mr. Spragg roused himself from his coma and put forth an eloquent plea for the Secretary to take her rightful place on the platform. But Mr. Harrowell raised his finely pencilled eyebrows, and with a meaning glance of contempt towards Mr. Spragg, announced that Miss Lusher was not fussy.

Then the election of officers was held. After fair competition the following were elected:—

President, Prof. Anderson; Vice-President, Prof. Sewell; Student Chairman, Miss Phoebe Norris; Treasurer, Mr. R. F. Spragg; Literary Section: Secretary, Miss Lewis;

Committee, Misses Lusher, Buddle, Shaw, Messrs. MacCarthy, Owen, Hogben; Dramatic Section: Secretary, Mr. Thompson; Committee, Misses Warren, Rowland, Cahill, Messrs. Bertram, Hogben, Holmes.

The Studio Stampede

It gives us great pleasure to inform everybody who was not present at this long-anticipated and much-announced function that it was a roaring success. Picture a superb orchestra (their masterpiece "The Blue Bells of Scotland"), a regal supper, some ducky little "cubicles" for sitting out, an enticing man-in-the-moon painted on the window, a few streamers, and intermittent showers of confetti from the ceiling, and you will have some idea of the metaphorically intoxicating atmosphere that pervaded the studio stampede. Here's to those bright boys the architects!

Among those present was Herr Adolph Hitler—yes, a real-dinkum, 'ail-but-it-must-be-Waitemata Hitler, with a realistic moustache and "a curl down the middle of his forehead." A bold young man, in dinner jacket, shirt, scanty underpants and sock suspenders, discreetly concealed his identity with a voluminous false beard. Mr. Ralph Pickmere, we have decided, has missed his true vocation. (It was that ruffle round his neck that gave us the inspiration.) He should have interviewed Mr. Worth instead of Mr. O'Shea when he left school. We feel confident that he would now be getting thousands a week as Ponto the Circus Clown.

There were ladies in beauty spots and flowing period frocks to ladies a la Marlene in slacks and jerseys, legs were much in evidence as shown by some dainty fairies and two young Back-to-Childhoods, who acted their parts with great gusto. The million-dollar prize for legs we award to Miss Nancy Northcroft, who looked petite and charming as a pierrette, with her pierrot escort. Another couple we noticed was one of our lawless young law students with one of our fresh young freshers, as a Turkish pair. The gentleman is naturally fair, but who had changed the shade of his locks for this night of nights, implored all present not on any account to remove the little red basin-hat from his head, as he was piebald underneath.

The Hongi Club had one or two of their little cluster-rounds during the evening. They were led by a dashing Mexican (has anybody heard of one Mr. Sealy?) with a red kerchief upon his noble brow, and a broad red sash round his waist. We think it worthy of mention that he made his elegant red and white flared trousers himself; and incidentally, we hear that he has now been overwhelmed by pleas from his lady friends to make their next pair of pyjamas.

Notes

Members of the Haslam Shield Shooting team may be interested to hear that their Tournament Badges have for some time been awaiting collection. These are procurable from the Tournament Delegates.

A leanin' towards Lenin's alright in its place,
But ere forcing on folks all the points in your case,
Just rush off to Russia and live there five years
And then we may cheerfully lend you our ears.

To hold views on free speech is now quite commonplace,
But please don't exclaim, 'Tis a perfect disgrace!
If others make use of the same claims as you
And criticise fully all your points of view.

—M.E.

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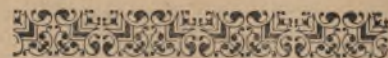


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CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
"Craccum,"

Dear Sir,—

I have recently received an anonymous document containing information of a most grave and disturbing nature, and which I hasten to put before you in order that steps may be taken to repair the damage that has been done. It relates (of course) to the recent scandal concerning freedom of speech, communism, Russia, and other unpleasant matters. This document alleges that Mr. Dickinson is not Mr. Dickinson. Make no mistake. Whatever he may appear to be he is not really that at all. The evidence is overwhelming. It appears that as the real Mr. Dickinson was about to board the boat in England he was brutally kidnapped by Soviet agents and a substitute substituted. Although no mention is made of the matter we may perhaps suppose Mrs. Dickinson was also brutally kidnapped and another substitute substituted. In this way the Russian authorities hoped to introduce into New Zealand Universities vicious doctrines and opinions from which they have till now been, of course, completely free. It is pointed out that in this way the impostor could get possession of all the necessary documents, that the real Mr. Dickinson was unknown on the boat, that he was not known to anybody on the staff of the University, nor, we believe, to anyone in New Zealand, except Mr. Rodwell, who, of course, was not here to confirm his identity. Hence these agents have been in a position to deceive the authorities and carry on for months their subveraine work.

The circumstantial evidence also is overwhelming. Consider the breadth and scope of this person's knowledge of political and economic history. Is it conceivable that anyone with such profound and thorough knowledge, with momentous matters and events at his finger tips, with those very finger tips on the pulse of a stricken world, is it possible I ask, that such a man should be a mere university lecturer?

It is clear that he is a very dangerous man. He knows all sorts of things that we don't want to be told about, and has all sorts of ideas that we don't want to think about. Therefore, it is obvious that he is a communist of the worst type.

I feel that I would be failing in my duty if I did not make these matters known to you. You will know how to act. I suggest that you publish this letter at once. This will act as a warning to all loyal students so that they can keep a watch on this person and prevent him from giving the authorities the slip. At the same time it will keep the fact that we are on his track utterly secret from him. For, although such a person may burgle the Students' Association rooms (and no doubt does so quite often) it is well known that no member of the staff will so far lower his dignity as to read "Craccum," let alone write to it. So by destroying this letter as soon as it is set up and printed there will be left no chance of this pseudo Mr. Dickinson discovering that all is lost.

I understand that the police of several continents and one or two oceans are endeavouring to trace the real Mr. Dickinson, but of course there is very little hope. Still, I am sure all your readers will join with me in a heartfelt wish that he may yet be returned safe and sound to his family and friends.

I am, etc.,
KRYPTOS.

P.S.—I have taken the precaution of burning the anonymous document.

Dear Sir,—

I read with interest the letter of "Give and Take" in your last issue.

Several points are not clear. One definite suggestion there is to us, the average students—that we shall be more energetic next election-day. There are in this College those who on principle will not cast blind votes. I suggest the powers that be do a little more to lighten our darkness. The one election meeting held this year was rather near polling day—besides, am I not right in saying that all those introduced to us—or rather exhibited—were already nominees, and that nominations had then closed?

There are many average students in this College who dislike being commanded to vote for the nominees of certain rather fast-rooted factions. I am not a prize organizer but I think that there is something rather blighting about the lack of social atmosphere in the College. Unless one can find one's way into one of the cliques, College social life is most conspicuous by its absence. And the fault I suggest is not only that of the average student.

Of course, we have some of the right kind of students among us—of course we have talent, or had, for it may be fast disappearing from lack of use. But I claim it is most discouraging when one's activities in the lit. club are confined to voting for people one knows only by sight, to watching repeatedly the same bunch of actors and actresses 'strut and fret their hour upon the stage,' or to sitting alone among a crowd at a lit. reading. The burnt coffee and bath buns are a bright spot, and should lighten things up—but they don't. And may I suggest that in some of the higher circles "enthusiasm" is rather patronisingly looked upon as "fresh." No, these things aren't obvious but they're part of the atmosphere.

Now may I offer a few suggestions?

I suggest it was a bad mistake not making a fresher member compulsory on the Women's House Committee this year.

I suggest the women need some kind of discussion group (I've noticed lots of women with ideas they'd like to expound). Why not make those rather dull winter coffee evenings into something of the sort. At any rate let it not be at an hour when all those likely to be interested have a lecture.

I suggest that on winter afternoons the circle round the fire be more elastic.

I suggest that some system of retiring from the Executive be inaugurated to avoid stagnation.

I suggest the really loyal and interested members put their heads together about speeding up a Col-

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Examination Paper

Question 1: Describe the origin and growth of the Olsen & Greer Sartorial Reform Movement in New Zealand. Write brief notes on (a) Olsen, (b) Greer, (c) Olsen and Greer.

Question 2: A suit costs £5/15/6 at Olsen & Greer's, and £7/5/- elsewhere. How much would a similar suit in asbestos suiting, with a kilt substituted for trousers, cost in real money?

Note: £1 sterling=4.883½ dollars=25 New Zealand shillings=96 yen. Say yen.

Question 3: What do you think of the examiners?



Question 4: Discuss Olsen & Greer's "New Departure" Tailoring, making special reference to its fit and style. Enlarge on its low price and good value. Illustrate with panegyrics.

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lege Hostel, for that is really one of our greatest necessities in regard to social life.

Just one more suggestion for you've probably noticed that one person is capable of giving only (or mostly) one-sided suggestions. Finally I suggest that through the medium of this paper the students of the College (average as well as R.L. and I.) be asked for suggestions for creating a new, revived atmosphere.

May I add I don't think balls and coffee evenings much stimulus, especially when the work, which should be half the fun, is reserved for those few R.L. and I. members.

I trust you will consider my criticism indicative of some degree of interest rather than inane.

I am,
AN AVERAGE STUDENT.

The Editor,
"Craccum,"

Dear Sir,—

I was surprised and pained to see that, in the last issue of "Craccum," although two articles were written about the arts girls v. men basketball match, absolutely no mention was made of the great game in which the science staff drew with the science girls. Has everyone forgotten Prof. Burbidge's occasional resort to football tactics, Mr. Bullen's wonderful "potted" goals, and the herculean efforts of Prof. Bartrum and Mr. Jebson at defence, as, thrusting aside all obstacles, they pursued the ball, or their opponents, with unfailing ardour; the triumph of mind over matter as Dr. Briggs climbed the goal-post to escape Miss Rennie's clutches and gave the onlookers a convincing illustration of the truth of the evolutionary theory? Does no one remember Mr. Bell's typhoon tactics in the centre, and how, when he had knocked Miss Smeed down he apologised profusely to Miss Harris; and Dr. Brown's contortions, and his opponents' discomfiture in his "look one way, throw another" theory; and the steady sure game played by Mr. Yallop? The spirit of the College must be indeed decadent that no one has before this celebrated in verse or prose the so noble effort of a noble staff.

I am, etc.,
W.W.W.

Hongi's Wake-up

A VINDICATION, A CONDEMNATION, AND AN EXHORTATION.

In days of old when nights were bold and the Hongis entered the Queen's Arcade on a jumping jatin, to the consternation of the local constabulary, or even in the days when Her Majesty Queen Bernard, of Spain, abdicated on the Post Office steps and Lady Godiva rode the streets on J. J. Craig's prancing palfrey; or in days when the students went through every pocket at Eden Park for the Earthquake Fund, ah, those were the days, the days when men were men, and pansies were flowers, when the Hongis spurred the barmen to perpetual motion. Alas, those "things are now taken from us, and become portions and parcels of the dreadful past."

If we had to work like steam-engines from dawn till dewy eve, life would not be worth living. Fortunately, we have other innocent (more or less) diversions, and one of the things which keeps the big bad wolf of mental depression and gloom from the door of the A.U.C. is an organisation which will give us a little bit of "edifying uplift tempered with innocuous hilarity." This, of course, refers to the Hongis, now by unanimous approval termed the Pansy Brigade. Whence the degeneration from the doughty deeds supra? Undoubtedly the local Hitlers have imposed a few restrictions on their hallowed activities, but what is that to men who drink Waitemata and Mrs. Odd's coffee? "Awake! Aeolian lyre, awake!" Whoa! No, that's wrong. But perhaps you see what I mean.

Let us consider these mighty fallen. Perhaps they feel rather loath to be curiously regarded in public or to raise their voices in the perpetration of vocal villainies unbecoming to nice gentlemanly young men. One marked their exemplary behaviour at the Graduation Ceremony, something like the "six little singing boys—dear little souls! In nice clean faces, and nice white stoles." With the accentuation of these milkslop tactics we begin to feel unhealthy tingles under the singlet when comparing our local rowdies with the organised merry-makers of other centres. Students who attended the tournament will give further information in this respect. Ask any member of the Auckland public what he thinks, but put on your running shoes first.

"Give me the young man who has brains enough to make a fool of himself," said someone, but it would appear that the Hongis lack this qualification. They seem to be as much organised as straws in a whirlwind. The chief weapon of this perambulating clown's association is the Haka. Well, why not make it the war-dance it is supposed to be? Those who had the misfortune to have their ears offended with their anaemic rendering in the Town Hall on Capping Day either laughed themselves sick or didn't. They cannot bring the plea of lack of scope for their activities—there is ample opportunity for them to make better fools of themselves than they have been doing. Wake up, Hongis! Let us see improved prancings from your present puerile—"here, steady lad, they don't allow free speech in this place; get off the air!"

—RUFUS.

BASKETBALL

This year the University Club was strong enough to enter five teams in the Auckland Basketball Association's competitions, the Blues and the Whites in the Senior A Grade, the Colts in the Senior B Grade, and two teams in the A and B sections of the Second Grade.

The Blues team is so far unbeaten in the Senior Championship, and is at present leading by a margin of five points. It has worked well as a team, and has achieved a really good combination which has perhaps contributed more than anything to its continued success and unbeaten record this season.

It was thought at the beginning of the year that there would be

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little to choose between the Blues and the Whites, and that the latter team might be expected to acquit itself with some degree of success in the Senior Grade. Although the Whites team did not quite fulfil its early promise, it has played some fine games and occupies no mean position on the Championship ladder. A distinct improvement has been shown in the Colts team this season, and it has more than held its own in the Senior B Grade. Especially is the Second Grade A team to be congratulated on its performances this year. Composed mostly of Freshers it has displayed great enthusiasm and a most praiseworthy spirit of team loyalty. The Second Grade B team unfortunately has been afflicted with the complaint that always seems to attach itself to the last team, and great difficulty has been experienced each week in trying to fill up the places of defaulters. By the end of the season a worn and haggard look of strain begins to appear upon the faces of the unfortunate officials responsible for the team's numbers.

Once again the University Club has contributed its fair share of members to the Auckland representative team which took part in the New Zealand tournament at Dunedin. P. Norris (captain), M. Deighton, M. Pettit, R. Percy, J. Rennie, M. Shaw and J. Stichbury of the Blues team were all selected to represent Auckland, and J. Rennie and J. Stichbury were chosen for the North Island team. K. Sellers of the Colts, has been selected for the Senior B Grade representative trials, and L. Maloy, for the Second Grade A representative team.

Altogether the 1934 season has been a most successful one, both in the standard of play, and in the enthusiasm and strength of the Club, and its officers hope that they will be maintained in the future.

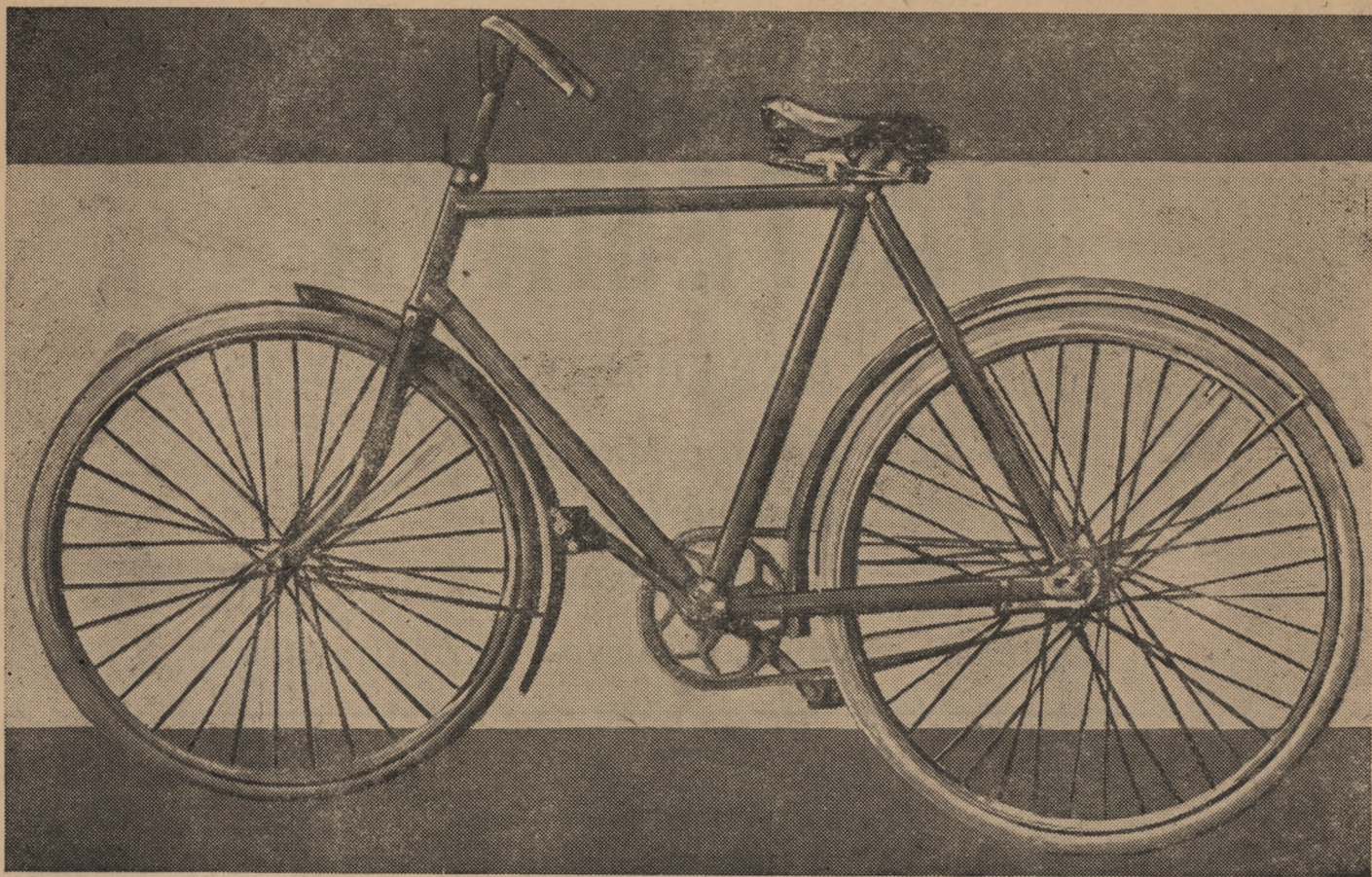
Mrs. Lasterlic in Heaven

Upon a winter's day a portly car bore Mrs. Lasterlic to Jones' bazaar. Her husband, who died vaguely years ago, was looking down from Heaven in some woe. Poor man! he feared that even God could not protect him from the punishment he got. When they were happily married. "Alas!" he sighed, peering from Heaven, and trembled as he eyed his wife who sat as soft as on a sofa, a victim soon to a rejected chauffeur. (The cook, who loved too well a P.C.'s side, drove the chauffeur as far as suicide, and he, imbued with notions Bolshevik, removed with him poor Mrs. Lasterlic.) The car crashed off the road, and scattered round blood, fur and chocolates on the unfortunate ground. While two miles off stood Lady Jones, surprised that Mrs. Lasterlic had not arrived. Lord Jones was there, his jamworks left behind, and that young pink-cheeked curate, sweetly kind. She tapped her artificial teeth in pain, fondled her wig, applied some rouge again, diffusing heavily, both here and there, an (artificial) scent upon the air.

But Mrs Lasterlic, with one loud sigh, Of "Save my Pom!" gazed upward at the sky, Swore softly once or twice, and finally Decided that 'twas time for her to see If Heaven was all the wireless-parson said, Or more like Bertrand Russell, when you're dead. Her soul climbed trimly out, and shot to Heaven As rapidly as Conan Doyle's did, even, Slipped through the needle's eye with such great ease No camel ever equalled in that squeeze, And all the angels thought—or all who spied it, How useful ere you die it is to diet. But when she fluttered out on Heaven's floor, Her first thought was, "Why, what an awful bore!" "No harps, no crowns, no haloes, no gold wall, No angel choirs, no friends, and worst of all, Why, everybody's poor! There's Mrs. Smith, The quiet country cousin from Penrith, Who used to see Lord Jones! And there he goes Our butcher boy, with warts upon his nose! O God, I can't stand this! Some other day, But really now, I haven't time to stay!" (Her husband, hid behind an angel's wings, Clutched his moustache and prayed for better things.) But Mrs. Lasterlic has bent her flight To where a distant, but a brilliant light

Promised a lodging. As she went she muttered, "Some people don't know which side bread is buttered. I must say Heaven is quite neat and bright, But as for style—the radio was right!" But even as she spoke, before her nose A glorious building, newly painted, rose. Square in the doorway slumped a handsome hound, Who wagged his eager tail upon the ground, His three red tongues, in tones that soothed and bent her, Said, "Mrs. Lasterlic, would you please enter?" So in she went, and read without a fear, "The Band of Hope are They Who Enter Here," Preceded by a minion clad in red Into a hall where other famous dead Arose to greet her. By the hand one grasped her, A man as handsome as a dancing master, Who, leading her towards a gilded throne, Said, "Mrs. Lasterlic, assume your own!" "Your friends are here, you won't find Hell a bore, But if you do, we'll send for Mr. Pshaw!" So Mrs. Lasterlic is reigning yet Where you and I, I fear, will soon be met. It's true the heat's so great they sometimes faint, But India's Viceroy has the same complaint, Who like a statesman lives in regions sandy To share the top headlines with Mr. Ghandi.

—E.D.M.



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