

CRACCUM

FINAL EDITION

VOL. VIII. No. 3

A.U.C., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1934

PRICE: ONE PENNY

EXECUTIVE NOTES

The Executive is pleased to be able to report that the campaign on Stud. Ass. Fees has met with a good deal of success. As was to be expected, a certain amount had to be written off the books, hardship cases meeting with the consideration that they have always received from the Association. The Executive was particularly concerned about the principle involved and did not feel inclined to extend leniency to those students who had not paid their Fee and who had in addition been ungracious enough to ignore all correspondence and notices. The names of these persons, whose conduct the Executive considers extremely discourteous, have been posted in accordance with a warning issued some time ago. Further action has been taken in conjunction with the College authorities who are in entire agreement with the stand the Executive has taken.

Efforts are being made at the present time to secure an afternoon per week during the forthcoming year free of lectures from 2 to 5 p.m. The afternoon will possibly be Wednesday. The Staff has great difficulty in arranging the Time Tables and we are very grateful to the Professors concerned for the sympathetic way with which they have received our requests. Finality will not, of course, be reached until next year.

In anticipation of a successful end to the negotiations, the Executive announces that an Inter-Faculty Tournament on a wide scale will be launched next year providing that student support is forthcoming. In the first Term a Tennis Tournament should be of interest and may bring latent talent to light for the Inter-Varsity Easter Tournament. Athletics should also take a prominent place in the scheme. During the second Term Football, Hockey and Basketball will provide plenty of outlet for the energies of the full-time student. It is thought that other activities such as Debating and Dramatic work might well be included in the general scheme. A scale of points will be arranged and the Executive hopes to secure a trophy for annual competition among the Faculties. It is felt that there is a real need in the College at present for some sort of organised competition which will serve to bring the students, most of all the full-time students, into contact with one another. Most students feel that the life of the College could be brighter. "Craccum" has harped on this theme ad nauseam in the past few issues. Next year we hope things will be better right from the start. Students, we want your help, your criticism, your ideas!

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

Ten little Undergrads., going in to dine,
One ate a penny bun, and then there were nine.
Nine little Undergrads., came in rather late,
Pip Ardern glared at one, and then there were eight.
Eight little Undergrads., on the path to Heaven,
One joined the S.C.M., and then there were seven.
Seven little Undergrads., up to Library tricks,
Miss Minchin spotted one, and then there were six.
Six little Undergrads., stabbing frogs alive,
One stabbed himself instead, and then there were five.
Five little Undergrads., causing an uproar,
Prof. Walker pounced on one, and then there were four.
Four little Undergrads., reading for Degree,
One swotted far too hard, and then there were three.
Three little Undergrads., selected for a Blue,
One hadn't paid his fee, and so there were two.
Two little Undergrads., looking for some sun,
One sat in Albert Park, and then there was one.
One little Undergrad., struggling with a sum,
Professor Forder showed him how, and then there was none.
No little Undergrads., no fees to pay the Profs.,
They've all resorted to the dole, and now they're dinkum "toffs."

THE FOLLY OF BEING TOO ECONOMICAL!

On a bench economic a fresher girl sat,
Sighing "Belshaw! Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"
And I said to that fresher girl, "Why do you sit
Sighing 'Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw?'"
"Is it death of your grand-mother, Fresher?" I cried,
"Or a morbid desire to commit suicide?"
With a shake of her red little head, she replied,
"Oh Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"
She groaned in despair as she sat on that bench,
Sighing "Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"
"Oh, what can it be that troubles thee, wench,
Sighing 'Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw?'"
"'Tis the thought of death-duties, taxation and quotas,
The age of machinery, specialised motors,
Income tax, bank rates, trust company floaters,
Oh, Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"
Thus saying, she sank in a heap on the floor,
Groaning "Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"
And as I went out of the lecture-room door
She moaned "Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"
Provision of credit, and tariffs, she learns;
Exchange rates, gold standards, increasing returns,
Till she meets with approval from Belshaw in "terms,"
She'll groan "Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw, Prof. Belshaw!"

—F.M.

MORE BLARNEY

We have it on good authority that Mr. Blank, student of the College, when travelling on a ferry-boat recently, began idly whistling that delightful lyric, "The Rose of Tralee."

Scarcely had he begun when a dear old lady sitting near him produced a bag of what are, we understand, known as boiled lollies, and offered it to him. When Mr. Blank had stowed away a succulent sweet the old lady remarked, in what he took to be an Irish brogue, "Ye would not have got that if ye had not been whistling 'The Rose of Tralee.'"

It was suggested to Mr. Blank that the old lady's motive was to keep him quiet, but he was convinced that this was not the case. "No," he said simply, "she was touched."

Evidently!

LABOUR DAY FLANNEL DANCE

An attractive-looking poster depicting a mournful-looking octopus directing dirty looks at a gentleman who looked suspiciously like the devil, lured one hundred students away from 1066 and all that on Labour Night to the last Common Room Dance of the year.

Craccum's representative awards bouquets to the organizers for the floor and the music, both of which were excellent. A particularly repellent raspberry is, however, awarded those mean-minded persons who arranged the so-called supper. There wasn't enough orange drink and there weren't enough biscuits and what there were were of doubtful quality. The ginger ale alone stood out of the ruck, but unfortunately the ladies and gentlemen on the Men's and Women's House Committees had previously recognised this and so this intoxicating drink rapidly disappeared down the aforesaid ladies' and gentlemen's throats.

In between two dances Messrs. Spragg, Holmes, and Carnachan sang a very, very long Scotch song whilst Mr. Jones attacked the piano. The audience applauded heartily at the conclusion of the item.

The stentorian tones of Mr. Spragg were again heard in the Monte Carlo, when he distinguished himself by his efficient directing of the traffic. This exciting contest was won by Mr. Halstead and Miss Smith, who blushing carried off the magnificent prizes donated by the House Committees.

Seen at the Show: Miss Phoebe Norris, looking particularly full of the joy of life; a red-faced law student giving a spirited, if inaccurate, tap-dancing exhibition; Miss Bull in yellow riding breeches; Mr. Sealy's smile; Miss Cicely Butcher in gum boots; Miss J. Miller smoking (apparently) her first cigarette; a blue-velvet vision getting a great deal of attention from the susceptible males.



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CRACCUM

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

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The Editor has received a friendly letter of criticism from a student of the College, and hopes that he will receive many more of a like variety. This student feels that "Craccum" is not sufficiently personal. In actual fact, the Editor has to restrain himself from becoming very personal indeed, at times; however, we realise that "personal" was not meant in this sense. What he means is, that more space should be devoted to the reporting of College events, social, sporting, and, last but not least, intellectual. In this way, he considers, more students would feel that their doings at 'Varsity are being noticed (and those who are noticed now we trow would be still more notorious) commented on, and perhaps even criticised. Now the Editor is quite in accord with these sentiments, but as far as student activities in the last Term are concerned, they have been, and are, practically at a standstill. Everybody knows how the last term is spent, and the Profs know how the first two terms are spent. However this idea will be very useful for next year, and if the Club Secretaries and other Committee members are prepared to co-operate "Craccum" will certainly be delighted to criticise, for instance, the procedure of the Annual Meeting of the Litt Club, to throw a penetrating searchlight into the nefarious activities of the S.C.M., and to report almost (but not quite) verbatim the learned disquisitions conducted in the Mathematical Society, and we might find room for a little scandal here and there. We shall have to find a reporter who is persona grata in the Women's Common Room.

One further point raised by the student critic is a very good one.

Apparently the letter from an overseas student, published in "Craccum" some time ago, aroused interest among Engineering students. The Editor is very pleased to hear this. It is suggested that more of this sort of thing might appear in the pages of "Craccum." A selected number of correspondents would be able to provide material of interest to a large number of students whose activities lie in widely different fields. There must be many students in this College who correspond with people overseas. The Editor suggests that such people request a letter or two of a general nature which would be of interest to the students at large; such topics as the possibility of employment overseas, and the conditions of student life are of universal interest. If, at the present time, students have in their possession letters suitable for publication, the Editor will be pleased to have them.

This is the last number of "Craccum" for this year, thank Heaven! We hope all students survive the coming ordeal and receive suitable New Year Cards from Mr. Norris. If the card is not to your liking, sit down and write a strong letter of protest to "Craccum." In March "Craccum" will be pleased to arrange introductions to the College Staff. Only absolutely genuine cases need apply, and we advise you to be prepared to travel. Everything will, of course, be treated in the strictest confidence.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the tragic death of Mr. C. F. Stratford, a part-time student of the College. Mr. Stratford, who has suffered considerably as a result of sickness, was on the teaching staff of the Kowhai Junior High School, and his death came as a very great shock to those connected with him in Swimming, Sporting and Tramping circles. We extend our sympathies to his relatives.

MIRANDA MOSES OUT OF DANGER

LATEST BULLETIN

Friends of Miss Miranda Moses, student of the Auckland University College, will rejoice to learn that she is at length considered to be out of danger. Miss Moses, who for the last four months has been prostrated in the Auckland Hospital by brain fever and acute inflammation of the eardrums, was interviewed by a member of our staff yesterday.

"I was approaching the main entrance of the University," said Miss Moses, "on the 8th of June of this year, famous in New Zealand history as the tenth day of the trial for murder of William Alfred Bayly, when a man who had been contemplating the building moved towards me."

"Is this the Supreme Court?" he asked.

When I recovered consciousness I was in the Auckland Hospital."

We wish to express our sympathy to Miss Moses, and our admiration for the way in which she has sustained this nerve-racking experience.

OLD MOORE'S UTOPIA

(A hitherto unpublished fragment of 18th century verse, fortunately retrieved for posterity by the labours of a member of the English Faculty.)

... The Prophet brushed the cobwebs from his beard

And thus in verse his oracles declared:

"In days not distant I prophetic see
That many wondrous things shall come to be:

For some shall rise, the Bowdlers of their age,

To purify the cinema and stage,
Curtail the film with strict censorial shears,

To suit it for the infant's eyes and ears.

No one on Sundays shall sell cigarettes,

No one with bookies take up secret bets.

No more unpunished shall the fierce Alsatian

Destroy the peace, and trousers of the nation.

No more shall we the insidious Magazine

Import; nor on our beaches shall be seen

The human form, save clad from neck-to-knee.

No more shall backs be bare for all to see,

No more shall garments fastened be with zips,

And men no more go down to sea in slips.

No more shall Cubist painters in the Gallery

Excite the letter-writer's caustic raillery,

The eager radio-listener nothing hears

Save "Talks on Shell-fish" or "The Gondoliers!"

Ancestral voices prophesying ill

And sound of loud discussion shall be still;

Slumber shall settle down from shore to shore

And the whole land resound a general snore!"

—Panurge.

THE A.U.C. MUSIC CLUB

In view of the excellent attendance of students during the past year at Professor Hollinrake's Friday morning musical appreciation lectures, we have decided to form an A.U.C. Music Club with that class as a nucleus. The meetings during next year will take the same form as did the classes this year—half-an-hour's talk on musical subjects by Professor Hollinrake, and the rest of the time devoted to unison and part-singing.

We hope that all those who attended and enjoyed the classes this year, will join up again next year and will tell all their friends about it, so that we may be able to have a large and enthusiastic membership.

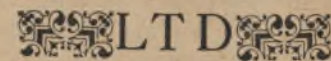
We have applied to the Stud. Ass. for an annual grant which we hope will help us to build up a library of our own song-books, etc., and will enable us to hold socials in the form of musical evenings during the year.

If possible, Professor Hollinrake will hold the meetings next year during the lunch-hour, so that as many part-time students as are interested may join us.

Notices will be posted up early in the year notifying students of the day and time of the meetings.



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CORRESPONDENCE

BLUES FOR ALL

The Editor, "Craccum."

Sir,—

The rumour has reached me that it is proposed to alter the Blues Rules. So far the proposal has my full support. I have already, and as long as twelve months ago, suggested to the Executive a number of very necessary alterations (so far, alas, without result!). But the proposals now mooted are such as impel me after a discreet silence of over four years, to address myself to you again in the hopes of drawing the attention of your readers to the invidious nature of the scheme.

These proposals (which are supposed to emanate from the Football Club), amount, in short, to providing that a certain proportion (say two-thirds) of each College representative team shall receive Blues.

If this suggestion is a fair sample of the spirit of the Football Club then I can quite understand why its senior team dropped like a plummet from last year's premiership to this year's narrow escape from being relegated to Senior B Grade. The effect of the proposals, if carried, would obviously be to place a premium on mediocrity. Mediocrity! Heaven knows the College stinks with mediocrity just now. And yet it is proposed to give a Blue to any senior player who loafs through the season on his reputation.

And exactly what value is to be placed on a Blue gained under such rules? The man or woman who really deserved a Blue would rightly despise it—and so would anyone who was conversant with the position.

The chief argument advanced in favour of the proposals is, I understand, that those to whom it is awarded do not value it because they also receive what is considered a higher honour—a New Zealand University Blue or provincial representative honours. This argument is based on ignorance of the facts. It is, of course, true that, generally speaking, the standard for Blues is, roughly, that of provincial representation or N.Z.U. Blue. But that is the least part of the tale. From its inception (and I speak with authority, having been Chairman for the past three years), the Blues Committee has striven to establish a standard of quality which is not affected by the fluctuations of standards in those honours. I know of at least one case (it was a year or two ago) when the winner of a New Zealand University Blue was refused a College Blue, his performance being considered of insufficient merit. On the other hand, there have been several cases of competitors who were placed third only in the athletic sports at Tournament and who, on the excellence of their performance, were awarded College Blues. And there is the common case of the man who just misses representative honours and who receives his College Blue.

A high, but not too high, standard of achievement is required. The

Committee desires to be satisfied that the man has given of his best. The result is that the Blue carries with it a real distinction, and hall-marks the recipient as being something decidedly better than the average. It stands for something.

Not so the present proposal. It is only an admission of defeat, an indication of moral and physical flabbiness. If a majority of students are in favour of it, the fact will do more to divorce them from public respect than all the Communist utterances that were ever imagined, let alone published. The Communists are at least given credit for a certain amount of courage. For myself, I should be glad to allow the two years which I served as President of the Association, hitherto my proudest memory, to be lost in oblivion.

I am, etc.,

—J. NIGEL WILSON.

* * * *

A.U.C.,

Sept. 21st.

The Editor of "Craccum."

Sir,—Having read that an effort at Gilbert and Sullivan is to be made next year, in place of the usual extravaganza, every student must be eager to know whether the presentation will be a bona fide Gilbert and Sullivan performance, or whether such shocking atrocities as those of 1934 will be perpetrated. We fear that someone's misguided genius will eventuate somewhat after the following manner, according to the "Gondoliers" and the "Mikado" (possible renderings in brackets):

"I am a young prof., grave and serious,

Who is about to make his stand,
Trying to maintain a pose imperious

With a demeanour nobly bland
(When his broadcast has been banned)

Freedom of speech is meritorious;
Rationalism just takes the bun—
But I find the "Herald" is too censorious:

With controversy I am done."

Or a chorus—

"Four worthy profs quite new are we,

Meek as a new prof. well can be,
Filled to the brim with joie de vie
(afternoon-tea),

Four worthy profs quite new."

These deplorable specimens clearly illustrate the risk that is being taken, and as the temptation will probably prove irresistible, it is to be urged that the undertaking be given up.

—S.P.

Editor's Note: This reads suspiciously as though the writer wanted the Editor to say her verses were really quite good, and not "atrocities" at all. But the Editor is not biting.

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Examination Paper

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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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Auckland University College,
18th October, '34.

The Editor, "Craccum,"
A.U.C.

Dear Sir,—In the last issue of "Craccum" "An Average Student", in decrying the lack of social atmosphere in the College, attaches the blame for such a deficiency in student life, upon what he is pleased to describe as "cliques" and "higher circles."

Supporting this suggestion, your correspondent exemplifies his remarks with reference to the Literary Club. He suggests that "the same bunch of actors and actresses" are not infrequently to be seen on the stage, and finds their repeated appearances "discouraging". It should not be necessary to point out to him that there are not a great many College folk who have the time, or are willing, to take part in plays. Last year the Committee had three offers from male students to take active part in productions. One must not lose sight of the fact, either, that all who offer their services are not necessarily suited for casting in many plays.

The Dramatic Committee brings its productions before students as efficiently as is possible, but it must be remembered that a very large proportion of College people are in attendance for only short periods daily, and are unable to spare much time for rehearsals. If "An Average Student" could make concrete suggestions to the Committee, I am convinced that that body would be most grateful.

I am, etc.,

J. N. THOMSON.

ACADEMIC DIGNITY AND THE PIPE

There has been a certain amount of humour expended on the subject of one of our Professors who has the habit of smoking in the corridor. It has been pointed out that while the Prof. Board has issued a decree prohibiting smoking within the precincts of the College, except in the Men's Common, at least one of its members rarely is seen in the corridors without his pipe either in his hand or his mouth. Now I do not want particularly now to advocate the granting of permission for smoking in the Women's Com. Room, but I feel that it is infra dig for anyone, student or professor, to smoke in the corridors of a University or even of a University College. We are accused of being a glorified night school and I feel the attack has some justification unless we can attain more academic dignity than to have such promiscuous breaking of our laws practised by our own legislators.

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THAT PHOTOGRAPH

The late executive has been photographed. It serves them right. The result should be enough to cure them of the habit for ever. Let us consider them in detail:—

Mr. Haslam needs a shave. His tie is crooked and he is showing too much sock.

Miss Macky may be easily recognised by that charming smile.

Mr. Hill gives his celebrated imitation of Little Lord Fauntleroy. He has obviously done his hair for the occasion.

The left side of Mr. Stacey's face is calm and placid, but the right side wears an expression of bitterness and disillusionment.

Mr. Postlewaite merely looks vacant.

Miss Norris is wearing that expression which, we understand, makes even the most hardened schoolchild quail.

Miss Warren's tie is crooked.

Miss Robertson appears to have been enveloped in a misty shroud, which has somewhat hampered our researches.

Mr. Blair seems to be struggling with a deep sorrow.

Mr. Lewis appears to be in danger of being pushed out of the photograph. He is obviously resisting.

Mr. McCarthy is treating the photographer to one of his celebrated steely glares.

Mr. Ricketts' expression, on one side of his face at least, shows him to be contemplating several breaches of the Crimes Act.

Messrs. Rushworth and Spragg are nondescript except for their ears, which remind one of handles on a loving cup. Both, we think, might, with advantage, have worn clean collars for the occasion.

"Craccum" fervently hopes that this photograph is not an index of the character of any of these ladies and gentlemen.

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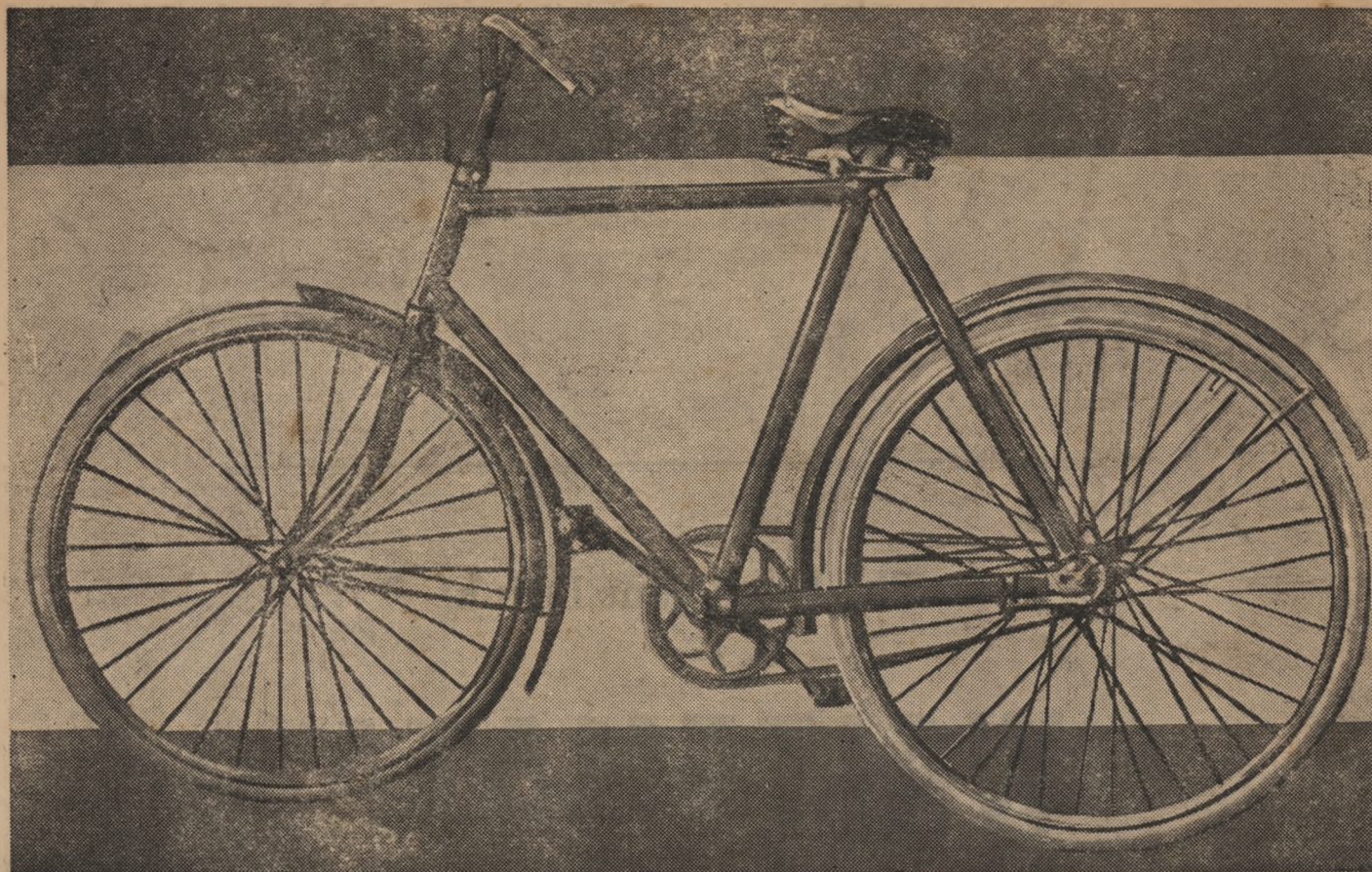
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