

Craccum

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April, 1942.

Price—Threepence.

"ODD JOB" — OR ISS IT?

THE CASE FOR STUDENT RELIEF.

"Assistant-Secretary and general odd jobs (e.g., Extra-Curricular and Student Relief) . . ."

—"Craccum," March, 1942, Page One.

I wonder who was responsible for the above description of the work of one of the members of the Students' Executive, and how far it represents not only the attitude of Executive, but also that of the students of A.U.C. in general. I do not intend to take up the cudgels for Extra-Curricular Activities, but I feel that such a deplorable attitude to Student Relief should not go unchallenged. Student Relief an "odd job"!

During the first few months of the present war thousands of people were imprisoned throughout Europe. Many of these were University students—in prisoner-of-war camps and alien internment camps in France, Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Lithuania, and elsewhere, cut off from home and friends, starving, freezing and perhaps wounded, dispirited and bitter, their prospect limited in space by barbed wires, and in time by the thought of nothing to do and nothing to hope for. Imagine yourself in their place! The organisation of International Student Service (ISS) did so, and at once swung into action. Its Emergency Committee met in Geneva within a fortnight of the outbreak of hostilities. By the spring of 1940, Pa Romana, the International Federation of Roman Catholic Students, the World's Student Christian Federation, and ISS were working together in the "European Student Relief Fund," forming a "common front of student solidarity to face the tragic consequences of destructive warfare."—Student Relief an "odd job"!

Under the title of "Students in Europe must Live!" the first report of the amazing work already done has been published. A booklet of fifty pages, it gives a graphic impression of the situation in Europe, details of material (books, paper, pencils, clothes, etc.) supplied to student prisoners, and some idea of the immense tasks still to be tackled.—Student Relief an "odd job"!

The plight of students involved in the European phase of the war is not the only call on ISS. We must remember the earlier victims of Fascist tyranny in Spain, many of whom have been interned under miserable conditions in France since 1937. A typical cable from Geneva: "Plight Spanish students spending third winter concentration camps tragic. Expanding programme immediate relief emigration through Quakers."—Student Relief an "odd job"!

Think, too, of China. After four years of war her students carry on under great difficulties. Bombed out of their universities, they have suffered terrible privations, trekking over a thousand miles to Central China to resume work, their classrooms caves, storage warehouses, or makeshift erections. To them have been sent warm clothes, books and other study materials as well as money and medical supplies, quinine worth £80 being sent from New Zealand alone.—Student Relief an "odd job"!

What is to be done this year? Obvious fields of activity suggest themselves:—

1. European prisoners of war and interned refugees.
2. Spanish refugee students from Franco's Spain.
3. Chinese students in their refugee universities.
4. British prisoners of war: including New Zealand students captured in Greece and Crete, etc.
5. New Zealand students in camps here and overseas: efforts are being made to provide study facilities, and this scheme will need our assistance.

Student Relief, far from being an "odd job," is a work of major importance, and one of the few constructive activities arising out of the war. This being so we must all pledge ourselves to sacrifice for those students in less fortunate circumstances than ourselves, and demand that the Executive immediately set up an active Student Relief Committee.

In the meantime I am sure Miss Buddle will be only too pleased to receive contributions. Last year A.U.C. collected £103 for Student Relief. Now the need is greater and more urgent.

GIVE TO STUDENT RELIEF!

—Neil Smith.

EXTRA CURRICULAR LECTURES.

Science and Society.

Though few people seem to know or care, extra-curricular lectures for 1942 have started. On Tuesday, April 14th, Mr. Sagar addressed a miserably small band of enthusiasts in the Women's Common Room, on the subject of "The Development of Science." A considerable proportion of the attendance consisted of physics students while Arts folk, to whom the series is intended to open up new worlds of thought were, considering their numbers in the College, feebly represented. The lectures all aim to stress the relation between Science and Social Living, so that a method of presentation is possible which avoids both speculations based on data be-

yond the scope of most of us, and also the risky expositions of the "popular" scientist. The form, then, of the lectures is of wide appeal. And their content, too—for the programme includes Mr. Rodwell on "Science and the Revolution in Industry," Dr. Andrews on "Science in New Zealand," and Mr. Robb on "The Frustration of Science in Modern Society." Such subjects are essential to the development of a complete attitude to life in society to-day—this must be obvious to any student, arts or science. For the arts man is preoccupied with subjects which aim (or should aim) to make possible a deeper, more subtle reaction to reality, and has only a vague realisation of the effect of science upon the life of men in society. But the science student, too, becomes immersed (or should do) in a movement which is working for a more complex insight into reality, and is apt to lose sight of the sociological potentialities revealed by science. Neither science nor art is a complete world; even between them they make, not a complete concrete world but, as Caudwell points out, a complete hollow world—to be filled out by the concrete living of real men. Surely the insanity of much of our world makes it imperative that every forum for sane discussion of problems of this type—and heaven knows they are few enough—should be used to the very fullest.

SENIOR ORATORY.

Audience As Usual.

This year the Senior Oratory Cup goes to Maha Winiata. The audience was treated to one of the finest speeches heard in the Debating Club for some time. Winiata spoke on "The Maori Contribution to Post-war Reconstruction." He had a message to deliver. He knew its contents and he believed in what he was saying. His task was to convince his pakeha audience that the often over-looked Maori had something worthwhile to give to the future of New Zealand. This he did with great success.

At the present time, he said, New Zealanders are of two races. In the future they would be welded into one great and vigorous nation, neither purely pakeha nor purely Maori. To this nation the Maori would make a spiritual gift. He would re-introduce a spirit of reverence into the heart of men, and his attitude to life would make subservience of man to machine impossible.

The message was simple. It was clearly, forcibly, passionately stated. The audience was enthusiastic. Those who did not attend missed one of the few College events of any value.

Although Winiata was easily the best speaker of the evening, Bill Pearce was not far behind in his reception by the audience. His manner was quieter, more assured, the modulations of his voice of greater variety. He spoke with courage and sincerity on the "Decadence of Religion," and had a greater power over his audience than the usual speakers on this subject. In place of dull and serious

philosophising was a sincere and human appeal, unfortunately marred at times by soft speaking and thickness of voice.

Dorothy Gwynne spoke on "Music." She had an excellent speaking voice, clear enunciation and tone. As the judges noted, it was pre-eminently suited for such a subject. Dorothy was unhurried in her delivery, her sentences were well-formed. Hers was a good subject for a lecture, but she lacked the power of appealing to the emotions of the audience to turn it into a powerful oration.

Clyde McLaren's excellent subject, "Challenge of Youth," was spoilt by a certain hesitancy. It lacked the drive to carry it through from beginning to end without a waver. His changes in tone and voice seemed too carefully prepared. They did not have the air of spontaneity that an audience so loves. He was over conscious of his actions, he was not carried away enough by his subject to be one with his listeners.

Betty Archbold was handicapped by her subject—"Honesty Is Not the Best Policy." She was too abstract in her treatment, it required too much thought on the part of those to whom it was directed.

An oration should aim at influencing the audience to enthusiasm for the speakers point of view. The method it employs is the emotional use of words and gesture. In the main, the speakers remembered this more than in previous years. They gained a greater response to their appeals. The standard was high.

Judges, who must be thanked for giving their time to student functions in such a valuable way, were Mr. Drew and Dr. Anschutz. They placed Maha Winiata first and Dorothy Gwynne second.

The Junior Oratory Contest will be held on Wednesday, 29th April. Subject: "The Ideal Society." Hand your entries to Betty Sweetman as soon as possible.

THREE BAGS FULL.

Dapper British diplomat,
Summoned back from Suez,
Sliding safely homeward
Through the stratosphere,
With a bagful of treaties, concessions,
agreements,
Silk stockings, cigarettes and snappy underwear.

Rugged U.S. businessman
Rushing to the White House,
Bustling in from Pittsburg
To sleepy Washington,
With a gripful of contracts, soda-
mints, bottle-necks,
Blueprints for the boom when final victory is won.

Hungry Red guerilla
With a thin white shroud on
Sneaking through the snowdrifts
Somewhere west of Kiev,
With a haversack of hand-grenades,
iron-rations, knuckle-dusters,
Piano-wire and bullets and a dagger
up his sleeve.

INTERFACULTY SPORTS.

Where were you on the afternoon of Wednesday, 25th March? Enjoying the College half-holiday did you say? Then may be you know why there was a College half-holiday! If not—why not—and I bet you don't.

Once again the lack of interest shown by students in the sporting activities of the College was effectively illustrated by the conspicuous absence of spectators at the Annual Inter-faculty Sports, which were held at the Domain on the above date, where one of the incidental attractions was the ample supply of afternoon tea charmingly dispensed by the Women's House Committee. However, what was lacking in support from the sideline was more than recompensed by the keen band of enthusiastic supporters who were treated to an enjoyable afternoon's sport. In every event there was eager competition for the winning honours and close finishes were frequent.

The 1941 Ladies' Sprint Champion, Sheila Hogben, was missing from among the starters, being (we understand) patriotically engaged at Westfield. However, Renee McLaren ran exceedingly well to win the 50 yards and 100 yards, and proved herself a worthy successor. Shirley Benham

displayed fine style to share the honours with Vivienne Fenton in the Ladies' High Jump.

Among the men, competition for the Staff Cup was keener than in previous years. Norm. Thom (who is leaving us shortly to join the Army) celebrated his third successive victory. Norm. scored 22 points, Jim Neesham following with 14 points and Ken. Greville third with 10 points, winning both the Freshers 100 yards and 880 yards events.

The competition between the various Faculties resulted in a win for Commerce with 58 points. Law coming second with 50 points and their old rival, the Arts Faculty, sadly in the rear.

Highlights for the day were:—

- Professor Bartrum seeking a partner for the three-legged race.
- Zealous judging in the walking race resulting in the disqualification of all the competitors but one.
- Ken. Greville running a dashing 440 yards in good time under heavy conditions.
- Exceptionally fine broad jumping by Jim Neesham and the Thom Bros.

A.U.C. TENNIS CLUB.

The season 1941-42 has proved a very successful one for the A.U.C. Tennis Club from the point of view of performance in A.L.T.A. Inter-club Competition. For the first time for many years the A Grade team won its grade and the Club becomes the proud possessor of an A.L.T.A. pennant.

The performance of the team is particularly gratifying to those members who have seen, year by year, a gradual improvement resulting largely from the impetus given College Tennis by the enthusiasm of Laurie Stevens in 1938-39-40.

The team went the hard way to the final, as it was in the largest of three sections, and it had a solid obstacle to surmount in defeating the youthful and well-coached Eden and Epsom team in order to win its section. The team displayed its finest tennis of the season in this match, which was full of interest, practically all matches going to three sets. The section final against Takapuna proved a little easier than expected, the team winning by 6 matches to 2. St. Helier's from the third section of 2 teams only, met A.U.C. in the final, which proved far easier than the match against Eden and Epsom.

A fine team spirit was displayed throughout the season. The following members played for the team:—

Jean Wallace—a well-known figure in Auckland tennis circles, she proved her worth to us by winning every singles match. Jean is a sound, steady player with plenty of punch and determination. In doubles, Jean and Beryl Warren proved a pair hard to beat.

Beryl Warren — N.Z.U. Blue, Doubles 1940-41, Singles 1941. Beryl, by her steady, unruffled play has proved a thorn in the side of many an opponent, and a tower of strength to the team. One of the best combines players the College has had in a number of years, Beryl proved a valuable partner for both T. H. Prendergast and T. Childs.

Joan Howie—N.Z.U. Blue, Singles 1940, Doubles 1940-41, the grannie of the women's side, though not up to 1940-41 standard, played some useful games.

Winsome Denne—less experienced than the others, showed considerable improvement on her 1941 form. Her main fault is her inconsistency, which could to a large extent be remedied by coaching.

T. H. Prendergast—a well-known figure in University sport, played several valuable singles games before being claimed by the Navy.

D. Cummack—a radio-physics man from C.U.C., who before entering the Navy played in several matches. He was quite a valuable asset, and his

play, though somewhat inconsistent, showed a variety of well-executed shots.

T. Childs—a veteran O.U. Tournament player with wide experience, was the outstanding player in the team. A forceful tactician with a great variety of strokes, he won all his matches with ease. His combines play in particular was excellent.

C. Garlick—another medical man who played several games. Though not a forceful player he was steady and combined well in a double, which is a very important factor.

R. Caughey—a stylish player, whose inconsistency robbed him of a number of matches.

The Club is pleased to record the improvement shown by the C grade team this year. It was unfortunate to miss winning its section by a single point. Save for the first match, which was immediately after Degree, when many players were unavailable, the team played very well despite rather frequent changes of personnel.

The Club hopes that the successes achieved this season will further encourage new members to support the Club. So many of the older members have been called away for military and other duties that their places will be hard to fill unless younger members give their support. The Club has improved in performance and keenness in the last few years. It must not be allowed to slide back now.

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DRAMATIC CLUB.

On the Up and Up.

As we prophesied at the end of last year, drama is on the up-grade at A.U.C. Readings of both Shaw's "In Good King Charles' Golden Days" and James Bridie's "Babes In the Wood," had audiences of approximately fifty, and, as the harassed secretary of any College Club will tell you, that's pretty good.

"Babes in the Wood" is not as infantile as it sounds. It is a light, amusing play which loses very little as a reading. (We were spared the sight of Pam Key-Jones in a bath chair, June Savage in bed with a hot-water bottle, and Peter Dempsey clad in crimson bathing suit and wrap looking like Mephistopheles.)

The cast put up a good show, and as no one had taken part in a College play before, all deserve hearty applause, with special bouquets to Pam Key-Jones, who, as the old tartar Mrs. Hangingshaw, gave a sustained performance of a difficult role, and June Savage, who has a voice just like our (as opposed to the B.B.C.'s) Marjorie Anderson.

Another little performance worthy of note was David Dunningham's "few words" at the beginning and end. David does these things so much better than any one else we know.

So much for past events, now for the future. THE PRODUCTION IS NO LONGER IN THE WIND. No, don't get me wrong, we haven't shelved it. It's no longer in the wind because it's on the way. Yippee! Watch for it.

LITERARY CLUB.

The Literary Club is holding its first meeting this term on Thursday, April 23rd, in the Women's Common Room. Mr. A. R. D. Fairburn will speak on "Modern American Poetry." Anyone who has read any of Mr.

Fairburn's work or heard him before knows that this will be well-worth hearing.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB.

The International Relations Club kicked off with an extremely interesting talk by Mr. Maurice Lee on "Russian Development Since 1917."

Mr. Lee gave an outline of Marxian theory and pointed out how Lenin chose what seemed to him, as a Marxist, the perfect moment for launching the Russian Revolution. This occurred when Czarist Russia, the weakest of the imperialist capitalist systems, cracked under the pressure of war.

Lenin, successful in his attempt to install a Communist Government, immediately called for peace with Germany. As this was unheeded, Russia concluded a separate peace and began a period of defending herself against the invading armies of her former allies.

When Russia was at last cleared of the invaders Lenin set to work to rebuild the industrial structure of the country, never strong, and largely destroyed by the wars. This was the N.E.P. period of private capitalism necessary to allow some recovery before making the change-over to Socialism.

This change-over followed, planned by Stalin in two periods of five years.

In the first five years there was often scarcity of consumer goods because it was necessary to concentrate rather on the production of capital goods. The second five year plan would have remedied this defect. It became necessary, however, to divert a large amount of labour to the production of armaments for the defence of Russia against the Fascist powers, Germany and Italy, whom Russia expected to have to fight eventually, much as she desired to avoid war in order to continue her economic development.

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THE EDITOR,

Dear Margot,

After reading the Purple Passion Paper something worries me. I've seen "Smith" spelt "Smythe," but this beats them all. Is that Director-Cum-Plunket Nurse-Cum-Dietitian-Cum-"Wharfie" a member of "Craccum"? Every page is adorned with his name spelt that high-faluting way, "Skyrme."

If my rumour is unfounded (I hope it is), who is Mr. Skyrme? I have searched thru' books, have peeped into rooms and have only been greeted with womens' shrieks or "what the — do you want here?"

Does he live in some dark corner of the Arts Building, if so why? And why should he know who the strongest feminist is?—you need not answer that—maybe I'm too young.

Please start an "Advice for the Lovelorn," I'm in trouble.

Yours patiently,

HAKA LAEKILAHAKI.

P.S.—What lectures are held on the Cloister Roof at 10 p.m. Friday? Is it Tutorial English?

Also I think you should approach "Ambury" for an ad. (to please Canon Coats and to counteract several other ads. of like yet unlike nature).

—H.L.

Dear Madam,

We read your first issue of the year to-night, much to our enjoyment, but a question mark looms over Craccum at the moment of writing. Does it mean what it says, or is it just so much padding? Assuming that the "Forward Please" note is beyond suspicion, let's go.

On page 3 we freshers—save the mark! are patted on the back, "cream of the city's youth and brains, etc." No mention is made of the country: the brand, or grade, of cream is different there, apparently. If we are the cream, why are we left standing about in our separate cans, as it were? My first attempts at incursion into the Exalted Realms of 'Varsity Fellowship were rebuffed, the polite, blank stare, the lofty contempt for these freshers, suffering to subdue one who, perhaps had not the "correct tie" around his neck or something. It is not too much to say that the first week for quite a number of us was a very humiliating one.

On page 6 we are quietly told that 'Varsity is not regarded very highly by those outside its portals. Sixteen long years ago, in a respectful silence, awed a little by the stateliness and quiet dignity of the place, a lad sat for a scholarship. He left the place with a deep regret for it as a part of his mental make-up. Imagine the thrill of coming back to the finest educational institution in Auckland and finding how lightly it is valued by some of the people who tread its floors.

Which brings me to my last point. Page 8.—You implore "freshers to get on and do something." Well, we asked Prof. Fitt if a boxing ring was part of the College equipment and the answer was, "No." So as an ex-light-heavyweight I can't have satisfaction that way. Seeing it is up to us (apparently cream goes sour if left two or three years even in 'Varsity), give us something to do. At present all we can do is read notices which apparently are quite understood by the initiated, ask questions, concerning these same notices, which cannot be answered, and hope that some day a special dispensation of providence will be

granted us and our eyes will be opened. Maybe by that time I'll have passed my fresher enthusiasm and the job will be left to others.

You can't deny that we have answered your challenge so far, but now we wonder what will happen to our effort. W.P.B. or Craccum?

Here's hoping,
"NEMO."

Dear Madam,

It was with grieved surprise that I read in the last issue of Craccum that you had seen fit to kill me off. Is it for this that I have slaved for so long? What have I done to deserve this, the most unkindest cut of all? Where is the gratitude, the reverence, that so befits the young towards those who have laboured for their sake?

I am by no means dead. What would become of the less advanced members of the College, who, following the dictates of a naturally eager and as yet scarcely fully-controlled enthusiasm, are anxious to take full advantage of the opportunities for mellifluous aesophagic repletion offered by an intensive participation in University social life. I feel that the young and yearning need something in the nature of a maternal guidance, an ipecacuanhic supervision which, exercised unobtrusively and with infinite tact, shall point out to faltering feet the way of the crossed in love and deflect footsteps of the yet-to-be-weaned from the dangers of the oleaginous ogle. I feel that there is an innate incompleteness, something in the nature of a positive espousal of catastrophe, in allowing the newly-sprung and delicate plant of infant emotional receptivity to face unshielded the blight of irrevocable sensuous empiricism and the chilling cynicism of the confirmed lag and the irredeemable recidivist.

It is my sacred mission to keep at a salutary distance from the uncorrupted the evil-intentioned and the dangerous; to partition and segregate the elements which hold portents of future geometric immoralities; to blot out from ears but newly emerged from the chrysalis of innocence the haunting, Rabelaisian laughter of the experience-satisfied and morally perverted which drifts endlessly between the austere pillars of the main lobby and finds an answering faithful echo in the lockers of the Women's Common Room.

In short, I should like to make it quite clear to my great public that this year my hours will be just the same, and I am always available to offer assistance to those seeking the universal panacea.

Yours indignantly,

AUNT ALICE.

COMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, April 28th—Copy MUST be in for next issue of Craccum. Extra-Curricular—Dr. J. C. Anderson on "Science in N.Z. Showing of E.U. colour film.

Wednesday, April 29th—Junior Oratory Contest.

Thursday, April 30th—International Relations Club meeting. Speaker, Professor Belshaw.

April 31st—Editor's 59th birthday. Friends and readers please accept this intimation.

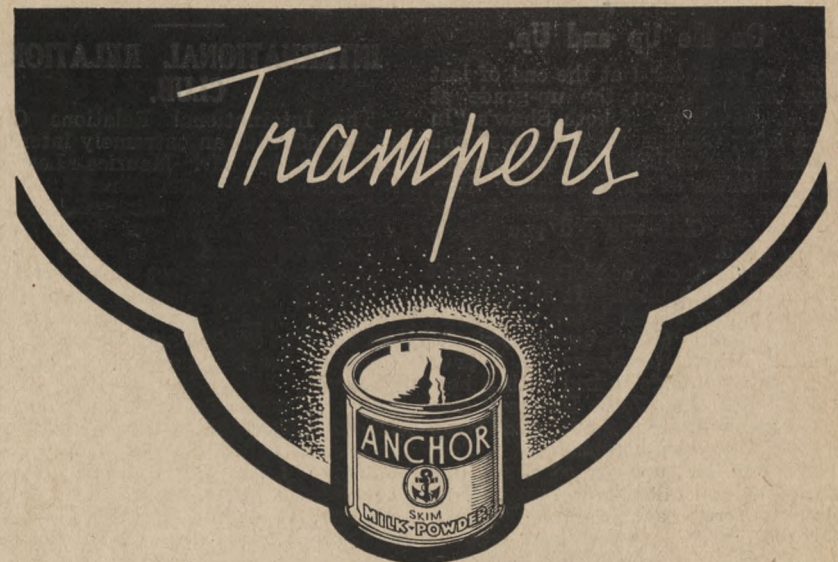
Sunday, May 3rd—E.U. Tea.

Tuesday, May 5th—Extra-Curricular, Speaker Mr. G. D. Robb. E.U. Studies on St. John's Gospel.

Wednesday, May 6th—Next issue of Craccum, D.V., and all the copy being in on time.

Friday, May 8th—Graduation Ball. Naturally, you'll both be going to it.

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