

Craccum

Vol. 16—No. 3.

May, 1942.

Price—Threepence.

WHOSE IS THE AUTHORITY.

From time to time in the story of this College there has been regrettable trouble between the Students and the College authorities. It usually occurs at such times as Procession, the visits of other students, and Capping. It is usually the work of those animals famous in secondary schools, universities, and politics, the "few irresponsible individuals."

It is an unfortunate fact that in this world of do-as-you-please it is thought by many that an action is justifiable if it advances the individual against the many. Since this idea leads to chaos institutions are formed to control the individual when he gets a naughty idea into his head. At this College we have two such institutions (neglecting the Council, which has had little to do with discipline)—the Professorial Board and the Students' Association.

Authority established as a control is a double-edged weapon. As ideas change with the times, so should authority modify its views. But once conceived, they are changed only with difficulty.

Students are young. Their ideas are young. They are often crude and ill-balanced. But some of them will last. Authority decides which are evil and which may be expressed. The authority which has made these decisions in the past has been the Professorial Board. Its members are largely out of touch with student life. They have the ideas of their years. Since they are old, they are experienced. Since they are experienced they are more likely to be right. Since they are more likely to be right than the student, their word is elevated to a law.

This position is wrong. The student should be permitted to say and think according to his own conceptions of right and wrong. If he feels that "Marriage in Capitalist Society is Legalised Prostitution," let him say so. It can harm no one. If he makes a fool of himself, let him. It will do him good. It might even give him a sense of responsibility. Let his judges be his fellow students. If the Professors don their gowns and pompously tell him to behave himself, he calls them a bunch of silly fools. He's possibly not far wrong, he feels a sense of injustice, he is backed up by others, he gets hot under the collar. But if his comrades laugh at him, he may bluster, but he feels small.

There is, however, a very valid reason why students are not let alone to conduct their own affairs. Students are still social animals. Society is a good natured and allows itself to be laughed at a little by youngsters. But they must not get too serious, nor must they become too flagrant in their abuse of the pet conventions of the majority of its members. Hongis must not be over vulgar. It disgusts. They may do what they like among themselves, but they must be careful in dealing with others even indirectly.

Have students the power of discrimination to enable their representatives, your Executive, to take over, or even claim, control of student

affairs, without interference from the above? While individuals make themselves stupid by interfering with Capping, and when, Student Association leaves it to the Professorial Board to take disciplinary action, the answer must be NO.

If control of our own affairs is worth while, let us prove that we can handle them. If any idiot makes an ass of himself and of the College during Capping, or at any other time, let us make sure that the body which wields the thorny rod is his own Executive. And let us make sure that, when this has been done, they say to the Professorial Board: "This is our affair. We have dealt with it as has been necessary. The matter is closed."

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th.

Present:

Mr. Cawkwell in the Chair.
Misses Buddle, Denne, Hogben, Morrell, Sweetman, Messrs. Belshaw, Lyttleton, Reid and the Secretary.

Apologies:

For absence were received from Messrs. Bassett, Lowe, Postlewaite.

Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting (18/2/42) were read and confirmed.

Business Therefrom:

The Chairman reported that preparations were in hand for the sending of library books to students in Camp.

Correspondence:

1. A letter from the Registrar regarding the position and liabilities of the Association in regard to blackout regulations.
2. A letter from the Auckland Rowing Association regarding the University Rowing Club and insurance for war risk cover.
3. A letter from Mr. J. C. Reid, clerk of the District Court of Convocation offering help to the Student Association in times of difficulty, and suggesting closer co-operation between these two bodies.
4. A letter from Miss Faith Johnson.
5. A letter from Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Glendening concerning the provision of study facilities for students in Camp.

(Belshaw—Reid): That the correspondence be received.—Carried.

Business Therefrom:

1. Appointment of Resident Member (Morrell—Hogben): That as Miss Johnson is not available Miss Ailsa Blakey be asked to become our Resident Member N.Z.U.S.A.—Carried.
2. Court of Convocation.—The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. J. C. Reid, Clerk District Court of Convocation, thanking that body for its offer of help, and offering co-operation in the compilation of a roll of honour of students serving overseas.

3. Facilities for Study in Military Camps.—Mr. C. S. Belshaw was instructed to interview Colonel Glendening in the above matter.
4. Blackout.—The Secretary reported that preparations for blackout of the students block were under way.

N.Z.U.S.A.:

That Mr. Martin Smith be approached with a view to his nomination as N.Z.U.S.A. Representative in Great Britain.

Half-Annual General Meeting:

The date for this was fixed for Thursday, April 2nd, at 7.15 p.m.

Student Relief:

Miss Buddle was instructed to write to Dr. J. Hight, Dominion Chairman, Student Relief Committee, asking for information as to the use to which money collected under the above scheme has been put.

MARGARET C. KISSLING,
Honorary Secretary.

WE LOSE AND GAIN.

At an Exec. meeting held on April 2nd Arthur Lowe sent in his resignation, which was received with much regret. He is at present in camp at Rotorua, and feels that he is unable to carry on his duties as chairman of the Men's House Committee with any degree of thoroughness.

To fill his place the Exec. co-opted Aubrey de Lisle and reshuffled the portfolios so that Johnnie Lyttleton is now chairman of the Men's House Committee and Aubrey is the registrar of clubs and societies. Aubrey should be well-known to students as an ex-president of the Architects' Society, an ex-member of the Harrier Club, and an ex-member of the Social Committee. Those who came in contact with him at the Architects' coffee evening will understand without being told why he has so sensibly given up his public life to such a large extent in preparation for his Coming Event.

Ave, Aubrey and only au revoir, we hope, Arthur.

APOLOGIAE.

There seems to be a need to explain the last issue of Craccum, which did not appear to thrill the Great Public as much as the first. The G.P. should realise that there is not the news to fill an eight-page paper which is appearing as often as Craccum, i.e., about every three weeks. The first was a special effort, involving blood and toil, tears and sweat to a considerable extent. The discerning probably perceived how it was spaced out.

Another grave misdemeanour was to omit the "Gossipal Truth." This was owing to circumstances over which there was no control, but it will not happen again. Craccum regrets that those people who never gossip were disappointed, but urges them to follow subsequent appearances of the "Gossipal Truth," for our columnist, like Charlie McCarthy, keeps his and/or her ear to the ground and so picks up all the dirt.

NOTE THE CAFETERIA.

Have you ever innocently sat at the long table in the Cafeteria? The one by the window, where you can fondly gaze at the passers-by or blow long smoke rings gently to the centre of the room? If you have, it was not for long, for Mrs. Odd would look at you with her extra special look and inform you that it was the Staff Table. You must not sit there.

One day, when you get the chance, take a closer glance at this select object. You know as well as I do that it often happens that unset places at a table are covered with crumbs. Sordid sight. You move on. But the table that gives more trouble than any to the helpers that have to clean it, is the one I am asking you to look closely at.

There is an ash tray provided for cigarette ash and butts. Watch a professor or a lecturer upset the droppings from his cigarette into a vase or onto a plate or the glass top. Watch him mess his crumbs about.

The staff is given a privileged position in the cafeteria. Many, indeed most, appreciate the fact that they have a table always reserved, and a waitress to serve them. Others, however, insist that their privileges must include that of making theirs the dirtiest table in the students' cafeteria.

COLOUR PIECE.

Blue sky o'er purple hills,
As the tired day fades;
And dim black shadows
In the cool green glades;
Red heads of poppies
Among others yellow;
Brown wing of fleet thrush
Winging to fellow;
Pure white ribbon
Binding raven tress;
Gay flash in greyness
Of a child's checked dress.

—T.W.

G'BYE NOW

SEE YOU AT

GRAD. BALL

FRIDAY, MAY 8th.

Single, 10/-

Double 12/6

TABLE TENNIS.

The Annual General Meeting of the Table Tennis Club was held on April 28th, with an attendance of 11. The only business done was to elect the officers for the coming year. The Club Captain, nominated by Pauline Melford and seconded by P. G. Melford, is Miss Melford.

Other officers are:—

President: Betty Skipper.

Vice-Presidents: Professor Sewell, Professor Bartrum, Dr. Briggs, Mr. C. M. Segedin.

Sec. and Treas.: Norm. Page.

Committee: Peter Wong, H. W. Spragg, E. Gray, Suzanne Perl, Sheila Hogben.

TRAMPING CLUB.

The A.G.M. of the Tramping Club was held on April 20th. After two or three years stagnation the Club regained much of its former following through the efforts of an active President, Mr. C. Segedin, whose enthusiasm was equalled only by that of the Club Captain, Morrison Cassie. The Committee this year has arranged a

full and varied programme, and hopes that an active interest will be shown, especially by the freshers.

Following are the results of the elections:—President: Mr. C. Segedin; Vice-Presidents: Dr. Briggs and Mr. Rodwell; Club Captain: Campbell Reid; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: Miss Pat. Thomas; Committee: Pam Key-Jones, Annette Burbidge, Alan Horsman, Norm. Page and Marin Segedin.

There will be a trip to Hunua over the King's Birthday week-end, and further trips will be advertised.

FOOTBALL.

We have been quiet but not idle. In spite of all obstacles A.U.C. football carries on, and we are determined to continue to do so.

After the first practice it was evident that it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to build up a senior team. At that stage Grammar Old Boys, who were in a similar position, offered to amalgamate with us, and we have agreed to this proposal. Many friends will regret that our seniors will march on in white jerseys this year, but they may rest assured that we are not losing our

individuality, and any honours gained will be as much Varsity's as Grammar's.

Our two junior teams will be composed entirely of our players. It is hoped that everybody at University (this includes Craccum) will take an extra keen interest in them.

We look forward with confidence to a good season, but we also know that the journey will not be easy. Even now we have vacancies, and their number will become greater and greater as the season goes on. There are still men at College who only watch (sometimes not even that). To them we appeal to fill the blank spaces, so that we can hold up our head proudly with the other Clubs. Will any new members please communicate with the Secretary, Mr. Johnson.

CRACCUM.

Many students were rightly disappointed in the last issue of Craccum. The Committee has decided that its lack of interest and balance was basically due to two things—bad organisation and the apathy of students.

Bad organisation is our fault. We hope to remedy it in some measure at least by appointing seven "Sub-editors." Their job is to collect as much copy as possible of an interesting and varied nature under the following heads:—

Men's Sports - - - (Marin Segedin)

Women's Sports - - - (Sheila Hogben)

Arts Clubs and Functions
(Beryl Hobbs)

Science, Engineering, Architectural,
etc., Clubs and Functions
(Pat Thomas)

Social Functions - (Betty Sweetman)

Gossip - - - - (Margaret Kissling)

Student Affairs and Miscellaneous
(Cyril Belshaw)

Craccum takes the final responsibility for what appears and what does NOT appear. The above-listed are the agents of the Publications' Committee, who procure and hand on material for action by the Editor, Margot Hogben.

Apathy of students is YOUR fault. We are doing our best to counter it by giving these sub-editors a free hand to get what they can when they can and how they can. Why don't YOU help them?

Craccum is your paper, and it is YOUR job to make YOUR paper worthy of YOU.

HELP THESE SEVEN PEOPLE BY GIVING ALL THE INFORMATION POSSIBLE, BY WRITING ALL YOU CAN.

CYRIL S. BELSHAW,
Secretary Publications.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Once again Mr. J. C. Reid rocked the multitudes with his comments on the Freshers' Debate.

Of Mr. R. Robertson's voluminous notes "I thought at first he was going to fill in his seven minutes by reading the editorial from last Craccum, but when he opened them I thought it was 'Print,' but when he started I realised it was the 'Herald.'"

Of Mr. Robertson's stance "It reminded me of the leaning tower of Pisa."

Of Mr. D. Jacks "He was a labourer, like a hippo negotiating tight-rope."

Mr. O'Connell created a favourable initial impression, he sprang on to the platform like a lion and fixed the audience with "an eye that could pierce as an oyster at fifty paces."

Of Mr. D. Coates "Like the mermaid his axis wobbles slightly," and "Fergus would get quite a lot, I think, out of his speech with its emphasis on the feminine angle."

The women, Miss M. Hoodless, Miss S. Perl escaped the barb, and Mug was awarded to Miss Hoodless with Mr. O'Connell second and Perl third.

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QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND

THEY SAY.

After much diving into family archives, and a certain amount of kilful research, Craccum has been able to collect some of the first recorded sayings of various people around the College. Lack of space unfortunately prevents publication of accompanying photographs. This is a pity, because you have no idea how cute Tom Bassett looked at the age of eighteen months clad in a tactful wisp. Still we have their utterances.

Sen Brookfield: Kennie's always going to be a good boy.

Beverley Whyte: I've got a secret. Johnnie Lyttleton: Come and thee my thwing.

Cecil Segedin: I like lady teachers best.

Prof. Fitt: I hate school.

Poppy Dale: Ooh, aren't I naughty.

Dorothea Morrell: It isn't.

Prof. Sewell: Just look what I've done.

Mrs. Odd: I love making mud pies.

Betty Sweetman: I can't wait to discuss it now, but don't you think the world's too marvellous, and I really feel I've found my little niche.

Prof. Anderson: Er.

Prof. Jones: Am I a little boy or a little girl?

Marwick Bell: I believe in ferries.

Winsome Denne: No.

Mr. Blaiklock: Aren't I funny.

Max Perl: Just leave it to me.

Arthur Lowe: Confucius and Arthur say.

Mr. Coates: Well, reely.

The Editor: Goo.

Mr. Belshaw: This is my first five-year plan.

Mr. Wong: Stop me if you've heard this one before.

THE GOSSIPAL TRUTH.

Congratulations to those, who, though true worth, influence, or whatever it is that does it, have been it to Trentham for an O.C.T.U.urse. Seen on their way there the other night were Joe Sheffield,

Graham Speight, Jack Gill, Ray Clark, and Ivan Short. There were probably others as well, but our special Craccum representative was too absorbed in her own particular worry to notice.

Special congratulations to Tom Bassett, who is now a second-lieutenant and distinguished himself by topping the Army School at Trentham.

Our George (Diogenes) Cawkwell is now an N.C.O. at Narrow Neck. It is reported that the other day, having listened to his fellow N.C.O.'s giving little lectures on hand grenades and gun emplacements and other fascinating army subjects, he rose and delivered a dissertation on Classical Art. If we may quote Terence "Proximus sum egomet mihi."

Beverley Whyte was heard to remark the other day that she had always kept him dark. Comment is superfluous.

The Women's Common Room is agog with the fact that they have in their midst a luscious Pearl of great price.

We hear that the president and secretary of the U.C.C. are co-operating in the best possible way. Johnny Lyttleton explains that it is purely for the benefit of the Club.

Westfield had its effects, judging by following true remarks: Pauline Buddle—Do be a lamb. Dr. West—Revenez a vos moutons.

Betty Sweetman was heard the other night in the Exec. Room to make tender offers to wash Cyril's dirty linen in public. Does she strike you as the domestic type?

The Field Club went away over the Easter vacation, but Craccum has not gathered that anything of particular note occurred. Nothing that doesn't usually happen at these Field Club camps anyway.

Jack Sullivan has been with us again in his devastating naval uniform. He was observed at the architects' coffee evening surveying the assembled talent through his telescope and then bearing down with all sails set upon Dorothy Gwynne.

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EVERYBODY
WANTS!



CORRESPONDENCE.

Room for Improvement?

Dear Madam,

As a demure little fresher I should like to give my impressions of Craccum and A.U.C. generally. Firstly, what has happened to that illuminating, all-engrossing column, "The Gossipal Truth?" Is it a rare jewel to be found only on specific occasions? Having what you term a "low nature," I was considerably disappointed in last month's publication. Also, it was far, far too brief. In your "Hints to Freshers," you advise us to read the whole of Craccum thoroughly, which was but a minute's work last month.

I echo H.L.'s query—"Who is this Skyrme?" And it would be please solve those interesting and probably instructive problems in March's questionnaire? I think a fresher ought to know These Things, don't you?

I admire the bland way you state that we are naturally going to the Grad. Ball. One would imagine that we are multi-millionaires. Why not make it reasonable, then p'raps some of us impecunious beings could attend? Or wouldn't that be keeping it elite? Please don't think that I am a brick-bat machine. I think A.U.C.'s great, but there's plenty of room for improvement. So here's hoping something can be done.

Your friend and subscriber,
MAID MARIAN.

A.G.M. OF N.Z.U.S.A.

Did you ever understand a Balance Sheet? Neither did I, but there will be one presented at the Annual General Meeting of N.Z.U.S.A. The initiated will then be able to find out how their sixpence is spent. (Did you know that you contribute sixpence a year to N.Z.U.S.A.? 'S a fact.) There will be other matters, of course, that even the uninitiated will be able to understand. Minutes, for instance, and an Annual Report. The Hockey Council will have its future decided for it. Some awfully important and abstruse discussions will take place about Blues in wartime. Watch for this. It may affect your whole career. Some very involved and complicated motions will be framed to cover every possible and impossible contingency, and the Blues Committee will collect a lot of abuse and a large-size fit of the blues, too.

Joynt Scroll will come in for its share of attention also, rather important for us, as Auckland will be the host this year.

And drammer! Did you know that it's proposed to run a Drama Festival? The idea is for each College to put on a One-act play with about half a dozen actors. If held at all, it will be at Wellington this year. If you are interested in this, tell the Secretary of the Dramatic Club, and she will try to convince our Business Manager that he should give the Club a special grant to enable it to compete.

Other odd items! N.Z.U.S.A. are contemplating a flutter in the Stock-market with shares in the N.Z. Co-op. Publishing Society. (Do you approve of your sixpence being spent in this way?) High-minded and altruistic discussions will take place about students being repatriated after the war. There will be more altruistic talk about men in camp (here and now) and their facilities for study. And there are officers to be elected and other odd jobs to be done, e.g., paying the Secretary her honorarium and compliments to everyone.

I am also told there is a certain amount of mild social activity. In this respect I feel sure that our delegates will more than hold their own. Miss Kissling, Miss Ayers and Miss Blakey (our resident member in Wellington),

cannot fail to increase the respect and admiration in which A.U.C. is held by the other Colleges.

So when next term begins, we suggest that you find out the answers by buying a Craccum. An even better method would be by personal contact with our delegates, who will be only too delighted to assure you that they have nothing to hide.

AUNT ALICE.

Blood is All.

My dears, I was overwhelmed by the response that greeted my last plea to you not to forget your old auntie. Strangely enough, however, I received letter after letter on the same subject. There is no room to publish anything but some extracts from a few. I deplore the present tendency towards blood-letting, but here are some samples.

"What can I do to make an impression on that thrill of a doctor that took my blood?"

"Do you think that if I put ink in my blood it would impress him?"

"Tell him that when I commit suicide he can have every drop."

"What can I do to get her back from that blood-sucker?"

"He couldn't get any blood from me because it all rushed to my head as soon as I saw him."

"Do you believe that Blood is All?" And so on. I had dozens of letters in the same strain. The only advice I can give is to consult the blonde secretary who belongs to the gentleman in question. She will probably be able to enlighten everybody on the subject of types required by blood specialists.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 2nd.

Correspondence:

1. A letter from Professor Belshaw asking for the provision of student chairmen at extra-curricular meetings.

2. A letter from Mr. Garth Turbott resigning from the Extra-Curricular Committee.

3. A letter from Mr. Arthur Lowe resigning from the Executive.

4. A letter from V.U.C. concerning the Westfield strike.

Business Therefrom:

1. Extra-Curricular Committee.—That the Secretary write to Mr. Turbott expressing regret at his resignation from the Committee.

That Miss Buddle be appointed Executive representative to the Extra-Curricular Committee.

2. Westfield Strike.—That the Sec. write to V.U.C. explaining that the Executive took no official action in the freezing works strike, but on the other hand, this Executive feels that it is more capable of deciding whether or not to take action in questions that arise locally than the students of Victoria College.

Mr. Lowe's Resignation:

That the Secretary write to Mr. Lowe, expressing regret that the decision to resign was forced upon him, and thanking him for his good work as a member of the Executive.

Election of New Executive Member:

There being no other nominations Mr. Aubrey de Lisle was declared elected.

Reallocation of Portfolios.

That Mr. Lyttleton take over the portfolio of Chairman of Men's House Committee.

That Mr. de Lisle be appointed Registrar of Societies.

Leave of Absence:

That Mr. Bassett be granted one month's leave of absence from the Executive.

MARGARET KISSLING,
Hon. Secretary.



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