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CRACCUM

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PRICE THREEPENCE.

The Civil Service as a Career

R. M. ALGIE, M.P.

In the summer of 1931, I spent a number of happy weeks in the City of Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. It was a busy and a beautiful place with a population equal to about two-thirds of that of New Zealand. For some three hundred years, successive generations of Czechs had lived under a monarchic rule that differed but little from a modern dictatorship; but in the final years of the Great War, they had regained the freedom for which mankind everywhere will sacrifice so much, and they had set out to build—from scratch, as it were—a democratic State in the very heart of Central Europe. In my all too brief contact with the remarkable political adventure, I was most deeply impressed by two factors; first, the important position held by the University as a contributor towards the success of this experiment, and, secondly, the noticeable prevalence of large numbers of graduates in the Civil Service.

I thought then, as I have thought since, that our own Dominion might fare better if our outlook could approximate more closely to that which was so striking a feature of the administrative life of Prague. There are, of course, differences and difficulties that make it hard to apply in one country that which one finds as the accepted thing in another. To some extent, we older graduates are somewhat to blame. We accept from our Alma Mater all that she has to give and then we forget all about her in our concentration upon the task of getting rich in the shortest possible time. Few of us are closely associated with our old College in the years that follow graduation; what we do for our community, we do in our capacity as private citizens; and people, generally, see in us little to connect us with the Varsity training we have received. Here, then, we can see a course that could be followed with advantage. When the work and fun of College are over, and when life's battle begins in real and deadly earnest, could we not do something more positive to convince our fellow citizens that the service we are giving draws its quality and its inspiration from that fountain of learning from which we drank so deep?

As to the Civil Service itself, we have to bear in mind two important factors. In the first place, the remuneration obtainable is not very high, even in the senior positions. This is due in part to stubborn custom and in part to a lack of appreciation of the excellent service a well-trained graduate can give. Secondly, there is the fact that in the Civil Service promotion goes to some extent—by seniority, and there would be an "internal" prejudice against those who came in at, say 22, as graduates and who were given positions over the heads of those who joined at 16. Such a prejudice—natural though it may be—could be broken down only if the qualities of the graduates themselves were such as to overcome it.

There are already many Departments of State which are charged with the performance of tasks that require the services and skill of the expert: there are others where a professional training is regarded with the greatest favour. Departmental officers, when making their annual reports to Parliament, very frequently speak most appreciatively of the fact that, in the previous year, members of their staff have figured in the graduation lists of the Universities.

I am firmly of opinion that our administrative services ought to provide a career for our graduates. A sound University training should and can give to its graduates good character, sound judgment and breadth of vision. We who are the beneficiaries of that system must do all we can to lead our people to see that the training we have had has given us something that they need and should have. We must so live and so work that people in general may come to feel less reluctant to pay liberally for a service that is worth while. We must go further and prove—by acts rather than words—that, for the handling of the complex problems of our political system as it is, a University training is a qualification that cannot wisely be ignored. The public will judge us, not by what we say, but by what we are; and it rests with us to demonstrate that what we are is what we need. The acceptance by our country of a measure of responsibility for the welfare of native peoples in the Pacific opens up a vast new field for the administrator, the missionary, the professional and the commercial man. It should be a great chance for us. Let us, then, press more loudly for the due recognition of our claims. But let us do more than that. Let us deserve the recognition we demand. "It is not in the power of mortals..."

STUDENT RELIEF

Well, A.U.C., you haven't reached your quota of £500. You're more than £100 short.

What are YOU going to do?

We suggest, particularly to those who have contributed nothing yet to Student Relief Funds, that they

(1) Hand in direct contributions to the College Office.

(2) That they work for a day or half a day at home or at friends' places, and donate their earnings to Student Relief.

With the liberation of one European country after another, the opportunities of getting help to our fellow-students are greatly increased. Are we to face them empty-handed?

GIVE TO STUDENT RELIEF NOW.
WILL A.U.C. BE THE ONLY N.Z. COLLEGE WHICH DOES NOT REACH ITS GOAL?

EVANGELICAL UNION

The Annual General Meeting of the A.U.C.E.U. was held on Thursday, September 7 in Room 2. The new executive for the 1944-45 year is as follows:—

President: Ivan Moses, B.Com.
Secretary: Laurie Evans.
Treasurer: Joan Penman.
Committee: Win Penman, Ian Kemp, Ray Honey, Francis Foulker.

We were pleased to welcome to our meeting Lieut. Colin Becroft, on leave from the Pacific, a former president of our movement, and also Mr. Les Allen, president in 1943, who was the speaker for the evening.

The last Sunday tea for the year was held in the Common Room last Sunday. Many students from both Varsity and Training College were present, and were greatly helped by the speaker, Mr. E. M. Blaiklock. All who have attended our series of Sunday teas during the year have taken from them something lasting and worth-while and we urge all students to be present at our Sunday teas next year and experience personally what the E.U. has to offer.

This concludes our official E.U. activities until after Degree exams,

THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS IDEAL

To many people, particularly students, the word "University" has no meaning apart from that of a place where examinations are passed with a view to obtaining a higher degree of security so far as this world's wants and necessities are concerned. "Utilitarian" would sum up the general attitude to the University. The University is being used as a means to an end, and that end is a selfish one. Certainly a student in this age of economic and political competition must study and plan with an eye to the future; there must be a driving force behind the years spent in our educational institutions, but if that force is simply the satisfaction of selfish motives, then the University falls very far short of the ideal of its conception.

For want of a better definition, the University is, or should be, "a place of 'higher learning'"; that is to say, the function of the University is to observe and study all phenomena which can in any way advance the condition of mankind. If this is indeed the function of the University, if the pursuit of higher learning or the "search after truth" is the driving force behind this particular educational institution, then it will not be bound by party, creed or race. The University is above political, religious and commercial control and interests, and rises above regional boundaries.

The University system of this country has grown up in a very haphazard fashion. Bits and pieces have been added, bits and pieces have been cut away to such an extent that the original idea has been almost lost. If this system continues, then the University will become just another secondary school in which the subjects of the secondary schools are taught, the only difference being that the University standard will be considerably higher. If this ever becomes a reality, and events are pointing in that direction, then the part the University can play in bettering man's lot will be negligible.

To obviate this, the whole system will have to be revised by men and women who have vision and enterprise, by men and women who have an ideal in their minds as to the function of the University. The changes will be drastic, but they will be no more than are necessary, and sufficient to ensure that the University takes its proper place in the scheme of things.

The University will consist of men and women working in the laboratory and the study on all problems connected with man's earthly condition. They will only come out of their cloisters when the community has a problem that they can clear up by a concentrated effort, by a nice balance between theory and practice. Then with further suggestions from the community they will return to their cloistered existence. In its conception this idea might be interpreted as an attempt to create an intellectual community cut off from reality. This is not the position at all. These men and women, endowed with superior intellectual

when we extend a warm invitation to all students to join with us in our After-Degree Squash and Picnic. Details of these have not yet been finalised, but final arrangements will be posted on the notice boards.

A REMINDER

New additions have been made to the library and magazines from the American and British branches placed on the shelves. A book from the E.U. library provides excellent relaxation from exam-cramming.

equipment, will remain in contact with society, but society will attempt neither control nor subtle encroachment. There must be a free interchange of ideas between the University and the society, for without that interplay no institution can fulfil a useful purpose.

Under our present University system our students take their degrees, and except for the two years immediately following their passing out, lose all contact with the University which should be the most progressive of all social institutions. With the extra knowledge obtained from their degree, the problems encountered in the world at large take on a new perspective. What appeared to be a mighty problem, now becomes a matter easy of solution; what appeared to be a trivial matter becomes not so easy of solution. With these latter the University should be concerned. But what do we find within the University?

We find professors and lecturers so busy with lectures and the preparation of lecture notes, and students so pre-occupied with the unseemly scramble for a useful certificate that the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake and for the sake of the community is just nonexistent. In the short space of four years, the average length of a University career, there is no time for real research from which all knowledge of intrinsic and practical value flows. The University life should be a vocation; a life's work dedicated to service of one's fellows, to the advancement of knowledge and to the application of that knowledge to practical problems.

This "ideal" University is criticised in two points. "Offense is often the best means of defence" is a maxim of war strategy, and it applies equally well here. First, it will be said that the criteria for admission to this University, "superior intellectual equipment," borders on "intellectual snobbishness." It will be asked—what is the position of those endowed with a not quite so superior mental capacity, are those others to be barred from the thrill of "higher education?" Certainly not! The professions, for which, so it seems to me, the University now caters solely will be catered for in the best way the community can provide. The professional institutions will be staffed by the best of teachers, fitted with the most modern and most suitable equipment that can be provided, and no cost will be spared to ensure that the professional standard is not lowered.

Again it will be said that this division of function of institutions of higher learning is going to increase the financial burden of our citizens. It will, unless our community becomes "University conscious," conscious of the value of the service rendered by these men and women, not to a national community, but to the world community. I see the University bringing a unifying influence into world affairs; I see the University unhampered by national boundaries. This war is proving, if nothing else, that no one country can maintain an isolationist position in the face of world upheavals. The University should be within itself both the means and the end; a means of bringing about world stability, and an end so far as the advancement of knowledge and the bettering of man's lot is concerned. K.J.M.

What foolish things a man will do, While under influence of alcohol. The sordid tale here told is true, A maid was wed in mistake for woo. Of wifely virtues she had none, He'd meant to do her but was done. So beware you drinking son-of-a-gun, Of risks that lurk in harmless fun. L.S.L.

HISTORY HOLOCAUST

Elsewhere in this issue we publish some opinions of Professor Rutherford's report on the standard of History I. students this year, gleaned from Stage I, Stage III, and Honours students. (It is to be remarked that no student of this College thought the subject of sufficient interest to send in independent letters or articles).

From the Stage I. students we have talked to we gained the impression that many of them regard the professor's remarks as personally insulting. Few of them seem to realise that he is attacking not them but the system which has formed their educational standards and habits. The Stage III. student seems to be working off a little private grudge against the professor, and we feel that his criticism might have been less egotistic and more helpful. The opinions submitted by the Honours student, surprisingly, were not even expressed in correct English, and the article required a great deal of editing.

It is our opinion that the time has come for a revelation of the illiteracy of the students of this University. Even in contributions to this paper, the sheer ignorance of a large proportion of the students of even the fundamentals of good written English is constantly evident. Spelling is often extremely original, and writing completely illegible. These faults are found not only in first-year students but even in Honours candidates, who may be specialists in their particular subject, but make no impression because of their lamentable lack of command over their own language.

To some people this does not seem to matter: as long as they can make themselves understood in fundamental ideas they see no reason to cultivate a clear style of writing. As far as we can judge at present, the new education scheme will further this tendency. Let us hope that we are proved wrong.

We quote from Professor Rutherford's report to the Professorial Board, June 26, 1944:—

(1) Out of 144 Stage I students, only 44 have done satisfactory work—43 of them should not be attending University.

(2) Sheer illiteracy of large proportion of the weaker students. Typical sentences (of 35 illiterates) are: "Russia was feared of expansion in the Mediterranean by England and France."

"No account of the interests of the people were taken into account."

(3) Knowledge as a rule slight. In most cases due to the fact that pupils have not been taught at school how to read accurately and profitably.

(4) Low capacity for clear relevant thought.

In an interview, Professor Rutherford said that the state of affairs in the 1944 class was not particularly sudden nor entirely unforeseen by the heads of the History Department. We quote below some revealing figures with which he furnished us, and which destroy the illusion that History is an easy option. He also told us that he was receiving criticism from some sources for having exceeded his function in daring to criticise the bad English written by his students. The Professor said he regarded reasonable English and spelling as a prerequisite for any University course.

Year	Students	Passed
1934	70	40
1935	75	40
1936	87	39
1937	84	39
1938	133	36
1939	135	60
1940	143	70
1943	156	77

In his quoting of facts, and even figures, Professor Rutherford has struck a blow for history as a science rather than an art. Therefore, the report sounded a melancholy knell both to the artist who enlivened with incorrect dates a web of incorrect facts, and to the first-year student, who found pleasure in a playful originality of spelling and grammatical form. But though the latter was entitled to sympathy, it must not be forgotten that they have made a fine start in the new, scientific system of history. For the greatest achievement of the scientist lies in creation, and Professor Rutherford and his students have already made history.

History I.

Professor Rutherford's attack was as unexpected as it was excessive. During the year, he had called our attention, with pleasing jocundity, to our illiteracy, inaccuracy and horrible spelling, but did not lead us to believe that our case was irremediable. At the end of the second term, the professor told us, we were, on the whole, improving. Then, during the holidays he lets loose an avalanche upon us.

Professor Rutherford was perhaps, justified in his censure of our general weakness, but it must be re-

membered that most of his remarks centred round the first test of the term. The results were no more a shock to him than the paper was a shock to us. We were ordered, without warning, to summarise our knowledge in five key sentences. The professor told us, and kept telling us, in a pleasantly insistent voice, when to start thinking, when to stop thinking, when to start writing, when to stop writing, not to be flustered, and all would be well. It was strange, and perhaps, a reason for our "remarkably low average capacity for clear relevant thought," was to be found in this very strangeness. He gave us no credit for improvement during the term.

History I.

That Professor Rutherford has rudely shocked his Stage I. students by belittling their literary and intellectual capacity, there can be no doubt; these students were beginning to accommodate themselves to the educational methods of the University when their learned professor's attack (in their absence) swept them off their feet and has caused a state of considerable perplexity and uneasiness in their minds. This is increased by the knowledge that the learned professor in marking their degree papers will almost certainly find new figures to support his judgments to his own satisfaction. Those who hate the present system of secondary education have seized upon the professor's diatribe with glee and are busy at this moment belabouring that well-tried system—not realising, I hope, that their iconoclastic activities are abetting the schemes of the honourable Minister of Education for debasing the educational institutions of this country in order to get his trade union secretaries a university degree (like Peter, like Paul, come one, come all).

The learned professor has seen fit to broadcast in a most vociferous and inimitably supercilious manner the deductions he drew from his little tables of figures—figures compiled from the results of his demoralising and notorious five-point plan in his first-term tests. I suggest that the professor leave his pernicious little book on "English Grammatical Style" alone and make some attempt to understand and offer constructive criticism to his students; perhaps, then, we should be spared the autocratic imposition of the Lord Macaulay style in history essays and the weary round of pompous persiflage the professor loves to hand out in the Coward manner.

History III.

It is one thing to create equality of opportunity for University education; it is quite another to allow entry by people who have not the necessary equipment. Prof. Rutherford's report indicates that people who have not the intellectual ability or the academic training which would allow them to take advantage of a University education, have been able to pass the entrance examination. The main

point about that examination was that the results were governed by the grading officer. It was of no avail for examiners to set a certain standard when marking papers, because, if that officer thought too few had been passed (about 60 per cent was the usual proportion), he "scaled" the marks up. Probably, in a year in which over all, the candidates were below average, passes were gained by some who, in ordinary circumstances, would have failed. Worse than that, it is possible that over a period of years in which the standard of teaching in the secondary schools fell, the standard of candidates passed fell also. That would seem to be the case when students who, far from being able to make their meaning clear, cannot even construct a simple English sentence. Not that I would suggest (nor did the professor), that that is true of even a large minority; but it is certainly true of at least 5 per cent of the History I. students. This impression is reinforced by the attitude of at least one secondary school head, who tried to "pass the buck" to the primary schools. He betrayed some uncertainty about the quality of the training in his school.

If accrediting eliminates the state of affairs described by the professor, it will be an occasion for congratulation. It is, of course, unjust to condemn a system untried; but there is no apparent magic about accrediting in regard to raising the standard of University entrants. The evil lies further back than examination results or any other standards of attainment. It lies in the curriculum of our schools.

Unfortunately a tendency has become evident in New Zealand over the last decade to regard a broadening of the curriculum as the proper direction of educational policy. That broadening is commendable only as long as it is not at the expense of thoroughness of method and quality of output. This cannot be said of all the "improvements" in this country, nor can it be said with any certainty of the new curriculum for the secondary schools, particularly with regard to those pupils intending to enter University. There is no easy way of learning to write good English. It cannot be picked up merely through reading widely and well. A good proportion of formal grammar is indispensable. Professor Rutherford suggests that this necessary ingredient in our educational fare is missing. There is imperative need for a stock-taking of the quality of the instruction in the use of our own language. Let us make no mistake about it—success in the mastering of English, or in any other field of study, entails hard and often unpleasant spade work. Knowledge gained in any other way is superficial and worthless.

Professor Rutherford merits the thanks of the community as a whole and the University in particular for having exposed an alarming state of affairs. The answer does not lie with a somewhat doctrinaire Director of Education or with an equally doctrinaire consultative committee, but in the hands of public opinion. University opinion is a responsible and influential part of the wider public, and therefore should be clearly and vigorously stated in an issue of such great moment as the standard of education in the country.

History Honours.

Tiffany Thayer: "Only God and the novelists know what happens beforehand."



EXECUTIVE MEETING

TUESDAY, 4th SEPT.

The newly-constituted executive found a fair volume of work awaiting it at its first meeting, and the actions taken should be of general interest among Students.

The Annual Report of N.Z.U.S.A. was received and the matters referred to in it received attention. It was decided that Auckland fall in line with the proposal of Southern Colleges that the awarding of Blues (in abeyance since 1940), be recommenced, and be made retrospective to 1940.

Examination Fees.—N.Z.U.S.A. is proceeding against the Senate in the matter of increased examination fees, by applying to the Supreme Court for a writ of Mandamus which if obtained, will effectively compel the University to examine at the old scale of fees. Action by the Price Tribunal is also pending.

There was general agreement with the suggestion that a member of the District Court of Convocation should be appointed to the College Council; Student representation on the Senate is also being kept to the fore.

Manpower.—It seems probable that Student workers will again be impressed into industry in the long vacation. The Manpower authorities are non-committal, both as to the type of work and its duration; but it is possible that two free weeks will be allowed at each end of the vacation.

In connection with a proposal from the Court of Convocation that graduates should assist in the boarding of students, a member was appointed to examine the College Boarding Lists, and to contact Convocation.

Student assistance in the Cafeteria is, in the meantime, no longer wanted; although Mrs. Odd may later in the year again wish to avail herself of this efficient source of labour!

Tramping Club constitution was approved and ordered to be ratified subject to certain necessary amendments which are being made by the executive.

Members of both Sporting and Cultural Clubs will be glad to know that the elusive Grants Committee has not only been constituted, but is indeed going to sit within the next few days. The delay in the allotting of grants has been due to the puerile action of some member of the college fraternity, who abstracted all the grant application forms, and posted them back unstamped, with fictitious names to Mr. Postlewaite. The 1944 grants have accordingly been provisionally assessed at the 1943 amounts, and any club wishing for an increased grant should lose no time in communicating with the Grants Committee.

Two offenders were each fined 10/6 and admonished in connection with the disorderly behaviour on the night of Science Dinner. The executive resolved to tighten up the enforcement of the rule against liquor in the College precincts, which has on occasions caused grave concern.

The following portfolios were ratified by the executive.

J. E. Blennerhassett, President, Legal and External Affairs.

K. L. Piper, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

Pat Keane, Lady Vice-president, chairman W.H.C.

K. J. Mackie, Man Vice-president, Chairman Carnival Committee.

Margaret Hoodless, Chairman Social Committee, Registrar of Societies.

Aileen Stanton, Student Relief, Extracurricular Bookstall.

K. R. Bain, Chairman Publications Committee.

J. Lowe, Chairman M.H.C.

J. E. Morton, Corresponding Member, N.Z.U.S.A.

J. C. Nettleton, Assistant-Secretary.

D. T. Grace, J. W. Wilkins, Sports.

P.B. Hutchinson, Secretary Social Committee.

The honeymoon is over when she calls your love-making wrestling.

OPEN FORUM

Madam,—

What a rotten characterless mob of disinterested, selfish morons!! What the hell are you doing for University anyway, besides deigning to attend while the spectre of manpower looms high? Yes, you are all included, from College Council to Fresher. A.U.C. is a fine College. But you aren't worthy of it.

All this year you have been a disinterested, backbiting, petty-minded mob of selfish ingrates! Moaning about the Cat.; Why doesn't Exec do this? Why doesn't Exec do that? What do you do to help, anyway? A.U.C. football team is a fine team, too, but perhaps you just aren't interested to know that they beat Ponsonby, a team unbeaten this season, and also unbeaten at Eden Park grounds for 20 years. Why should you be interested? After all, it's only a few stupid students, your colleagues, who are helping to put University's name on the map and in the sporting (and the public) eye.

Why should Exec. do anything for you? Hardly any of you could be bothered attending a meeting called by Ken Mackie for this match, nor for the last big game. Why should a college of 1,500 students be unable to present decent support when its footy team is playing a vital match at the end of the series. Why should we have to beg, implore and bludgeon a dozen or so unwilling outsiders to assist in a stunt? Why should the Horgi nucleus, supported by the usual few old faithfuls like Johnny Burns, Ken Mackie, Ken Bain, Wyn Beasley, Maguire and Co., be left to hold Varsity's end up?

Because you are a rotten, characterless mob of disinterested, selfish morons, unworthy of the name "University Students."

May you rot!!!

J.R.S.

[We have neither edited nor censored this gem, as we felt our readers would appreciate it in toto.—Ed.]

Madam,—

I wish to enter a strong protest against the Executive's "Moral" attitude, concerning the consumption of private alcoholic liquor on college premises, during the Science Dinner, and the supplying of such liquor to those under age and making them sick. I agree it is a practice to be discouraged, but not by finding a scapegoat, within a fortnight of the Execs participating in a very similar activity and supplying one of its members (also under age) with sufficient liquor to cause violent illness. Yet, certain members advise youths of 16 to remain away from Public Bars until they are 18.

Hearsay has it that within a week of this action, Exec. members had been consuming such liquor in the Exec. room (no doubt behind locked doors) which had been confiscated from some other student.

If the students are responsible to the Exec. for their behaviour, surely it is up to such an Exec. to set some example worth following. BACCHUS

Madam,—

I learnt with interest of the intentions of the College Council with regard to providing more University facilities in Auckland. The University of N.Z. suffers in comparison with overseas institutions because of the dispersion of its Colleges, while there has been in Auckland, both within the College and outside, a lamentable lack of enthusiasm. Students in Auckland have been denied the enjoyment of all the advantages of life at a University because of the lack of sports grounds and a hostel. That may sound absurd but any student will tell you that the gaining of a degree is but half of the object of attendance at a University. The association, with other students on the playing fields, at social and other club activities is an essential part of College life. The College Council is now presented with a golden opportunity of providing Auckland with something more nearly approaching a University. It proposes

to waste it. Instead of building at Tamaki, a new University of which staff, students, and citizens might be proud, the Council proposes to "disperse various faculties around the outer suburbs. At Western Springs there is to be the Engineering School (most of the students of which are full-time, and therefore full participants in Varsity life); on the other side of the city are to be established some other faculties with sports facilities and, I hope, a hostel; while the present block is to house what is left, including the large Physics Dept. What a mess! 110 acres seems to me to be ample on which to build a University in the full sense of the word. I hope that the staff, students, both past and present, and the citizens as a whole, will combine to defeat what would be a retrograde step for the community at large, and for the University in particular.

PETER E. DEMPSEY.

Madam,—

Having heard much criticism by indignant students, of the Men's House Committee's decisive action in closing the Common Room, I wish to express my approval of the strong action they have taken.

As a body elected to serve the students, they are in most circumstances assisted by these students who realise the necessity of co-operation if the Common Room is to remain habitable, but there appears to be a growing element around the College whose idea of manly behaviour and expression of independence is consistent with conduct which in children would be dealt with by spanking.

Unfortunately, this type of corrective action cannot be taken, so appeal has been made to these pseudo-adults in a less demonstrative but, it is to be hoped, more effective manner. Let us all, then, by using a little common-sense and practising a few of the fundamentals of civilisation that we were surely taught in our homes, combine to produce harmony, tidiness, and an atmosphere befitting to a University rather than to a kindergarten.

YIPPEE.

Madam,—

On behalf of myself (and my comrades) I wish to express strong disapproval of the action of the Men's House Committee in closing the Common Room. In our opinion they showed a very unprogressive, and almost anti-democratic attitude in so doing. They should adjust their outlook, for such a Victorian mode of behaviour may well be detrimental to them in after life, and they may even live to regret it. Moreover, it makes no difference to me and my comrades.

They say the Common Room is a shambles, a dirty, paper-strewn, untidy den where youths, responsible neither to man nor beast, wantonly destroy irreplaceable furniture. We think it should be so—it shows that we are individualists, with a fine streak of manly, practical fun and initiative. Anyway, men are always so untidy, aren't they?

If magazines are dog-eared, torn and often in numerous pieces, I think it adds a frequent zest to their reading value—especially when the reader has to search round for missing pages. If they were removed altogether, what could we use to throw at each other? I know they wouldn't like any damage to be done by the hurling of solid missiles.

What if the piano has a couple of panels kicked in and half the notes missing? I think it's better that way—it adds an element of pleasant surprise to the musician's rendering; old compositions sound attractively different and more modern ones much the same, with variations. And who are they to know whether a few crusts and orange-skins and a little judiciously-applied beer may not rejuvenate its inside?

They worry too much about the chairs, too. My comrades and I have found by energetic experiment that they stand a great deal—and if in the

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

We hoped we'd do it! We waited to do it! We did it! Yes, the score versus Ponsonby was 8-3 to the Seniors.

Up to that match Ponsonby had an unbeaten record for the season, but we struck top form and proved ourselves. Our success was due to the fact that everyone was keyed up and rearin' to go—and went. However, the main credit must go to the forwards who stunned the Ponsonby pack with co-ordination and speed.

Able led by Pat Fox with Tansey W. and Gudex, first lieutenants, our men dominated the play from the start. Seeley played another fine game, his covering up being again particularly good.

In the backs, Paewai played a solid orthodox game to prove himself the best half-back in the North Island in the opinion of a great many followers of the code. Wilkins, at first five-eighths, gave a sound exhibition. He did not have many opportunities "to take the gap," but his handling and defence work were without fault. Nettleton also was always handy. He scored the only try of the match with a movement that must have taken a lot of practice on the "Island" at Blandford Park.

It now remains for us to defeat Manukau should we manage that venture, the championship is ours on virtual grounds, even if Ponsonby (now one point ahead of us), conquer Otahuhu.

The Juniors have continued their belated run of successes and finished second to Takapuna in their competition. A few unlucky defeats at the commencement of the season seemed for a while to have put them out of the running in their grade; but real ability will out in the end, and they have been very unlucky in not catching the leaders. A striking parallel with the Seniors, the Juniors have gone through the second round undefeated, but unfortunately they were "pipped" at the post, Takapuna, the champions, winning their final game with a luck try on the final whistle. "So near and yet so far," but these little things are sent to try us.

The exhibition given by the team throughout the season has been a credit to the University, and we wish to congratulate them.

HOCKEY CLUB

The 1944 season has not produced great results. However, the Senior team were runners-up for the Davis Cup, and meet Somerville on Saturday, 16th September, for the Kent Cup—Champion of Champions' Trophy.

Although not having aspired to great heights, the second and third elevens have played well—the Thirds, on early performances in the season, should have had good chances of pulling off the Third Grade Championship. However, lack of practice. . . The-Fourth Eleven . . . well!!

process of lifting them up and hurling them down they do succumb, don't you think three, or two and a bit-legged chairs are unique? I and my comrades do. ONE OF THE BOYS.

Madam,—

We, the undersigned, wish to record our dissatisfaction with the M.H.C. in locking up the Common Room. Their "reasons," while superficially justifiable, cannot stand investigation. The piano was irreparably damaged many years ago, and has been periodically patched ever since. No dealer would pay the cost of cartage away from the college. Again, M.H.C. are in no position to complain about damage to furniture—witness the treatment given to that in their own room. "General vandalism" might cover a multitude of sins, but, in fact, means nothing. It is time M.H.C. realised that they are in office to serve the students, not to dictate to them.

B. J. ROWE, W. E. BROWN, M. S. ROSSER, A. MAXWELL, M. H. JOHNSTON, D. J. CROSS, HUGH K. AIMER, A. W. H. STANTON.

RESULTS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

The season has now ended, and although we were not as successful as we hoped, the matches have been quite interesting. The Seniors came second in the competition, but the teams lost in the first round of the knock-out and were not successful in the seven-a-side tournament. The standard of play has been rather erratic, but the matches have been fast and exciting. Perhaps the finest display of teamwork was given by the Seniors in the last match against the champions, Mt. Eden, who, nevertheless, proved too strong for us. The standard shown augurs well for next year.

Interest in the club has been well sustained and we had three teams playing throughout the season. There are several promising players among the Intermediates. Congratulations to E. Shove, an Intermediate representative, and L. Hogben, Senior.

The Men v. Women match was played under more favourable conditions than last year, and the men certainly showed us something about ball control. The costumes were perhaps more spectacular than the game.

BASKETBALL

The only Basketball games played in the competition since last issue were played last Saturday. The Blues lost to College in their game, 10-13. Our other two teams went down to Y.W.C.A., 6-8, and to Shamrock, 11-15.

Not a particularly good performance, but believe it or not, we have got some first-class players. In fact, our club provided one third of the Auckland Representative team. We wish to congratulate Val Wyatt, Joyce Mayhew and Dorothy Wilshire for making the team.

CRICKET CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the University Cricket Club was held in Room 37 at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th September. A moderate attendance was recorded, and it was possible to make a rough estimate of our strength for the coming season.

Deep appreciation of his close interest and support given to the club, was expressed to the Retiring President, Professor J. Rutherford, and a warm welcome was extended to the new President, Mr. J. Thompson.

The following officers were elected:
President: Mr. J. Thompson.
Vice-Presidents: Professors J. Rutherford, J. A. Bartrum, P. W. Burbridge, C. R. Knight, Doctor E. F. Fowler, Lt.-Col. W. M. Smeeton, Messrs. W. Lange, H. B. Speight, W. R. Fee.

Club Captain: Willie Sidnam.
Joint Secretaries: Ken Bain, Hamish Thompson.

Treasurer: Arthur Bell.
Sole Selector: Warwick Snedden.
Committee: Henry Cooper, Graham Walsham, Warren Mason, Warwick Snedden, Russell Wylie.

The first practice has been arranged to be held at Blandford Park at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 7th October. A good muster is expected, and all present and intending players are requested to attend.

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NEW HOME FOR A.U.C.T.C.
Opened Last Month

The last week-end of the vacation saw Tramping Club gathered to celebrate the opening of its new hut near the top of Simla, in the Waitakere Ranges. A tramp to Piha, led by Morrison Cassie, a past captain of the club, helped members to appreciate a magnificent celebration dinner on the Saturday night. A party, just back from the club's recently-completed Glacier Hut on Ruapehu, arrived during the afternoon.

The hut was named by Dr. Briggs—"Ongaruanuku"—the home of the learned—an appropriate title for a 'Varsity hut. Dr. Briggs paid a tribute to the outstanding work of Cec. Segedin in connection with the club over the past few years. An address was given by Mr. Geoff Wilson, President of the Federated Mountain Club of New Zealand, and the hut was officially opened by the president of the Club, Mr. Cecil Segedin.

Tramping Club extends an invitation to all affiliated student clubs to use "Ongaruanuku." Any wishing to do so should get in touch with the club captain, Peter Hutchinson, or with Bob Cawley, hut officer.

Since the opening of "Ongaruanuku," Tramping Club has acquired two more smaller huts in Destruction Gulley, near Whatipu on the West Coast, and these will shortly be put into commission. For further details see the next issue of the A.U.C.T.C. magazine "Footprints."

After-Degree Camp is being held this year at National Park, and will combine bush and snow tramping and climbing. Lists of those wishing to attend this camp are posted on the Sports Notice Board. Add your name if you wish to come. The approximate cost is £3 for 10 days, and the camp will be held immediately after the conclusion of Degree exams.

BASKET-BRAWL

Occasions drew me lately to the College, and as I wandered by the Engineering School, the unrestrained cheering of a large crowd drew my attention to what at first sight appeared to be a civil war waged in fancy dress. Subsequent enquiry revealed that the American Football Code was being adopted, except where the rules were a bit sissy, while the scoring was recorded after the fashion of basketball. From one of the grim-faced replacements (there are many players injured in this terrible sport), I learned that this was the day when each Science student earned his spurs, that great day when he represented his faculty in that most hectic of all-in sports—basketbrawl.

It is to be noted in the favour of most of the contestants that they endeavoured to make a social event of the afternoon and many of the creations seen that day, may grace our beaches in the coming season. Among those notably attired were Leilani Holland, grass skirt plus; Joanna Climo, dinky floral tauts with silk uppers; Edna Harvey, mourning frock in dove grey; Nicolina Brothers, demurely daring in knee-length flannelette; Lina Castell, half-shot silk ensemble with cheese cloth mantilla, and many others, including the women of the faculty. After a stirring performance of the haka (emasculate voice) and a few grunted cheers, the second match of the afternoon commenced, and while the attack and defence were well balanced, very little real form was shown at this stage. Half-time, however, revealed the need of adjustment, both to teamwork and to attire.

In the curtain raiser, real talent was revealed, but the teams seemed to lack that spontaneity of embrace which characterised the tussles in the main match. More engaging styles were presented by Misses Sinuous Wynyard, brown homespun, Babe Brown, ripple satin sheath, while Maureen Mountford and Babs

PINK ELEPHANTS

(To K.R.B. and K.J.M.)

A flashing arm, a flash of light,
An amber'd liquid swallowed right,
Repeat at leisure,
Through the night.
A poet am I,
A poet bright.
The more I drink, the more I write.
When liquor trickles,
My use it tickles,
Who says,
Your input great,
Your output slight?
... want a fight?
The stars do shine in skies finite.
My chair! It's keeling to the right.
Hold me up,
Or is it down?
The room is moving round and round.
The lamp is tinged with purple glow
And spots appear to come and go;
Do I see what I see, or has it been
That red is yellow splashed with green?
Where's Joe?
Does he know
The moon is cheese?
By dawn, the haze grows dim and dark,
The final phase of the muse's lark.
A tippler's rhyme,
Has passed the time.
The doggerel verse will reimburse
His friend's goodwill and empty purse.
Flat on the floor,
He seeks no more.
He held a poetic licence to drink,
But a POET? With beer, pen and ink,
The greatest fool
Would write classics.
... or so he'd think.

L.S.L.

Beasley lent contrast by appearing in black thingummies. Of the opposition little can be said in their favour, so our remarks will be confined to a mere hint as to the life lead in the upstairs common room as indicated by the red roses and bleary eyes of all their number.



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