

CRACCUM

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N. Z. U. S. A.

When Craccum's reporter arrived at Victoria University College to report the meeting of the New Zealand University Students' Association he found the delegates hard at work on the subject of money and Tournaments. Easter Tournament, it was decided, would be held at Massey Agricultural College subject to certain conditions being fulfilled.

N.Z.U. Blues then came into the limelight. O.U. proposed that these should be awarded by Corresponding Members. The President had some doubts; he knew, he said, the amount of forgetfulness possible among corresponding members. A.U.C. suggested that the awards be made by N.Z.U.S.A. and issued by the College executives. Notwithstanding all this the motion was passed.

The next O.U. remit was on a matter of domestic policy; it wanted the powers of Vice-Presidents increased, but the number limited. The Vice-Presidents, it was held, should have the power to move motions, but not have the power to vote. Here a reference was made to Harold Cowrick, the Congress organiser, who was by the present conditions unable to introduce subjects referring to Congress, about which he knew more than anybody. C.U.C. wanted to limit the term of office. O.U.C. disagreed. The motion was then put and lost.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Before the N.Z.U. remits came before the meeting, Mr Nigel Taylor spoke on the work of N.Z.U.S.A. There had been, he said, much criticism of the work of N.Z.U.S.A., criticism coming chiefly from the extremities of the country. In the face of this the question as to whether the Colleges should look after their own affairs—whether N.Z.U.S.A. interfered too much in internal student affairs and should be relegated to the position of merely looking after Tournaments. Mr Taylor did not think that this was so: N.Z.U.S.A. did much constructive work and must try for wider co-operation. There was, for instance, the vocational employment scheme. The Colleges had a right to abolish this, but if it was going on, then the power of N.Z.U.S.A. must be increased, the officers must be allowed more help. O.U. had said in CRITIC that N.Z.U.S.A. did not give its money's worth. If this was so, then the aims and objects of the organisation must be examined. What has it done? Most people forget that it has a long-term policy, and that it is useful in an emergency—as for instance in providing transport for Tournament 1946. It also ran such things as the Blues Committee, Congress and a bursary scheme, and was recognised by the Education Department. Finally, said the

President, N.Z.U.S.A. is not under the thumb of Victoria.

The N.Z.U.S.A. remits followed:

The Resident Executive was to have spent £200 for the secretary's expenses. Students should be carried to and from Australia, during the working of the vocational employment scheme, by boat. Two hundred would come from Australia and 100 would go from New Zealand. Employment—two jobs per person—could be obtained in Australia.

The remits were carried.

Sunday Morning SPORTS COUNCIL

It was too much to expect of N.Z.U.S.A. that it should after international sports arrangements, V.U.C. claimed. A separate Sports Council was needed. Too much time was wasted by College Executives being left to make their own arrangements. The Council, however, would have to be placed under the N.Z.U.S.A. umbrella so that it would be kept going. The constitution of the Council was moved to committee.

DISAFFILIATION FROM IUS

M.A.C. moved, and C.A.C. seconded, that N.Z.U.S.A. should disaffiliate from the International Union of Students. What was needed, M.A.C. maintained, was a form of I.U.S. in the Pacific. The existing organisation was too far away to do N.Z.U.S.A. any good.

V.U.C., speaking against the motion, held that N.Z.U.S.A.'s disaffiliation would further the existing split between East and West in I.U.S., and that N.Z.U.S.A. should stay in the organisation to strengthen it. Withdrawal from the organisation would mean only isolation.

O.U. pointed out, however, that already Australia, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and the U.S.A. had disaffiliated. There was nothing more

to be got from I.U.S., and as far as strengthening the Western bloc in the organisation was concerned there was little hope of achieving much, for the last meeting was 52-18 in favour of the East.

V.U.C. mentioned that I.U.S. is not in favour of regional groups, and suggested a closer co-operation in the Pacific Bureau with Australia, while still remaining in I.U.S.: The Pacific Bureau, however, to be tightened up.

A.U.C. favoured the creation of a new Pacific Bureau either within or outside of I.U.S. The new Bureau should be built from the bottom up, and not from the top downwards—the top being I.U.S. It should not, however, be too closely linked with Australia, as there was some incompatibility between the White Australia policy and P.B.'s attempts to help the Indonesians and Viet Namese.

O.U. cynically remarked that our ties with I.U.S. were loose enough, anyway. We had paid no subscription to it for the past three years.

With V.U.C. dissenting the motion was passed that at the end of the current year N.Z.U.S.A. disaffiliate from I.U.S., but that it share with Australia the cost of sending an observer to "feel the organisation's pulse."

ISS AND NZUSA

A letter from Mr Thurlow Thompson, secretary of International Student Service, was brought forward. The letter requested that N.Z.U.S.A. recognise I.S.S., and appoint a delegate to its Dominion Conference. A report on I.S.S. was then read, and the following recommendations made:—

- That N.Z.U.S.A. recognise I.S.S.
- That election to I.S.S. committees be democratic.
- That I.S.S. funds be disbursed by a central committee, this committee to be a sub-committee of N.Z.U.S.A.
- That N.Z.U.S.A. directs the spending of those funds, either on the scholarship scheme or on other subjects laid out in the President's report. (This report was not made available to the press).

Mr Thurlow Thompson then addressed the meeting. He said that the most important criticism made in the report was that the I.S.S. was not a democratic organisation. Students and donors have no control over moneys and other matters, as the committee members are co-opted and not elected. However, there

(Continued on page 4)

WHY NOT BE A COMMUNIST?

Cause: An important Cause requires adherents of character and integrity: persecution and ultimate martyrdom guaranteed.

CAUSES (with a capital C), seem to have gone out of fashion these days. It is not so very long ago that the young men and women—who after all are supposed to have the energy for such things—could enlist their sympathies in up to a dozen different, militant Causes, and really let themselves go. Before the war undergraduates could rave and fight over the benefits of Pacifism, Fascism, women in Universities, atheism, free love, Freudianism, Oxford Movement and anything else that came to mind. These were all Causes that were considered worthwhile in what might be called the puppy-thought period—a politer term for adolescence—when black was black and white was white, and to hell with anybody who talked about compromise. Perhaps the excesses to which these happy pre-war persons went to uphold their beliefs were comic, perhaps tragic, but they were at least encouraging, in that they showed that the people concerned were trying out their powers of argument, reasoning and believing for themselves. Admittedly, the argument was more often than not nothing but shouting, and the reasoning nothing but raving in borrowed terms, but the belief was real.

IT is this belief that we lack today. It would be an exaggeration to say that we don't believe in anything any more, but it certainly is true that we don't believe very actively or positively. For the most part we accept the beliefs that are handed to us, either by parents or professors, with very little criticism. The result is that, if the belief is well ingrained in our thinking, no amount of argument will shift it, and it is not well ingrained the most specious argument will cause us to say to ourselves:

"Well, I don't know very much about the business at all; this new explanation sounds authoritative so it must be right," and follow wherever we're led. There is something horribly wrong with the man or woman who comes to a University and swallows unquestioningly every doctrine that appears. After all, the average age for entry into A.U.C. is about 17 to 18 years, which is—whether you like it or not—the age of adolescence; this should be the age when everything is questioned, the age where the puppy tries his teeth and the kitten her claws, and nothing is accepted blindly. Understanding can only come through experience, and the understanding of abstract things can only come through trying them out in practice, or if this is impossible, by arguing about them. You can really believe in anything only after you have argued it right into your system.

THIS has been, to some extent, a case of putting the cart before the horse. Naturally, before you can believe you have to have something to believe in, the Cause. Anything can be a Cause, provided you can work up enough enthusiasm for it. If, therefore, you want to use up some of your excess energy, if you want to stop being a blase, cynical, immature little man-or woman-about-the-College, get yourself a Cause and stick to it. Stop being negative and do something about the S.P.C.A., Disestablishment, Tamaki—or you might even try being a Communist,

Peter Cape

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Copy for the next issue will close at noon on Wednesday, 8th June.

EAT BETTER—

**SLEEP BETTER—
FEEL BETTER—**

Do something about Depression, Sleeplessness, Nerves.

Do some **WORK** on June 18.

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

There have been several changes on Executive since the beginning of the year, and there are now three new members, who have been co-opted to fill various portfolios.

The first co-option was caused by Mr Ellis' resignation, due to the fact that he was going overseas to further his studies at Cambridge. To fill the place Mr Temm Senior, was asked to join the Executive, and has since been appointed Senior Tournament Delegate for Winter Tournament, to be held this year at Auckland.

Next, our President, Mr Tizard, announced that, due to pressure of work in his capacity as Junior Lecturer in the History Department, he would have to resign. Accordingly, Mr Robinson, the Secretary, was elected President, and

Mr Strack was given the Secretary's job. To fill this vacant place, Mr Mike Brittain was then co-opted and has since assumed the role of Assistant Secretary.

The latest resignation was received from Miss Wilshire, who, on account of her health, considered it impossible to continue on Executive. To replace her, Mr Laurie Calvert has been co-opted and given the arduous job of Chairman of Men's House Committee.

SLIM THIS EASY WAY!

NO DIETS OR EXERCISES!

Just do a morning's housework in June.

HEALTHY STUDENTS ARE HAPPY STUDENTS.

Don't take Ovaltine—do some work on Work Day, June 18.

Impressions of A.U.C.

A male undergraduate saying, "Of course, I love reading, but I never get time for it during the holidays"; the minute numbers who attend meetings of the philosophical and literary societies, and the hordes at coffee evenings; the Craccum salesman (no doubt a psychology student) who sold his quota in double-quick time by displaying the charms of the "Ideal Woman" page; a paragraph in a "Weekly News" fashion article which claimed how fashionable AUC girls were beside those of other colleges; phrases like this, in Craccum: . . . "the bestest little land in the Pacific . . ."—and then the enormous number of part-timers who give up most of their leisure time to lectures; the secondary school-children who are taught to cultivate little besides their memory . . . All these incidents I thought of when I sat down to a blank sheet of paper optimistically headed, "Impressions of A.U.C."

For students here have heard so often that they have no real love of learning that they are not content to study all night in a garret while the sack of oatmeal in the corner diminishes steadily, that they do not appear to be aiming at any definite intellectual or moral goal.

How true is it all? After three months' observation I would say that the majority of undergraduates at AUC are not what lady novelists sometimes call "earnest seekers after knowledge." Most of the boys are studying for a profession—law, accountancy, architecture, etc., and the sooner they graduate the better. And the girls? They are a particularly charming lot, well dressed and attractive. I think it is fair enough to say that most of the students have not the attainment of knowledge as their sole goal.

But can you blame this outlook in a materialistic age, in one of the most materialistic countries of the world? If a boy is academically inclined, what can he do in New Zealand? He can teach in any number of secondary schools, or if he is lucky, in a university college. But unless he has independent means, or gets an exceptional university position, research or original scholarship is out of the question—even from the view of the lack of facilities here. If he is really good—academically or in music or painting—he can go overseas, as most of the best brains do. How many of you can say that you were brought up to value knowledge "above gold and silver"—to regard it as an end, rather than a means to an end?

The answer to this may be, of course, that even in England only a small proportion is really educated, and that Wisdom has always been a neglected goddess. But on the other hand, surely Francis Brett Young and A. H. Cronin enjoy a greater popularity in our lending libraries than elsewhere? Are not most New Zealanders a little too prosperous and middle-class for their own good? Granted that the environment may be largely to blame, should the student still not be the most unmercenary citizen of the lot, the most clear-sighted and far-thinking? The young men, according to the poets, are the people to see visions—i.e., when they are looking for them.

Take another angle. What is the object of study and knowledge but to find Truth? But the majority of our students are not even aware that there is such a thing as an abstract, ideal Truth to be sought and followed. There are terms and examinations to be passed, so much English or chemistry to be acquired; and then we graduate with much glory, and settle down to a life of solid respectability and comfort. Do the students consider that they are part of a larger universe than their own solid, comfortable one: in short, are they trying to acquire a philosophy?

After nearly three years of telling AUC students what we think of them, we decided to call in an outside opinion. Here are a "foreigner's" impressions of us and our little ways. They seem to come pretty near the mark.

Now the mere mention of philosophy is enough to send too many of our undergraduates out of the room with a polite "Excuse me," or, worse, to make them reverent in the presence of what they consider must be a Higher Intellect. They do not, of course, try to forge a philosophy for themselves. The mysteries of creation, life, death and that which lies after death: these are outside and above the comfortable walls. A purpose and an aim? We look blank: "To play the game," perhaps; "To do your best"; "To have a good time while we are living and leave a well-endowed will when we die . . ." And after death? Well, we've always been too busy living.

And again comes back the persistent answer: If the student shudders at the mention of philosophy, how much more does the man-in-the-street? As a nation we are too comfortable, too well-fed, to bother about first beginnings and last ends.

But the university must not necessarily be the community in miniature. Why should it not be a model community? If the people as a whole do not choose to reason or think, the student body should be the one to show how natural both these things are to the human race.

There are many rhetorical questions in this article. It is not a dogmatic statement for or against the student atmosphere prevailing at AUC; it is rather an attempt to see just what the student atmosphere is; You may think that you have been hard done by; if you do, write to Craccum reviling the author. But do not, please, say you cannot be bothered. In any case, self-examination is good for the soul.

CARNIVAL WEEK IN RETROSPECT

No one would pretend that the Carnival Celebrations of 1949 were an unqualified success. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that they were, all in all, the least successful since their post-war revival. The Carnival Committee cannot be blamed for this; the organisation was not perfect, but was no less excellent than in previous years. The failure is due to the reluctance of students in general to work hard even for a short period.

PROCESSION

The functions of procession fall into the following categories in descending

order of importance:—to collect funds for a deserving charity; to bring the lighter side of College life to favourable public notice; to raise funds for the Association by the sale of Revuebook; to advertise Revue; to celebrate graduation by providing an outlet for student high-spirit. Of these only the last two were performed effectively, the most important receiving the most enthusiastic support.

COLLECTION

In Otago, students collected £1450 for charity; Auckland students fell short of

£300. The lack of advance publicity, which it was thought the Red Cross Society would arrange, does not explain this failure, since some boxes were returned empty. The explanation is that a number of collectors were too lazy to get off the trucks and work through the crowd demanding donations. Shyness is no excuse for the reluctance of the collectors to do their job; students have the opportunity to make their collection the most aggressive of the year since they are disguised. The Carnival Committee of 1950 will have to guarantee stronger student support before any

charity will be prepared to forfeit its ordinary street day to gamble its chance on a student collection.

An attempt to improve the relations between College and Community by staging a procession is sabotaged by anything likely to incense the public, such as the effect of flour and water on clothing and the irritation caused by a speck of sawdust in the eye. The throwing of harmful matter from the trucks was prohibited by Procesh Committee in the interests of students just as much as to protect the public. The culprits should realise that if complaints to the City Council resulted in the banning of the procession next year the Association would be in no position to protest. In view of the importance of public goodwill the Carnival Committee of 1959 should consider disciplinary measures to enforce their directions.

SALE OF REVUEBOOK

The low sales of Revuebook during Procesh, 700 copies, compared with Otago's figure of 18,000 last year show a deplorable lack of co-operation with the organisers. The criticism of laziness is as justified against the sellers as against the collectors. Most of them may further be condemned for their failure to attend the pre-procesh meeting called by the organisers to detail sales and collection tactics. Stronger criticism is justified in the case of full-time students who did nothing at all, in procession especially where they had undertaken to do so.

ACADEMIC CO-OPERATION

It is to be hoped that the teaching staff will forbear next year to set terms tests immediately before or after Procesh. This courtesy is extended by the staffs of South Island Colleges. This would release those who pleaded tests in excuse this year. Little can be done to help those who pleaded golf matches or luncheon appointments.

REVUE

The lack of co-operation with which the producer of "Staleface" was faced especially at rehearsals, is already notorious. Ushering and Revuebook sales organisers found themselves with half the staff they needed. From this point of view it was just as well that

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is a check kept on money by a qualified auditor.

I.S.S., Mr Thompson went on, is now adopting local problems, such problems as supplying a microscope to a medical school, through the decentralisation of projects. He was, therefore, not very happy about the third point made in the President's report: giving control of funds into the hands of N.Z.U.S.A. put, he said, I.S.S. out of the picture, particularly as one of the aims of I.S.S. is to help staff as well as students. Also, only about half of the funds used came from University students' activities, the other half came from schools. It seemed a better idea for N.Z.U.S.A. to consider working its schemes through the new, democratically-elected I.S.S., as it has contracts and goodwill in other countries and runs without overheads.

V.U.C. was in agreement with this. The money raised was not controlled by any students' organisation, but came from a private charitable act of the students themselves and N.Z.U.S.A. should not try to over-organise private charitable acts. The Colleges should assure themselves that the I.S.S. committees were functioning properly and leave it at that.

The motion was then passed that the Dominion committee of I.S.S. be asked to reorganise itself on democratic lines.

On the subject of scholarships to enable Asiatic students to study in Australia and New Zealand, it was proposed to obtain a Government grant to cover accommodation and fees on a £ for £ basis.

C.U.C. felt that such organisation

only half-capacity houses attended on most nights.

WINTER TOURNAMENT?

An article of this nature often does little good, coming after the event. It is published to show students how great is the need for increased enthusiasm in Student Affairs and to point out that unless students co-operate more readily, Winter Tournament, which will be held in Auckland this year, will be a greater failure, being a greater undertaking, than Carnival Week.

should be left to I.S.S., but O.U. decided this by asking Mr Thompson if he would accept suggestions from N.Z.U.S.A. Mr Thompson said yes.

A.U.C. did not think the time ripe for the giving of scholarships, it considered £652 for three people too much. V.U.C. considered it foolish to wait.

The motion was then passed, C.U.C. dissenting.

Monday Morning

The penultimate session got away with a bad start—there was no secretary some time, and everybody was late.

On the subject of I.S.E., Pacific Basin and the like, it was proposed to keep contact through N.U.A.U.S.

V.U.C. and M.A.C. passed the motion that in the matter of groups visiting New Zealand, representation should be made for fares concessions to shipping companies through the Government, so that the visitors should pay to the host College should pay internal expenses.

The following exchange schemes were then considered:

The group study tour, which was to see Parliament, various research stations and so on, was postponed, as it was felt that such things could be done equally well through a travel agency.

The proposed Art Exhibition would not come—Dobell was too much.

There would be tours of New Zealand made by musical ensembles from conservatoria attached to Australian Universities. These would be self-supporting.

NO BIG HILLS

"There are only two islands in Australia," the President said, "and there are no big hills on either of them." This was in reference to applications made by Australian Tramping clubs who wanted to go climbing.

With the ultimate goal of degree exchange being interchangeable between Australian and New Zealand Universities, it was proposed to make Entrance examinations in either country acceptable to the other.

The recommendations of the various sub-committees set up on Saturday were then considered.

Vacational Employment: There would be a registration fee for persons taking

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PROCESSION

Procesh has happened again and the question again arises of whether it is worth while. Apart from the tradition of the thing, and the fact that it has just emerged two or three years ago from being under a ban which gives it an added attraction, does it brighten up Queen Street? Does it bring the College to the people, and if so, does it do us any good?

Certainly the section of Queen Street that was on the floats was bright, and the man next to me on the corner of Customs Street was shouting with laughter. The crowds were huge and seemed easily amused, but in previous years I have been able to inspect all the floats in detail and work out the significance of the puns at my leisure. It is not nearly so funny when all one has time to notice clearly is a number of debauched-looking science types in scanty feminine apparel. When the trucks are moving past it is the whole effect of a float and its fancy-dressed collectors which is most noticeable.

This year the general effort was pretty poor, but the floats from Ardmore were outstanding. Real trouble had been taken with them and some new angles were used. The new train for Auckland, for instance, was a masterpiece; so was the Bridge, and the wasps on motor-bikes. By contrast the other floats were just trucks with people on them, and who

enjoys having lumps of flour thrown at them? Of course there was the elephant. This was a real surprise and great fun. I believe that she started to make a meal of the cardboard decorations on the truck, so was forced to walk the rest of the way. I suppose everybody has heard about the lady who remarked that the students had made an elephant that was awfully lifelike. By the way, it is understood that owing to the wanderings of that horse last year, George Court's, Ltd., closed their doors this year when Procesh went past.

Except for the Ardmore contingent, Procesh, 1949, was much as Proceshes of other years, perhaps not quite as good. There were the same brassiered men in butter-muslin, or diapers, or lavatory seats (Query overheard: Where do they get them all?), covered with paint and flour, on bicycles, and motor-bikes, and vintage vehicles and floats. There were the same rather self-conscious women in pants. There were the same bored-looking truck-drivers; there was even the old cardboard cow, variations of which have been dragged out year after year on other occasions. There was the college tower in cardboard; a vocal imitation of Phil Shone and many puns on the April 1st wasp episode; there was a People Week float (c/o Rat Week) and a June Bride float, a Beautify Your City float, Notornis and Moa floats.

Looked back on it does not seem very funny, but when I remember the raucous hoots of the man next to me in the crowd, I suppose it must have been.



administration to someone else. A.U.C. claimed that any man had a right to his own opinions. (Here the fish and chips arrived and the meeting was held up for a short time).

The Chairman then vacated the chair and spoke to some length. He was, he said, dissatisfied with Mr Sullivan's attitude. He could have made his complaints to the Congress Committee and not to the press, but he had chosen the latter course and had done damage not only to the Congress itself, but also to N.Z.U.S.A. and V.U.C.

Mr Taylor resumed the chair and the situation resolved itself into an impenetrable cloud of obscurity, from which such terms as "but it's on the table," "we passed that five minutes ago," and "order please," emerged at times.

After a five-minute break the motion was put that the appointment be left to the resident executive. This was lost and the meeting was called to the next business, which was the appointment of the Congress controller, Mr Sullivan's being the only nomination, the meeting declared him appointed.

The Congress remits were then passed and the meeting closed.

SITTING PRETTY 2

Not unless you offer your services for a spot of baby-sitting on Work Day.

part in the scheme, and reciprocal guarantees to prevent people from becoming lost, strayed or mislaid." The numbers be limited to 50 from N.Z. and 100 from Australia, and would travel by boat.

Debating: Finance to meet the cost of the debates would be shared between N.Z. and Australia, and would be resisted by charging for admission to the debates.

Rotation of Tournaments: The rotation of Tournaments was to change to Auckland-Christchurch, Otago-Welling on alternate years, so as to cut down distances.

Massey was to take either Winter or Summer Tournaments in 1950, if it should so it must provide £50 for entertainment, with the other Colleges to cover any loss. If Massey could not take the Tournament, then O.U. would hold Winter Tournament in both 1950 and 1951.

Council of Sport: This to be an autonomous sub-committee of N.Z.U.S.A., with a financial adviser and a member on the executive of every College. Its duties would be to arbitrate, to control University sport, to look after overseas tours, and recommend members to the Blues panel.

CONGRESS REPORT

Mr Dowrick recommended that Congress 1950 be held at Curious Cove. This was accepted. The fees are to be the same as before, but the entrance fee is to be paid whether the entrant goes or not. A.U.C. asked that entrants should pay sufficient so that the Colleges pay no subsidy. O.U., however, moved that each College should pay £50 towards Congress, and the students of any College not so contributing should pay full costs. C.U.C. refused to contribute but the motion was passed.

A diversion occurred when it was moved that the meeting adjourn for lunch: the motion was lost. A motion for a two and a-half minute adjournment was then put and passed, and the meeting (with the press in close attendance) made a swift raid on the College cafeteria for biscuits. The first motion of the afternoon was, "That two delegates be sent to the city to purchase fish and chips." This was passed, with C.U.C. again refusing to contribute.

The meeting proceeded crumbily. Nominations were called for the post of Congress organiser. O.U. nominated the Rev. Martin Sullivan. There were no further nominations.

Mr Sullivan's "Communist Views" statement on the last Congress was not appreciated by some of the delegates. A.U. said that the headlines used in the article were the trouble, not the article itself, and said that in the face of what had happened, the Rev. Sullivan had expressed himself willing to organise the Congress and then hand over the actual

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UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE WORLD

The VIIIth Student Winter Games

The Physical Education and Sports Department of the I.U.S. did a fine organisation, helped by the full backing and protection which the Czech Government accorded the Games. This was the second World Student Winter Games held since the war, the first being held at Davos, Switzerland, in January, 1948. It was an expression of the unity of working youth and students that Spindleruv Mlyn was made available for the Games. This was once a fashionable resort but is now a workers' recreation centre, with a large number of buildings owned by R.O.H., the Czechoslovak Trade Union Organisation. Altogether there were students from more than 25 countries at Spindleruv Mlyn, not only in the sports events, but also participation in the very full and varied cultural and social programme organised for everyone. The Czech Prime Minister attended the Games and most of the diplomatic corps from Prague, but the bulk of the spectators which sometimes exceeded 12,000 in one day was made up of students from all over the world and workers. The ice hockey rink, the grandstands, the speaker system, the slalom course and ski-jump and speed-skating track were built by brigades of Czech students. The first issue of World Student News will contain a full illustrated account of the Games.

World Festival

The I.U.S. and W.F.D.Y. are holding the World Festival of Youth and Students in Budapest from the 14th to the 28th of August, 1949. The main scene of the Festival will be Margaret Island in the middle of the Danube, right between Buda and Pest, where the Hungarian students and youth are building up all the necessary facilities, including an open air theatre, sport stadium and swimming pools, some of which were destroyed in the war and some of which did not exist before. At least 10,000 participants from all over the world are expected to take part in the festival.

The Xth World Student Summer Games will take place at Budapest at the same time as the chief sport event of the festival. Some countries have already begun their preparations for participation in the Games and Festival. In Britain the work of preparing the participation has begun well. It's planned to have 1,000 participants from Britain of which 600 are to be students. The National Union of Students has already circularised Unions asking them what they intend to produce in the fields of music, drama, art and dancing.

World Student News

The "World Student News," the magazine of the International Union of Students and hence of students all over the world, is about to be published again. The first issue was available at the end of February at a low cost. Any student or student-editor anywhere in the world who is interested in being a correspondent for W.S.N. should write to the Editor, W.S.N. Vojteska 12, Praha II., Czechoslovakia. Letters, articles and photos on any subject of interest to students will also be gladly received by the Editor.

Australian Congress

Over 300 university and technical college students came from all over Australia to attend the Congress of the National Union of Australian University students. By 150 votes to 30 a motion calling for the disaffiliation of the N.U.A.U.S. from the I.U.S. was rejected.

The session on I.U.S. took several days beginning in the morning and ending late at night. One of the most effective contributions came from a Malayan student (studying at the Adelaide University), whose plea for the rejection of any disaffiliation was received with enthusiasm.

Youth Development Scheme

The National Union of Students of England, Wales and Northern Ireland has presented a scheme for the development "as national youth centre" means of a national youth project at the Crystal Palace site in South London to the Palace Trustees.

The Scheme envisages development of full sport, recreation and hostel facilities by summer, 1951, when the Centenary Great Exhibition is to be held in London. An invitation has been extended to the British students to hold the World Student Summer Games in London in 1951, in which case the youth centre could be held as the scene of the sports events and show to visitors all over the world the sports achievement of British youth and students. All organisational planning, architectural work and management work would be done by youth and student groups, to make the youth centre really the work of British youth.

INDIVIDUALIST

An unsophisticated old Mrs
Who scarcely indulged much in kra
Cared never an oz
for clothes without bz
And she cut out her own with blunt

TAKAHE

A curious bird, but forlorn
Is the creature world-famed as Not
Is. It's habitat is tussocky grass.
It's distinguished by an olive-green
face.

PINTO

★

**REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE
GOVERNOR-GENERAL—**

"Students must be fit."

One good way to keep fit is to do
work for the W.S.R. Work Day.

At The Theatre

The Taming Of The Shrew

It is a maxim of the less hidebound variety of dramatic criticism that you may do anything with Shakespeare except make him dull.

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Last year the Children's Theatre did "The Taming of the Shrew." While a comparison with the A.R.T. is unfair, it may be profitable. Of the two versions, one was painstaking and almost uniformly dull, the other quite the opposite, although much of its fun wasn't exactly indicated in the text. Most people are agreed that a motor-car or so on the road to Padua is not the same thing as umbrellas at a funeral at Elsinore (after all, if a tragic character doesn't seem real to you unless he's wearing 20th century pants, it would bemuch cheaper to stick to the Civic). But then "The Taming of the Shrew" is a ghastly play that few people could possibly want to read for pleasure (the English Hons. class will doubtless back me up), and if a producer contrives to enliven it to the extent of keeping a packed audience entirely happy for two and a half hours, who are we to carp too capriciously at how he does it? There is another point, too. We see so few worthwhile productions of Shakespeare that a little emphasis on his essential exuberance is a useful antidote to the slowness and solemnity of the film "Hamlet."

May 31, 1949

Gable in worser moments) and Katharina were nicely matched, and made the most of what scope two rather incredible characters allowed them. In several weeks' retrospect, Oremio seems to have given one of the most finished performances, although Grumio (met later with something of a shock in the precinct of the college) turned out to be a grotesque comedian of some individuality. Another figure, more or less heavily disguised and clad for most of the time in a nightshirt and a pair of redbedsocks (said to belong to Mr A. R. D. Fairburn), is also to be seen about A.U.C. from time to time.

The sly episode effectively set the note for the production. Sly himself, enjoying himself with a true Elizabethan gusto, and a leer that should have delighted the antagonists of "Puritan fear of the flesh," made it clear that no one was going to bother over much about respect for the author. He subsided eventually upon the entry of the players but continued to lighten dull bits (or in fact any convenient part at all) of the first three acts by popping up at intervals like an expiring but persistent firecracker.

Otherwise the real peals of mirth apart from those occasioned by such genuinely Shakespearean jokes as the breaking of the lute over Hortensio's head, greeted Petruchio's Ford, the beautiful policeman complete with notebook who came to arrest Vincentio, the group photograph after the wedding, or the lady who cowered behind her parasol as Grumio fired his revolver (I am sorry I missed the bird which came down on the last night), the whole of that scene was excellently done, from the strains of "Praise My Soul," issuing from the church, to the ingenious method of getting rid of Sly and his page-lady at the end. As some one or other once said: "It may not be M.C.C. practice, but its better fun." Professor Chapman was chiefly responsible. A.H.F.

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This day is the Work Day for Student Relief when students invade numerous Auckland homes to take up temporarily the above positions. Generous employers often pay 3/- an hour and if a large number of students do their bit their combined efforts make a considerable addition to the year's contribution to Student Relief.

Last year we had the humiliating experience of having to turn down jobs because not enough men had volunteered. This year we have chosen a date fairly early in the year when swot should not be too oppressive, so don't make excuses

but look out for the enrollment booths round the college in the first week of term. If it is really impossible for you to work on this day consider the possibility of earning some money in some

(Continued on page 9)

Bettina

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H A M

UNIONIST REPLIES

The Editor,
Craccum,
Dear Sir,

With reference to the article in your issue of April 11th, entitled "Why? said the Wharfie", may I draw your attention to certain errors in the section devoted to the alleged Carpenter. We can gloss over this gentleman's statement that the dispute is "a complete mess," for we remain confident of victory regardless of such depressing opinions as the one quoted.

The well-worn trick (an employers' favourite) of shaking a fearsome red bogey in front of the public's eyes during the course of an industrial dispute is used with a surprising lack of restraint by your so-called representative "carpenter"; as always the object of such a manoeuvre is to prevent non-participants from examining the workers' case. The real carpenters pride themselves, in this struggle, of having sunk all political (or religious) differences in the interests of strength and unity. Every employer is very conscious of the success of this policy. Therefore if your man was genuine he would assure you he was fighting a cut in his living standards. Further, he would continue, it was not Communists that caused his actions—only the provocation of the Court and employers' in stealing fundamental conditions of employment, topped off by their failure to grant just wage demands. He would conclude by pointing to the fact that our various critics had not yet disputed our contention that the workers' case is wholly just.

Your "Carpenter" has obviously never been near any of our Mass meetings for the description of an unspecified Carlaw Park meeting delves into the realm of pure fantasy with such remarks as "of the 750 present, 500 were Communists." Labelling your opponents

"Communist," need I point out, sir, is childish, so is it required of me to claim it is unworthy of a University journal?

Most of the article is simply an employers' statement; who but employers or their agents fear or hate "unions supporting each other?" Why but the most violent enemies of the workers could string a series of threadbare anti-Communist clichés together for the purpose of discrediting such a simple, natural phenomenon as workers using the old slogan "United We Stand—Divided We Fall," which grew out of historical circumstances, grew out of the experiences of the brave men and women of Peterloo, the Chartists, the Eureka Stockade and our own Waihi.

Your unpleasant "Carpenter's" claim that our workers will not indulge in scabbery because they falsified documents relating to "Travelling Time," is, in my opinion, the lowest slander we have had to bear with so far. Remember, we are in a position to tabulate, then compare, numerous samples of such literary delicacies, so perhaps you can take pride in slamming the characters of thousands of men who refuse to bow to reaction, refuse meekly to accept lower living standards, men who, despite the active enmity of Monopolists, the Government, press and scabs; despite Police Gaol threats, blacklisting, warnings of Union-smashing tactics by the State machine (accompanied by joyful yelps of professional politicians), men who, despite all this and more, knowing they are battling for all sections of the community, carry on the struggle of history—the struggle of ordinary decent people for an ordinary decent way of life.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

B. J. HOLMES.

P.S.: The reason this letter is so late is that I was engaged in extremely urgent work and often out of town.

INDIGATION

The School of Engineering

The Editor,
Craccum.

Dear Sir,

The article written by Mr C. Salmon and printed in the last issue of Craccum can hardly be permitted to go unchallenged, especially when it is so intended to mislead the large number of readers supporting the student magazine.

As one who resides at Ardmore, I must test at certain of Mr Salmon's statements with regard to the School of Engineering and its students. A brief analysis and criticism of Mr Salmon's article would help to clarify the situation, and place my point of view before readers.

To commence, the title "Report Way-Back" suggests a lost outpost of civilisation with little or no contact with the city of Auckland. This is not correct since the Engineering students are closely in touch with various spheres of activity within the University College of Auckland and our interest in student activities has not diminished owing to the 20 or so miles separating our Faculty from the rest of the Auckland University College.

Mr Salmon then gives us a brief introduction to his article, and commences with a paragraph the meaning of which is most obscure, after which he expresses his opinions at length on various diverse topics, few of which have anything to do with the School of Engineering itself or Ardmore. (Mr Salmon told us earlier, he is writing an article on Ardmore) but which cover the wide policies of a University as such.

Following this comes a paragraph where incidentally Mr Salmon comes to fun as he calls it and becomes serious containing derogatory remarks about the standard of education with regard to Engineering students—complaints about grammar, spelling, etc. Who

Mr Salmon to make to know before particular judging so-called marks further Teacher be extr particular to come little to gain fact Mr S his article as well loquacious Since N B.E. de cation he. (1 degree' a mem' tutions student I am lege m accurate for Mr reward

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AND EGGS

Mr Salmon that he should be qualified to make such remarks? I should like to know his academical qualifications before I accepted the inferences in the particular paragraph in question and judging by the meandering form of his so-called report I doubt if the said remarks have any standing whatever. His further observations with regard to the Teachers' Training College appear to be extremely biased, and one in particular on teacher trainees tempts one to come to the conclusion that very little trouble has been taken to ascertain facts.

Mr Salmon is, through the portion of his article dealing with Ardmore (I now, as well as Mr Salmon shall use a colloquialism) "talking through his hat." Since Mr Salmon saw fit to criticise the B.E. degree course and the general education of the Engineering students, has he. (1) his B.E. degree? (2) his B.A. degree? (3) any degree? or is he, (4) a member of any of the recognised Institutions of Engineers? (I do not mean a student member).

I am surprised that a University College magazine should print such an inaccurate and impertinent article, and as for Mr Salmon, he should be suitably rewarded for outstanding impudence.

Yours faithfully,

A. McG. PEART.

Final-year Engineering Student.

* * *

REPLY FROM THE WOP-WOPS

Engineering Scule,
Ardmoor airodrome,
Paperkoora.
april 29.

the editor
Crack em
Dere ser,

i wuz havin a gink at wun of yore rags the uther day when i seen a artikle wrote by a chappy with the monica 'C. Salmon Esq.' Theres a foto up the top, and i has a skwiz and i whistles, blimey lsay. Hey Bert i sez, cum and have a dekkio at thiss, I say, aint this our Chass, the feller wot used ter put orl those rude notes on our Elec labs larst yere. Old Bert opens wun eye, he only opuns wun becoz the uthers a wopper shiner he stopped, tryin to mussle in on the furst ten in to chow larst nite. Bert has a squint at the foto and he sez 'my my thats yung Chas that is, he sez, aint he the lucky one orlrite. he must be a Prerfesser of englesh at leest, he says. Hey i sez, have a read of thiss i say, his old kobbars arnt tonky enough for our Chas now not harf. his pore old cobbers still swetting it out on the good old nuts and bolts degree and our Chas up in the white collar develloppmint racket. arnt we the suckers i sez. wots moor he sez as how we carnt rite englesh proper.

Hey says Bert that meens were illetter-

ilegi- anyways thats wot he means.

Harf a mo i sez, getting mad; he carnt say that sort of stuff about me he carnt coz it aint true its a lie i sez. I arsked me old ma about it and 'she went fair butchers she did, she sez she got her wedding lines orl sined and wrote up proper, she sez and she rekkons she ll skin the feller wot sez she aint so there. hey nark it 'snow,' nark it sez Bert, you got it orl rong 'Snow,' that aint the wurd i mean not that wun sez bert. This is a word that meens you carnt rite or rede.

wel i say why dont you say so insted of using orl these poona wurds unless you want the uther eye blakked, i sez. Iz that so sez bert, yes i sez that is so, yeah sez bert o yeah i say, sez you sez bert i cuold lick you with wun eye and wun hand beehind me back. O yeah sez i, is that so. yeah sez Bert that is so—

i reely ment to rite a lot more about our Chas, dere Ederter, but i carnt on account of Ive got a thik eer and a sor thum where i poked old bert on the snowt. and anyways it aynt reely importink.

HOPing this finds you as it leeves me in the pink.

Yours Trewly,

X

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* * *

EMPIRICIST

The Editor,
Craccum,
Dear Sir,

If your correspondent "Wistful Willie" was fool enough to hope to meet an ideal woman in this college, he deserves to be disappointed. Let him cast his eyes about at the distressing examples of womanhood mincing and smirking about the corridors, giggling under their badly-applied make-up, gossiping in piercing whispers in the library. A painful sight.

The only possible objection to setting up a separate college for women is that

SITUATIONS VACANT

other way and handing it in to the office for Student Relief. We know that many students have sports on Saturday but work will be available morning, afternoon and evening and the time can be arranged to suit yourself.

We are trying to arrange a dance on the night of the 18th at which those who have taken part in the Work Day will be guests.

Why Work?

If you inquire into the organisation of World Student Relief you will be assured that any money you give will be efficiently and rapidly sent to where it is most needed. And if you inquire where it is most needed you will be overwhelmed. Last year Auckland raised more than any other N.Z. college

if there were such a college, without any male students at all, no women would attend.

I am,

Yours, etc.,

M. P. CATO.

* * *

DEPLORABLE DRIVEL

The Editor,
Craccum,
Dear Sir,

It was with regret that we read your front page article in last month's Craccum. To any outsider, and to even the average insider, such writings would appear as nothing but unmitigated "piffle," not to be expected from the students of the Auckland University. These articles reflect in no way creditably upon those responsible for the issue of Craccum.

The literary standard (such as it is) of the rest of the paper without doubt suffers severely at the hands of the instigators of this deplorable piece of drivell.

As regular purchasers of Craccum to date, we hope that we shall not in future be asked to pay for such miserable efforts at journalistic "stunting", and that the paper, which has in the past maintained a varied standard, will not be allowed to slip to the level of the degraded purveyors of sensationalism—a place which the existing tabloids of the world more than adequately fill.

Should the Students' Executive, in the past, have ever had any doubts as to the reason for the financial failure of Craccum, these doubts should be dispelled upon reading your article. If this "all time low" is maintained, sales may well be expected to shrink to practically nothing.

J. W. SMITH.

R. L. MUCKY.

D. L. TOMPKINS.

Three against one? Tut tut!

Ed.

—that is it raised about enough to buy a mimeograph machine, while all over the world students are calling out for enough money to build sanatoria and whole universities. A drop in the bucket, perhaps, but if we don't give, who will, for N.Z. students are among the very few in the world who are not in need themselves. So, the 10/- you might earn on Work Day is vitally important and to quote from Margaret McCumpha in "The Student World":

"The need is so great that the resources of the student world are not enough to meet it in full; but the history of W.S.R. has proved and will continue to prove that the proverbial drop in the bucket can sometimes cause the pail to overflow—that the mimeograph machine from America, the paper from Finland, (Continued on page 10)

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Dere ser,
i wuz havin a gink at wun of yore rags the uther day when i seen a artikle wrote by a chappy with the monica 'C. Salmon Esq.' Theres a foto up the top, and i has a skwiz and i whistles, blimey lsay. Hey Bert i sez, cum and have a dekkio at thiss, I say, aint this our Chass, the feller wot used ter put orl those rude notes on our Elec labs larst yere. Old Bert opens wun eye, he only opuns wun becoz the uthers a wopper shiner he stopped, tryin to mussle in on the furst ten in to chow larst nite. Bert has a squint at the foto and he sez 'my my thats yung Chas that is, he sez, aint he the lucky one orlrite. he must be a Prerfesser of englesh at leest, he says. Hey i sez, have a read of thiss i say, his old kobbars arnt tonky enough for our Chas now not harf. his pore old cobbers still swetting it out on the good old nuts and bolts degree and our Chas up in the white collar develloppmint racket. arnt we the suckers i sez. wots moor he sez as how we carnt rite englesh proper.

Hey says Bert that meens were illetter-



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THE CRITIC ON THE HEARTH

The Editor,
Craccum.
Dear Sir,

May I make a few general comments
on Craccum?

It is well-known within the College that Craccum barely pays for itself and sometimes runs at a loss. Various methods have been tried to remedy this—the size of the paper has been cut down, the cover page has been eliminated and it appears now that the standard of the paper is being deliberately lowered in order to cater for students whose intelligence you apparently believe to be on a moronic level. I am referring to the tedious drivel "Three in Slaughter Set-Up," which appeared on the front page of the last issue of Craccum. It is doubtful if many people understood this and in any case they could find more enjoyable reading of this type in "True Romances."

May I suggest that:—

(a) A short story competition might be just as popular and the results infinitely more worthy of the front page of Craccum than the article mentioned above. Last year there appeared two short stories but these apparently lapsed for want of contributors. A competition judged by such people as Messrs. J. C. Reid, of Fairburn, might produce better results in this direction.

(b) Make club reports competitive—this should eliminate the duller of these—and substitute more articles in their place. After all an expression of individual opinion is generally more interesting than a straight report.

This is now being done.—Ed.)

(c) No film or book reviews have been appearing this year. While these may not be everybody's meat I have heard enough comments around college to indicate that they are missed.

(d) Surely the minutes of the Student Association Executive should be published in Craccum—they have not appeared as yet this year and it is probable that only about 20% of the students know where they are kept outside the M's.C.R.

(We will consult our Exec. Reporter.—Ed.)

(e) I have always understood that editorials should express as far as possible the opinion of the paper as a whole. Is this so in Craccum? Quoting from your editorial in the Tournament issue, you were speaking of the pathetic and obviously untrue description of a watersider found in the article, "Why?" said the Wharfie, and you said "The picture given of the man is a true one—he represents a cross section of all men who

the stencils from England, when combined with student initiative in the needy countries can play a decisive part in starting up the mechanism of university education without which no country can hope to rebuild."

work with their hands. . . . Is it right that this class should be allowed powers which place it on an equal basis with educated and intelligent men." Surely whether you are right or wrong in your assumption this was not the opinion of all who should have been concerned. Such statements are dangerous and would lead an outsider to conclude that this superior attitude which you adopt towards a class of people who have considerably less opportunities than most of us, is indicative of the average student's opinion.

"Salient" and "Critic" are written in a mature manner. If Craccum cannot do this without running at a substantial loss, why not cut the issue by a half, say, and sell the whole issue.

Yours etc.,

SHIRLEY EYRE.

COMMUNISM AND RELIGION

The Editor,
Craccum,
Dear Sir,

Mr D. M. McLaren, in the last issue of Craccum, made some interesting points about Communism and Cardinal Mindszenty's trial.

First, Mr McLaren believes that Communism is not fundamentally opposed to religion. Karl Marx, in "Economic Fragments," p.164, writes, "Communism begins with atheism. The purpose of the criticism of religion is to make man revolve round himself," not God.

When Communism was put into practice in Russia, official figures showed that in one year 30 Bishops and 1414 priests were executed. Up to 1941 Russia had lost through exile and execution 757 of its Bishops, 90 per cent of its priests, 96 per cent of its monasteries, and 90 per cent of its churches. A tenuous existence is granted to a fragment of the Russian Orthodox Church, though this is used as a political tool, to influence Russian Orthodox Churches outside of Russia to favour Russia.

A couple of months ago, Cardinal Mindszenty was tried and condemned in the Communist State of Hungary. A few weeks later, in Sofia, 4 of 15 Protestant clergymen on trial pleaded guilty to charges of espionage, treason and black-market dealing; and as these charges were practically identical to the Cardinal's, a singular lack of imagination was shown.

Mr McLaren is a Protestant; does he consider that these Protestant pastors, universally considered good and religious men, guilty, as he considers the Cardinal so guilty that his trial was "only a necessary formality"?

The Archbishop of Canterbury did not regard the trial as anything less than a farce, and the Bishop of Chichester, Bishop Bell, said of it "Let no one be deceived—the real charge against Cardinal Mindszenty is that he is the unflinching spokesman in Hungary, of a doctrine with which the Communist ideology cannot co-exist."

But the United Nations Commissioner is the body to judge the trial. As the U.S. delegate, Mr Warren Austin, said, "If the condemnation and horror expressed in almost every country are slanders and libels, that in itself would be a good reason for calling on U.N. to consider them. Eleven countries voted in favour of the commission, one (Iran) abstained, while Russia and Poland were against it.

The doctrine of Free Will is not "a complicated religious dogma." It means, simply that we are free beings, endowed with reason and will, and able to distinguish and choose between right and wrong. Although he appears to distrust the student mentality, Mr McLaren would be safe enough in asking a Catholic undergraduate to extend this definition, for Free Will is one of the simplest natural truths.

Yours sincerely, P. M. BURNS.
This correspondence is now closed. Ed.

* * *

WAIL

The Editor, Auckland Training College.
Craccum.

Dear Sir,

The pretensions of the University are grand but the value and quality of its service may be questioned. To be specific, the university library has been built up by the Auckland community so that it is the best library in the city. Students throughout Auckland use this library and, as many of these students are working men, necessarily after working hours. I maintain that the restricted library hours were ill-chosen. The "business hours" selected are suitable for full-time undergraduates or persons working on Queen St. I suggest that the morning hours could have been omitted and then the library remained open later.

No one missed the lectures and common room life (in fact many consider that they could be omitted during the whole year), but the library should have remained open longer. Perhaps it will be stated that few persons use the library during a vacation period—a damning confession of the university's success. It is keen students who do use the library at such a time and they deserve encouragement.

The university is not distinguished by understanding, insight or wisdom, but by learning which it should foster and encourage. If it fails to encourage a love of learning and scholarship it fails completely.

Your truly, J. R. JACKSON

Translation:—

Dear Sir,

I am marked about being shut out of the library. Do something about it.

Yours truly, etc.

CRACCUM CRITICISM

A Staff Article

In no issue of *Craccum* during the last three years has the quantity of criticism seen in the present issue been equalled.

This criticism, although it is nearly all querulous and destructive, is nevertheless a good sign, as it shows that students not officially connected with the paper are at last taking some interest in it. However, points are brought up which should be replied to, and it is the purpose of this article to make those replies.

The major carp of our critics is that the front page layout of the last issue was unbecoming to a University publication. A succinct and adequate reply to that complaint would be "phooey," but as this also would be unbecoming, we will attempt to answer the charge more fully. In the first place the layout was devised as a parody on current newspaper methods. It was not (heaven forbid that it should be, as the authors of TEDIOUS DRIVEL and the CRITIC suppose), a serious attempt at journalism in the modern manner. The second implication, that we are not being sufficiently cultural, smells unpleasantly of intellectual snobbery and need not be further dealt with. On the whole, it appears that our correspondents were trying so hard to be the "men" and "women" referred to in the current editorial that they missed the point entirely.

The matter of short stories has been brought up again. Last year, as the CRITIC notes, two short stories were published. A third one, incidentally, was received, but was not worthy of publication. Since then constant requests have been made for stories—any back number of *Craccum* will verify this—but no further material has come to hand. It might be pointed out that short stories do not materialise, they have to be written, and the people who write them are students like our correspondents, to do something about it.

only with a more constructive turn of mind.

The critics of "Report from Wayback" may be answered briefly. Some time ago clubs, societies and outside faculties were requested, if they wanted representation in *Craccum*, to appoint a reporter from their own ranks. No appointment was made from Ardmore.

Craccum editorials, appearing as they do over the Editor's name, have never pretended to express the opinions of the students at the College, or even those of the staff of the paper. The editorials are consistent with the policy of *Craccum*, and are written with the intention of putting a certain point of view before the readers. Whether or not the readers agree with that point of view is a matter for them to decide. The Editor has no intention of giving (what Miss Eyre apparently wants) a simple precis of student opinion, registered for anyone who wishes to swallow it.

Finally, with regard to the numerous remarks about the lowered "standard" of *Craccum*, there are two things to be made clear. Firstly, this complaint—if it has nothing else—has at least attached to it the dignity of great age. The words "*Craccum* stinks" have been in the mouths of undergraduates since the first issue was published. This leads us naturally to the second point. There has always been a tendency for students at A.U.C. to regard members of *Craccum* staff as being in some way different from themselves. A student may wander happily through his three years without ever reaching a higher mark for his essays than a "C" but he is the first to complain if he finds—assuming he can recognise one—a split infinitive in the pages of the College paper. This is the core of the matter: *Craccum* is a paper run by students for students. The "standard" is the student standard as a whole. Therefore, if you think *Craccum* can be improved, it's up to you to do something about it.

SPILLER ON SPAIN

AND some little-known facts were certainly spilled at a meeting when Tom Spiller, formerly of the International Brigade, spoke to the Labour Club on Spain recently.

The general tenor of his address was that Spain, as a Fascist country, should be regarded with as much distrust by democratic nations as Nazi Germany or Fascist Italy, belatedly were.

THROUGHOUT the world students were foremost in the fight against injustice and Mr Spiller had noticed this nowhere so acutely as in Spain during his term in the International Brigade from 1936-39, and it was for this reason that he had chosen to speak, in order that we at least might be aware of the

conditions under which Spanish students and the whole of the Spanish people were living.

SUPPRESSION

Spain had a long history of suppression—the civil war which had followed
(Continued overleaf)

SPILLER ON SPAIN

the expulsion of the Moors from the Southern peninsula had led to the population dwindling to 800,000 by 1750. Even today the structure of society is still largely feudal and the few economic resources of the country are not used to the best advantage.

By 1931 conditions had become so bad that the Spanish people revolted against the monarchial Government, in the form of Alphonse 8th, and Spain became a Republic. This new Government was weak however and legislatures which were passed were not enforced. Therefore, this was naturally replaced by a stronger Government, similar to Mussolini's in Italy, and conditions became even worse. So unprogressive was this Government that in 1934 a revolt occurred in several provinces. But this was strongly suppressed (40,000 were imprisoned—many hundreds executed). In short, a reign of terror similar to that of the dictator Dolfuss in Hungary at this time, took place. Inevitably, the elections of 1936 were controlled by the Fascists but the results were not surprising. The Leftists gained 268 seats while the Right took only 205 and a Popular Front Government was thus set up.

Now for some years prior to 1936 a group of militarists under Franco known as the Falangists (Fascists) had been organising against the relatively liberal Government of Spain. This had taken place in the Canary Islands and in the colony of Spanish Morocco which had constituted Franco's headquarters from whence he organised the revolt. So hated were these Falangists that the Spanish people not infrequently sacked their churches (which were places of general congregation and for that purpose the Falangists were using them) which, for the devout Spaniard, was almost sacrilege.

On the 19th July, 1936, the revolt took place first in the island possessions and spread to Spain itself. But the Spanish Government had established order within 48 hours. Yet three days later German and Italian troops were ferried across from Spanish Morocco to aid the Falangists, who, if they had had no outside help, would most certainly have collapsed.

Such was the historical background of Spain up to the time Tom Spiller arrived there. Mr Spiller then went on to explain the attitude on foreign powers to the Spanish trouble.

COMMUNISM

At this time it will be remembered that there was considerable feeling against Communism, so much so that Great Britain and France were on relatively friendly relations with Nazi Germany presumably in the hope that it might be used as a bulwark against the Russians. The same feeling prevailed against the Leftists in Spain, although

the 1936 elections had returned only 17 Communists. It is true, however, that during the later stages of the civil war, this became the major political party its numbers increasing rapidly. Yet at the outset the danger was more supposed than real, and so, Mr Spiller said, was there any justification for the Non-Intervention Committee being formed in London in 1936 composed of Great Britain, France and Germany? Their attitude if not actively aiding the Falangists at least did nothing to deter them."

For example, the Non-Intervention Committee denied that there were any Germans or Italians in Spain, and also denied the Republican Government the right to purchase arms overseas, although as Tom Spiller pointed out, Franco's Army were well supplied with armaments. He remembered on one occasion picking up the rifle of a dead Falangist and finding it marked "Krupps" and the date at which it was issued from the factory was precisely one month from the time at which it was found by Mr Spiller.

So strong was the feeling against the Republican Government that an avalanche of propaganda was published in which "the Reds" was the mildest title that the Government received. Furthermore, the Fascists had the support of the Church who, as landowners, naturally resented any government which might possibly take their property away from them.

BITTER STRUGGLE

It is doubtful if most people realise how bitter was this struggle, Mr Spiller went on to say. Between July 1936 and

1939 more lives were lost in this civil war than the British Empire lost in both World Wars. (the actual number was over 2,000,000 men).

In his resume, the speaker said that interested people at the conclusion of the Second World War were still trying to condone the horrible acts which Franco had committed. As a matter of fact relatively little was known of these—there was an Iron Curtain in Spain far more acute than in Russia. Thousands of people were still in concentration camps and four out of every 30 people died from torture, many in fact had become demented through torture.

Mr Spiller then went on to say that much of the responsibility of curing this state of affairs in Spain and of injustice all over the world lay with students. Man's dearest possession was life but we must live that when we die we can say that all our strength has been given to the finest cause in the world—the liberation of mankind. He had been particularly impressed with two students McClough from O.U.C., and McLaren, from A.U.C., whom he had met in the International Brigade. So strong was their belief that they must fight injustice in any form that they had come from New Zealand to Spain to fight for their ideals, so Mr Spiller said. Before McClough was killed in 1938, he wrote, "Man's dearest possession is life . . . he must so live that in dying he can say all my life and all my strength has been given to the finest cause in the world—the liberation of mankind."

S.E.

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REVUE REVIEWED

If there is one thing made clear by "Staleface," it is that the author is almost undoubtedly capable of greater work. For while the good gags are very good, and the less good are at least often funny, they are a long way apart; moreover, the plot is complex, there are too many words and not enough deeds, there are not enough topical references and, perhaps, there are too many characters. I mean by this last point that it was difficult to know who were the major characters, the hero and the heroine. Presumably they were Anthony and Berenice. Yet Tania was more dominant (possibly because of better performance) than Berenice. On the whole the acting was up to the normal Revue standards, but there were fewer outstanding individuals this year. E. B. Allison, as Anthony, gave a good performance, but suffered somewhat because of the script. Cherry Raymond, as Tania, was much more than just competent, while Bob Oakley, as Jake, gave an inspired interpretation of his drunken role. Bert Brown had the best voice of the cast, and his rendition of McGrogger's song was easily the best vocal of the show.

I thought the lyrics were especially good this year, and if the words were often indistinct, it was not the fault of the versifier, but rather the inadequate laryngeal endeavours of such characters as Lemmy and Slim. Luigi's song was very good, and I may add very well received. In fact, I think Act 1 was the best part of Revue. The cafe scene led one to hope that more in the same vein was coming, and although such a hope proved groundless, Act 1, Scene 1, served to put the audience in a high good humour.

The ballet, of course, stole the show. Each year Misses Graham and Whitford seem to surpass themselves in training the team of husky young maidens. The ballerinas are always delightful and good for many laughs for some time after their exit. In "Staleface" their first appearance was better than their second, which was somewhat less wildly hilarious.

The main complaint I have to make about "Staleface" is one that is often made about Revue: that is, the slowness of the last couple of scenes, where all loose ends are being tied up, and the characters are pairing off in the face of the greatest improbability and at the cost of much spectatorial anguish. Exactly the same sort of thing was evident in "The Road to Ruin," and I suppose to an extent the tradition (even in farce) of the happy ending, is difficult to avoid, yet I cannot help feeling that it can very easily be overdone. For Anthony and Berenice to fall into each others arms was expected; but for Tania and Albu-men to follow suit was outrageous and did nothing to further the humorous effect of the Anthony-Berenice affair, rather, it spoilt it a little.

"The Road to Ruin" was John Kelly's first attempt at Revue and the "Staleface" was Mike Allen's first (but, one hopes, not the last) brainchild: Zambucka, who is noted for a smooth finale, wrote a series of Revues. One is led to conclude that style improves with practice, and there is no reason why this should not be so. The point about

"Staleface" was that the plot simply got out of hand, the characters grew in number and so either had to be killed off or married off in the last act.

The orchestra's music, under the baton of Joe Blitz, was creditable; but there always seems to me to be too many string instruments. The tone of the orchestra is very characteristic of Revue music, and I cannot remember it being any different. I might add that the brief version of "Buttons and Bows" was greatly appreciated by those spectators I was able to observe, and in my own low-brow way I, too, was very moved. The scenery was fair enough—much better than last year, anyway, when the stage looked very bare half the time. The lie detector caused considerable amusement, and stock props like tables, desks and chairs were used to advantage. The use of the loudspeaker to offer cryptic comment from time to time was not very considerate, several lines that may have been funny (I have no way of telling for sure) being blanketed.

On the whole, "Staleface" amused me and I sincerely believe that it promises brighter and better things to come; perhaps even, ultimately, a return to the pre-war extravaganzas that were so popular (and so profitable!).

—P. N. TEMM.

JOBS FOR ALL!

Have you filled in an application form to get a job on June 18, the W.S.R. Work Day?

ARE YOU A LAWN MOWER?

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Lend a hand on June 18.

Vacation Employment

Plans are now almost completed for the transfer of Australian and New Zealand students on vocational employment schemes during the long vacation—1949-50. New Zealand will be able to send up to 50 persons and will be receiving about 100.

The return fare by sea for a New Zealand student will be about £34 plus a registration fee of £1. If arrangements are made for air passages the cost will be about £42 plus £1 registration fee. Internal travelling should not amount to more than £7 or £8 at the most. Exact figures cannot be given until precise information arrives from Australia.

It is anticipated that many New Zealand Students will be able to leave in November and thus commence work at the beginning of December. This will allow for a working period of approximately 12 weeks. Average wages will not be less than £5/10/- per week and in many instances will be higher. Thus a student will be able by working for ten of his 12 weeks to earn at least £55 and possibly a good deal more. Two weeks will be left for pure holiday on this basis although everybody will be able to suit themselves.

The National Union informs us that there is ample work available in attractive agricultural districts. Students will be allowed to take up two jobs during their stay in different districts by arrangement with the Commonwealth Employment Office but any other arrangements for work will have to be made privately.

The scheme offers a trip to a new country at reasonable expense plus guaranteed employment and a fair period of leisure. Students who desire are invited to attend the National Union Congress held during the Summer Vacation.

Students who are required to do part of their course practical work during vacation, i.e., Agricultural Students and Engineers, are to be offered special facilities for this purpose. Arrangements to this end are not yet complete but Students will be advised in plenty of time.

Applications for the tour will close in all Colleges on the 30th June. Your Executive has appointed a travel and exchange officer and he has on hand the necessary application forms. Every application must be accompanied by a £1 registration fee.

The Travel and Exchange Officer will make arrangements for you to pay your fare by weekly amounts in advance for those who do not wish the burden to fall in one lump.

From: N. R. Taylor, N.Z.U.S.A. Travel and Exchange Officer, P.O. Box 5003, Wellington.

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WHAT IS W.F.D.Y.?

W.F.D.Y. stands for World Federation of Democratic Youth. As its name indicates, it is a federation of all democratic youth who subscribe to its aims. It includes Christian and other religious youth bodies, trade union youth and apprentices' organisations, national youth groups, young farmers' and peasants' unions, students' associations, etc. It excludes only Fascist organisations, e.g., the Falangist Youth of Spain.

HOW WAS W.F.D.Y. FORMED?

A Youth Council set up during the war and sponsored largely by various Governments-in-exile in Britain from the Nazis (Poles, Yugoslavs, etc.), called the first World Youth Conference in November, 1945. All possible organisations were invited to be represented. The Minister of Internal Affairs of N.Z. was written to re representation from this country and an observer from the High Commissioner's office attended. One N.Z. delegate was present.

The World Youth Conference agreed, during ten days' conference, on forming a Federation, agreed unanimously on its aims and objects, and agreed to a Constitution. This Constitution provides for a triennial World Youth Conference and annual Council meeting with representation from every country which has organisations affiliated, and for an executive committee of the Council.

WHAT ARE ITS AIMS AND OBJECTS?

Briefly: for peace, for co-operation and understanding among all young people, for democracy and against Fascism, for freedom and self-government for colonial peoples, for better living standards for young people, for full employment, improved education and higher level of culture for young people, and for representation of the interests of youth on U.N.O., U.N.E.S.C.O., and similar bodies.

WHAT HAS IT DONE?

(a) **Commissions.** In its few years of life the W.F.D.Y. has been most active in pursuit of its aims. Commissions have been sent to many parts of the world to investigate the conditions of young people. Such Commissions went to Germany, South America, North Africa, the Far East, the Near East, and other places. The Commission to Germany, for instance, was brought face to face with the fact of bitter hatred of Germany by European youth and of the Nazi leadership still in control. It reported on these matters, making recommendations on the decoratization of German youth organisations and urging tolerance by other European youth towards the struggling German democratic bodies. Similar investigations have been conducted into the appalling living conditions and educational opportunities of the youth of Asia, and W.F.D.Y. has been able to make informal representations to U.N.O. through its delegate on the committee of U.N.E.S.C.O.

(b) **Conferences of Youth Leaders.** Several very large regional conferences of youth leaders have been held. The

S.E. Asia Conference, the Conference of Latin-American Youth, the Conference of Working Youth in Poland, are examples. The last had just over 500 delegates and drew up a series of resolutions on the needs of working youth.

(c) **The World Youth Festival** in Prague in the summer of 1947. This was the largest and most inspiring meeting of youth in history. (The nearest approach would be the large pre-war Scout Jamboree). Over 60,000 young people, including many of the best athletes, artists, dancers, singers, etc., were present. The success of such a festival is obviously a tremendous hope for world peace.

IS W.F.D.Y. COMMUNIST-DOMINATED?

No. Its aims are limited to the ones briefly stated above. It has not even Socialism as its aim, let alone Communism. The Socialist youth organisations of the world have their own organisation of the I.U.S.Y. (International Union of Socialist Youth). Communists support the aims of W.F.D.Y. just as they support U.N.O., for instance, or the National Association of Coloured People in U.S.A. (against racial persecution). Just because Communists support a policy is no reason for opposing it. The W.F.D.Y. has energetically carried out its aims but has never exceeded these. With the enthusiasm of youth it has achieved great success, more, indeed, in many ways, than the Federation of Women or U.N.O. itself.

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The immense popularity of, and gratifying response to, Craccum's quest for the Ideal Woman, and the eager demands for an Ideal Man quest, have led Craccum to set out the following table.

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Put a mark in the appropriate squares, detach the column and leave it in one of the boxes provided. Results published in next issue.



THIS — OR — THIS

He likes parties or takes you somewhere by himself	<input type="checkbox"/>	He smokes a pipe cigarettes or nothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	His conversation is interesting about football or about himself	<input type="checkbox"/>
His attitude is self-assertive protective or anxious to please	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is tall or not too tall	<input type="checkbox"/>	He is an independent thinker or agrees with everything you say	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
His behaviour is uninhibited or self-controlled	<input type="checkbox"/>	His hair is dark fair or red long or short	<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional suggestions—	
He likes music women books dancing films crude stories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	His eyes are blue brown or hazel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
He is reserved aggressive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	His features are regular or rugged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	He wears bright sports coats and ties or dresses in good taste	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Solomon and the Unhappy Typist

The book said that the three most profitable subjects to write about were Sex, Crime and Wealth. I picked up my pen and chewed it for a thoughtful moment. Then,

"Keep your dirty hands to yourself," said the Duchess of Milford in an undertone to the felon who sat beside her bed. "I shall call the Duke in a moment and have you exposed!"

"Exposed!" sneered the criminal, sniggering; "You ought to talk!"

"Hello," said John, sauntering up casually, "Doing your English essay?"

"No," I said, "I have been reading a book on story-writing. This is my first attempt," I added.

"Let's have a look at it, John said, picking up the manuscript before I could stop him. "What's all this?" he said. "Good God, E.U. and S.C.M. will be after you!"

"Why," I said rather curtly, "What's wrong with it?"

"Well!" said John. "It has its possibilities, I suppose, but . . ."

"But what?" I asked, more than a little browned-off.

"Suppose you tell me the rest of the plot," said John, with superb condescen-

sion. "As an established author, I may be in a position to help you. What is going to happen next?"

"I had it just a moment ago," I said. "I could have finished it in five minutes if you hadn't barged in like a boor. As it is, I forget precisely what happened next."

"Well, well," he said importantly, "I used to make the same mistake. You should always rough out the plot first."

"Sometimes I have no plot until I get started," I said.

"You need my patent plot-finder," he said earnestly. "Just a minute."

He was back in no time at all. "I only ask five bob for it," he said, briskly, shoving his plot-finder into my hand. It was made of five concentric cardboard discs, all pinned together through the centre, so that except for the innermost disc, only about half an inch of each disc was visible. The discs were all divided into 50 equal sectors.

"This is what you do," John explained, it's very simple. Every story is based upon a simple boy-girl relationship, like Romeo and Juliet, Dante and Beatrice, Troilus and Cressida, . . ."

"Or David and Goliath, or Absalon and Achitophel," I suggested.

"Just so," said John. "Now, on the outer edge are 50 nouns—masculine occupations or proper names, like Parson, Dentist, Solomon, Lecturer, Salesman, Caesar, Dentist, Postman."

"What then?" I said, becoming interested in spite of myself.

"In the next circle," he said, pressing on regardless, are 50 adjectives. See? Pugnacious, precocious, pompous . . ."

"Pimpily, perverted, prognathous?" I said.

"In the third circle," said John, are 50 nouns of feminine reference: Typiste, Waitress, Nurse, Nymph, Cleopatra, School-ma'am, Seamstress, and so on."

Seamstress and sew on?" I said. "Really, John!"

"In the fourth circle," he continued, coldly, "are 50 adjectives of a feminine nature—pretty, affectionate, mean, grasping, pregnant, drippy, jaded, unhappy.

And finally in the last disc are 50 loca-
ites—such as a cave, a sinking ship,
train. Twiddle the discs about
another, and re-grouping takes place.
Select any point, and simply read from
the outside down to the centre. Like
this," he said: "A silent Solomon and an
unhappy typiste in a deserted house. Or
here, a blind beggar and a dumb wretch
in an alley-way. Five bob?"

I gave him five bob and he beetled off
in the general direction of the Central.
I twiddled the plot-finder happily, and
got an insane monarch with a faithful
daughter upon a tempest-torn heath. I
did not write very much before I had
one of those I-have-been-here-before
feelings. I woke up all at once—Romeo
Lear. Once more I twiddled: an unsophisticated philologist and a cockney
flowergirl in London. It did not take me
long to pin that down to Pygmalion.
Shades of Satan! I thought, does G.B.S.
use one of these?

I decided to try it just once more. I
twiddled everything that would twiddle,
closed my eyes, and let my unblinded
finger select any point. I read down the
column eagerly: a naked simpleton and
a disobedient minx in an orchard.

Phooey, I snorted, back to Genesis
indeed!

Well, if you wish to purchase a patent
plot-finder, almost unused, leave a note
for me on the letter-rack.

Personally, I'm off to the Central to
find John!

—P.N.T.

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