

**Remember !!**  
**PROCESH**  
**NEEDS HELP**

# Craccum

A.U.C. STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

Vol. 27—No. 3. April 29th, 1952.

**KEEP ...**

**MAY 8th**

**... FREE**

## CRACCUM IN TROUBLE

### MORE MONEY AND NEWS NEEDED

Craccum is under fire. For some time the newspaper has been losing money and something must be done about this state of affairs.

The editorial situation, as well as the financial, is causing serious concern.

Editors in the past have tried to achieve dignity and attained dullness. The last Editor tried to achieve brightness and has been told he was a sensationalist.

#### WHAT DO THE STUDENTS WANT?

##### STAFF BLAMELESS

It is difficult to conceive the attitude of mind that the average student has toward "Craccum." No blame can be attached to the staff of the Journal. Rather, those who should be blamed are those who have stood off and sniped at the newspaper from long-distance.

##### RECORD !

This week we attain what appears to be a record for recent years—several letters to the Editor in one issue. All of the letters are critical of something and two of them critical of Craccum, which shows that not all of the students walk around with their eyes closed. It indicates also that some of them have sufficient intelligence to criticise a state of affairs in which they see their own money "going down the drain."

##### HARD FACTS

If sentiment will not shock some life into our apathetic colleagues, perhaps facts will.

In its last few issues, Craccum has been losing between £35 and £45 an issue. This money has been coming out of YOUR pockets and it is time you had something to say about the matter.

##### DO YOU WANT CRACCUM TO CONTINUE PUBLICATION?

There are two things which have been considered (not necessarily officially) in regard to Craccum's position: (1) Advertising. The scope offered in journal is good. It is read from cover to cover by most students and the advertisements are perused as much as the news matter (2) A charge. Before this can be made it is essential that there be a guaranteed minimum circulation. A reply form is printed inside this issue so that we may judge your attitude in this matter. All you have to do, if it would not be TOO much trouble, is to fill in the details on the form and slip them into the box at the door of our office.

##### WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE STUDENTS THINK.

All reputable Universities have their own newspapers. They are supported by students of their respective institutions. In overseas student journals which reach this office we see great amounts of student advertising. Why can this not happen here?

##### Appeal to Clubs

Club Secretaries particularly are to blame that this state of financial chaos has come about. If the club is holding a function then could not this fact be advertised in Craccum?

The charge for advertisements is small, but with sufficient of these advertisements Craccum's financial difficulties would be a long way toward being solved.

If the clubs feel that their activities are not being fully covered by Craccum, then the fault lies more with them than with Craccum.

It is not possible for every meeting that happens inside or outside this University to be covered by students (most of them part-time) who have lectures to attend and jobs to do.

The clubs could well appoint a press-correspondent or better still, second a member to the staff of Craccum. Any one who wants to join the staff is welcome.

##### Let Us Know

Another desirable element of this would be that club members would know better what goes on inside their

### OUR VIEWS

Several of the views expressed in this edition are not necessarily those of the Auckland University College Students' Association.

Responsibility for such statements and articles printed herein rests with the Editor and authors.  
—Ed.

clubs than do Craccum's reporters. We make a conscientious effort to fully cover the proceedings of all meetings and happenings in the University, but this is not possible when we do not even know what is going on. How can we find out if we are not informed?

The biggest newspapers in the world acknowledge that most of their important non-scheduled news stories come from members of the public who are sufficiently interested to inform the newspapers of what is happening.

##### Clubs' Fault

To single out a few clubs for particular emphasis: The Photographic Club probably sees some fine examples of the photographers' art, but how many of these are forwarded to Craccum with a view to publication?

### STOP THIEF!

Sir,

Maybe you've wondered why there never seem to be any magazines in the Men's Reading Room. Well, the House Committee is wondering, too. Magazines are put there regularly every two days, and just as regularly they disappear into thin air.

This is the first time we have ever had reason to doubt the honesty of the student body, and it is not very pleasant.

The magazines are paid for out of student funds, and it is up to the students themselves to leave them in the Reading Room, and, what is more, it is up to them to "have a go" at anyone seen removing them.

Any such punitive action will be endorsed by the House Committee.

It has been suggested that magazines be fixed so they can not be removed, but any such return to medievalism is to be avoided if possible.

—Reading Room Steward.

[We agree — See Below — Ed.]

## Appeal to Procesh Organisers ...

### MAKE IT FUNNY: KEEP IT CLEAN!

Now that procesh time is here again we think it is pertinent to bring several matters to the attention of the organisers of the event.

They can either raise public support for this College or they can leave a nasty taste in the public's mouth.

Students engaged in Procesh are asked not to annoy any members of the public whilst carrying out their duties.

It is easy to create the wrong impression and every endeavour should be made this year to ensure that nothing unseemly occurs.

##### Black Eyes Out

Some students in the past, not necessarily from this University, seem to have had the idea that it was funny to do such things as throw flour or water on people's clothes. If any antics of this type are contemplated by procesh participants, we suggest that they be erased.

##### BLACK EYES ARE NOT GOOD ADVERTISEMENTS.

We appeal to Carnival Committee to try to conduct the procession with humour, good taste and dignity.

We should be able to rise above the crude slap-stick usually associated with Hollywood films of the poorer type.

##### The Low-Down

In the words of David Low in his last cartoon for Lord Beaverbrook before transferring to the Daily Herald: "Wanted: Cartoonist. Must be CLEVER, FUNNY and OBEDIENT."

## COUNCIL TO LIGHT UP ALBERT PARK

The City Council's Parks and Reserves Branch has decided to provide adequate lighting for Albert Park at a cost of about £4,000.

It was stated during the meeting that women have been attacked in the Park several times and that proper lighting would help to lessen the frequency of such occurrences.

As many of our women students have to cross the Park at night after lectures this move will be welcomed by Students generally.

Now that the decision has been made it is hoped that its implementation will not be long delayed.

## Vandalism Should be Penalised

The attention of all students is drawn to a letter from the steward of the Men's Reading Room in which he rightly complains that magazines are being constantly stolen from the Reading Room.

That this type of thing should be going on in the University is a reflection on all students and goes hand in hand with much general vandalism in the College which must be stopped.

If such things are observed and reported to the executive it is hoped that heavy fines will be imposed on the offenders until all students realise that they are here to learn — not to destroy property which is not theirs.

The Men's Common Room, after students have been through it for a couple of hours, resembles a badly organised sly-groggery (minus only bottles).

It is high time that our students developed a sense of responsibility in keeping with the status and traditions of the University.



# TOWER-CLIMBING MUST BE STOPPED

## Tragedy Predicted

Before Easter, much publicity was given to the placing of an umbrella atop the Arts building's main spire.

The publicity, in both the local newspapers, was perhaps the widest spread the University has received for months. That this publicity should not have been in the best interests of the University is a fact to be regretted and remembered on future occasions.

Many people view students' activities with disdain and this type of irresponsibility will do little to abate the criticism of our activities, which, unfortunately, coming as it does from some quite influential sources, detracts from the reputation of the institution.

Without wishing to belittle the athletic prowess of those responsible for placing the "brolly" on the spire, it is suggested that such activities should not be repeated.

In interviews with the Press the person who climbed the spire seems to have emphasised the danger to which he was exposed. The vivid account of the way that pieces of masonry fell away at his touch seems the more to have accentuated the danger.

Unfortunately, the University's detractors have not been slow to comprehend this. It has not brought any glory to the College. If the perpetrators of this act feel fit on any future occasion we suggest Mount Cook as the right direction for their enthusiasm.

### Should be Stopped

If this tower-climbing is not stopped there will probably be a tragedy. The climb to the dome is an extremely hazardous venture and one slip from that height would be sufficient to bring the University into bad repute and to have a considerably unpleasant effect on the would-be alpinist.

Tragedies do not make good publicity and as most of the attempts on the spire are made in darkness it seems certain that someone will be hurt.

It is hoped that the College authorities will provide some way of preventing people from climbing to the dome. A system of iron spikes is suggested. These, placed in the right position, would make the task of any aspiring spire bespoiler particularly uncomfortable.

It is a sad thing that these matters should have to be considered. This is a University — not a kindergarten.

Students should remember that their task at this University is to fit themselves to take a useful place in society. Whereas none will object to harmless fun, it is doubtful whether it is an advertisement for University life in general, or this College in particular, to have members of the Academy careering round and acting like hooligans.

## LETHARGY HITS HOCKEY, TOO

March 10th brought a very poor attendance to the University Women's Hockey Assn. A.G.M.

The following officers were elected:— President: Mrs. Jensen. Vice-Presidents: Mrs. McKenzie, Miss H. McKenzie, Mr. L. Crawley, Mr. J. Hogben, Professor H. Hollinrake, Mr. D. Neale. Club Captain: Dene Sadgrove. Secretary: Bryan Waddell. Treasurer: Marion Solly. Committee: June Horsfall, Mary Ellis, Dedre de Clive Lowe, Lois Penman, Nancy McMurray.

## N.Z.U.S.A. Brought to Book

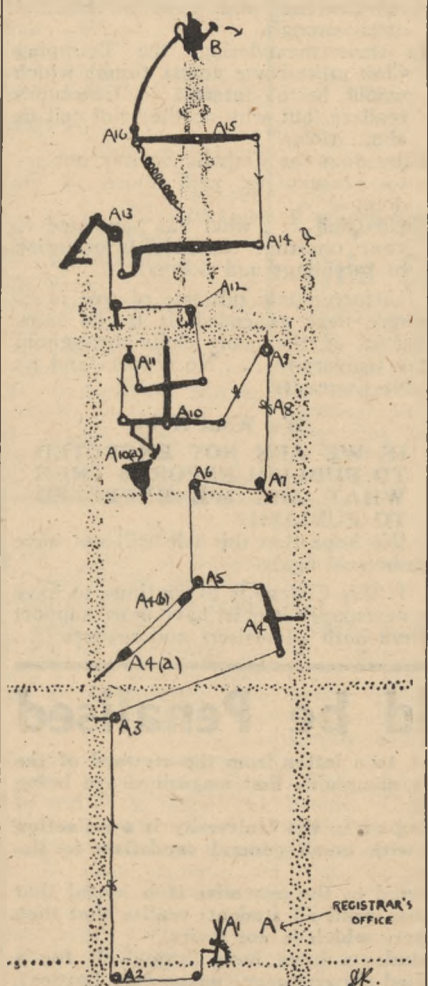
C.U.C. arranged with Souths Bookshop that students get reductions on textbooks. Messrs. Whitcombe and Tombs pointed out that this was contrary to an agreement previously entered into by the C.U.C. Students' Association.

Negotiations between President, Executive and the Booksellers' Association have brought to light the fact that students can obtain 15% reductions. The catch is that "someone" (the Students' Association?) has to place bulk orders and to pay cash for such orders — irrespective of whether or not all of the books are sold to students.

## Drama Teams Limited to Eight

Council learned that a loose clause in the Winter Tournament had allowed a team of nine players to take part in the drama competition held at Dunedin in August. It decided to make it explicit that stage manager and producer are to be considered as members of a drama team; and that if the maximum number of eight persons be exceeded the team shall be disqualified. As before, both stage manager and producer may be players as well.

## Top Secret, M.I.5., Etc.



[With apologies to the Estate late Heath Robinson]

## A.U.C.'s Fault, Says Vic. N.Z.U.S.A. Delegate

### POLICE CHECKS

When this came up at N.Z.U.S.A. there was at first no discussion: then V.U.C. moved that Council pass to the next business. At this juncture the A.U.C. delegation mentioned that it had something to bring forward, namely, a resolution explicitly disassociating N.Z.U.S.A. from the Congress statement on the grounds that basis of the complaint was trivial.

V.U.C. declined to support this resolution. "We feel that A.U.C. is trying to get the weighty authority of N.Z.U.S.A. to bolster faulty administration in Auckland." They argued that the information on the Association's files was of a confidential nature and should not have been readily available to outsiders.

Council then passed to the next business. V.U.C. delegates mentioned a similar attempt to investigate V.U.C.'s books, but permission was refused the police to do so.

# CONGRESS REMIT REJECTED

## Exec. Decides No Action on Police Probes

"STAFF REPORTER"

A remit from Congress calling on the Association to make a vigorous protest against police checks on the political activities of students and staff was considered at the last meeting of the executive.

Congress felt that University students and staffs should have wider freedom than most sections of the community to hear both sides of controversial issues.

Part of that freedom should be an absence of social pressure which might tend to close avenues of enquiry because to pursue them would bring ostracism.

### "HOLLOW RING"

Unless this obtains the repeated entreaties of public figures, in the University and outside that students should think for themselves, come to have a hollow ring.

Congress felt that the activities of the police at Auckland College were undesirable in that they went beyond the bounds of necessity.

Two practical effects that were were apparent at the time were an increase in the tendency among students to think hysterically rather than rationally and an added reluctance to have any contact with persons who might be called Socialists.

The police activities in Auckland were pin-points, but the background to them, though harder to describe, was also a factor in the statement made by Congress.

### SPIES TOO?

THERE WERE VAGUE REPORTS, TOO MANY, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE MERE SMOKE, OF CARD INDEXES HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS; SUR-REPTITIOUS ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE POLITICAL OPINIONS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF AND EVEN RUMOURS THAT AT TWO UNIVERSITY COLLEGES MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT BODY WERE IN REGULAR COMMUNICATION WITH THE SECURITY POLICE.

## Thanks, Gerald, for a Job Well Done

Mr. Gerald Utting has resigned the Editorship of Craccum.

During his term of office he helped to get the newspaper out of the doldrums and did a thoroughly good job against very tough opposition. He had many critics, but none of those critics offered anything constructive in the way of a suggestion.

The Publications Committee has thanked Gerald on behalf of the students for his effort. The only regret is that he did not have more cooperation.

This issue appears under the guidance of a temporary-editor, the new editor not having been appointed.

Temp. Ed.

Our executive held that in the face of the underhand tactics of Communists and their supporters in this country, but more especially in other countries, our democracy must resort to measures that we dislike, but which are necessary evils if the form of society in which we live, and which we enjoy, is not to be dominated by any one section of the community.

Laws must be upheld and the way to change them is by use of the ballot paper, not the cash.

It was argued that there was no need to raise a song unless someone could point to an individual who had been harmed in any way as a result of the police enquiries and note-taking at A.U.C.

The Exec. agreed, after discussion had gone on for an hour, that its delegates to N.Z.U.S.A. should not support the remit. It also passed a resolution disassociating itself from the sentiments expressed.

### NOT NECESSARY

Obviously, the crucial question is whether or not the activity was necessary. In view of the law-abiding, indeed the apathetic nature on things political of the vast majority of students, I say it was not necessary.

A consideration of the extent to which the strike (which coincided with the probes) was a result of industrial troubles divorced from communist propaganda leads to the same conclusion.

However, most of the Exec., and probably most of the students at large do not agree.

### M.I.5's SECRET

This sketch should be self-explanatory, says artist Kennedy. Only snag is the necessity to (a) observe your climber, (b) pull the lever, and (c) refill your can.



# GRADING DISCUSSED BY EXECUTIVE

## Out of the Smoke - Came Information

At the last meeting of the executive the grading system was discussed. This matter, which has been perplexing many students, is fully explained and discussed in the following article.

We apologise for the length of the story, but it would have been hard to cut any of it without reducing from the explanatory value of the discussion.

### CHOCOLATE AND STALE BREATH

Correspondence had been received, the President had called for Reports. One by one the holders of Portfolios mentioned woes, hopes, and, occasionally, some concrete suggestions.

The last slab of chocolate had been eaten. Interest flagged and the air became thicker with smoke and stale breath.

**Then the Student Representative mentioned grading. "I brought grading up at the College Council meeting and was told that the matter had been decided by the Senate and that that was that."**

The Men's Vice-President hopped in with eyes flashing! "The students want to know their marks! Marks give them an idea of how they are doing—whether they failed by only a few marks, whether they nearly made first class with their essays and generally, just how their work compares with others."

"We should ask the Council to reconsider its attitude. I move that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Registrars of N.Z.U. and A.U.C. protesting against the manner in which the question of the marking of examination papers and the release of examination marks has been dealt with by the Senate and the Constituent colleges. The Students' Association and N.Z.U.S.A. have not at any stage been consulted."

"The Executive considers this is a vital matter affecting students and one on which their authoritative opinion on behalf of students might well have been sought."

#### "HEAR! HEAR!"

"Hear! Hear!" said Men's House Committee. "Madam Chair, the students' fees are going up and up and yet a system of marking of which they do not approve is instituted without their feeling being gauged. I wish very strongly to support the motion."

"I would like to know the case for Grading," said the Corresponding Member from his nearly horizontal position.

Publications eagerly took the cue and (inevitably), using experience at Congress to support the argument, said he was satisfied that grading was in the best interests of the students even though they did not think so. His case was not convincing and an unidentified voice even went so far as to say that it showed that examiners could be more lax in their marking in future, and that they could more easily allow personal factors to influence their choice of grading.

"We can more easily be victimised."

#### Of Things Past

"I would still like to hear the case for grading," said the Corresponding Member.

"Let us ask the Principal to come to our next meeting," said Grants.

"Or failing that let us ask him if he would receive a deputation," was a feminine contribution.

**Thus it came that on February 28, Miss Green and Messrs. Butcher, Lynch and Thomson met the Principal in his office and helped him to burn many cigarettes.**

An hour's discussion revealed that:

• "It is necessary to construct a technique for assessing such qualities as originality, power of logical thought and "Grasp" of subject matter. The awarding of marks as is done in schools is not satisfactory at the University because now it is not so much factual things such as spelling mistakes or incorrect dates that are deplored and berated, as dull uninspired handling of a subject and an inability to see and appreciate undelying principles."

It is as much the method, the approach, that is being assessed, as the facts. This applies even in Mathematics, where, at first sight, it would seem to be necessary merely for the answer to a problem to be right for a candidate to receive full marks.

**2 + 2 = 5: O.K.?**

**In fact, in the higher stages of Maths at any rate, the examiners are influenced quite considerably by the methods adopted in the solving of problems, irrespective of whether the answers are right or wrong.**

Grading is a more efficient instrument than a system of awarding marks up to 100.

On reading a paper the examiner is soon aware as to whether it is a first, second or third class pass or a failure.

He sorts the papers into their grades and then, if he so desires, he can rate those in separate grades against one another by awarding plus and minus. But no amount of plus on a B paper will make it an A paper.

There will remain a difference of quality which is not sufficiently indicated by the difference between say 168 and 72 in a history paper marked in the old way.

#### Which is Top?

For the successful working of the system it would be necessary that except in one or two subjects, of which Maths is possibly one, the Examiners should place their papers in grades without having recourse to the intermediate stage of awarding marks and then assessing the equivalent grades. Doing this defeats one object of the new system.

#### The Case "For"

Among the advantages claimed for grading is that it allows candidates from different centres and different academic disciplines to be more easily compared by such persons as would be employers, and adjudicators awarding scholarships.

As things are at present, there is the perennial difficulty of trying to decide whether 82 in History is equivalent to 95 in Mathematics, and whether the fact that Candidate A pips Candidate B by four marks in Latin is not compensated by B's leading A when subsidiary subjects are considered.

The testimonies of the teachers under whom the candidates have worked are the most important evidence in decisions concerning scholarships, and in all close contests the Board's opinion of the students is naturally of great moment.

The grading system recognises this honestly without the distraction introduced by precise percentage marks which, when all is said and done, are accurate only to a margin of about 5 per cent. This is to say that the same examiner would be likely to give marks differing by five units or more were he to mark the same paper at two different times.

#### They Figured

With regard to failures, the examiners are very loth to fail a borderline candidate, and almost always do so only after consultation with one or more of their colleagues. They must be quite definite over the failures... "49 might just as well be 51." On the other hand, D is D, a definite failure—though not sufficiently bad to discourage a candidate from coming back for another try next time. E signifies hopelessness—you are no good in this subject—don't come back.

**D does not mean: "I invite you to ask for a re-count."**

#### Get Two, Or Else!

When the case was mentioned of a Law student who had to pass in at least two units in order to be credited with any at all, Mr. Maidment agreed in principle that fairly good work in one subject ought to be taken into account in assessing the second, which on its own, might be quite definitely a D failure.

The delegation then changed its ground and argued that even if it were conceded that grading was a good thing it felt that at some stage of the discussions leading to the adoption of the grading system, student opinion should have been sought by the Professorial Boards and the Senate.

**The Principal felt that the Senate did not have to consult students before changes in marking systems were made, but agreed that the step might have been taken if only to forestall the sort of protest against grading that had in fact arisen, by mentioning earlier the advantages of grading and stressing that the proposal was designed to help students and not to make their academic progress more difficult.**

"Grading is very widely practiced (and to an increasing extent) in England and America you know. It is a new thing here. After it has been in operation for a year or so I think you will see its value," he explained.

## UNI. PAPERS MUST BE FREE

**Events at Sydney University on Thursday draw attention to the serious need for complete freedom of expression for college papers.**

**That certain factions should attempt to suppress "Honi Soit" because it contained controversial material is a shocking example of depraved thinking.**

**The staff of "Craccum" extends its condolences to "Honi Soit" and sincerely regrets the apparent irresponsibility of members of the Sydney University.**

**It is hoped that our students will never follow this deplorable precedent and shrink from fair reporting.**

EDITOR.

## SEND IN YOUR SHORT STORIES

We have received several entries for the Short Story Contest, but we need more of them.

**Publication of the first prize-winning entry is a feature of our next issue.**

If you feel you can write, try your talents in "Craccum." The prize is good. Compare the ease of earning this £1, with that of digging gardens for it.

## REACTION AND AQUINAS

**THE** forces of reaction once more machinate satisfactorily, with the commencement of Aquinas lectures in Room 44 on Wednesday nights.

About 40 characters—not all of them embracing the One True Faith—attended the first Catholic Society lecture the other evening at 7 p.m. to hear "The Existence of God" propounded with eloquence, logic, and the sweetest brogue, by the University chaplain, Rev. D. M. Fitzmaurice, O.P.

The course this year consists of an outline of the Thomistic Five Proofs (Quinque Viae), and a summary and rebuttal of the main objections to them—Scpeticism, Positivism, etc.

Slightly above the head of the average fresher—who nevertheless finds himself welcome—the course should appeal to those of the undergrad. section interested in a little serious controversy.

Dom Fitzmaurice is known in Catholic circles as an extempore speaker of note, and has considerable rhetorical powers.

It is claimed that the course should be interesting, in sufficiently small doses, for even the worst philistine of the local agnostic citizenry.

—P.F.



"CRACCUM"

April 29th, 1952.

## STATEMENTS ON SOCIAL SECURITY CAUSE ALARM

It is with alarm that "Craccum" views the tendency among public figures to decry one of the most humane services rendered to the New Zealand citizen—Social Security.

There has been in the last few weeks a surfeit of newspaper publicity for those who have found it expedient to attack the system on one ground or another.

To the rising New Zealander Social Security is a birth-right hard-fought for by his parents and generations of ardent patriots. It is a right he has more than paid for in hard cash and to which he has always looked for sympathetic consideration in adversity.

That public servants in their official capacity should be allowed to attack the system is in itself deplorable. That Hospital Board members, entrusted with its administration should do so, is extremely undesirable.

Hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders have paid for the benefits they receive under the system. It is not for the few to attempt to have it abolished.

If, as has been stated, there are anomalies, this is only to be expected. If these anomalies are believed to be extensive then it would be for a Royal Commission to investigate them and make recommendations accordingly.

If the Government feels that the system is uneconomic then it is not for the administration to abolish it. Millions of pounds of the public's money is involved and if any move is to be made to do away with the scheme, or even to drastically amend it, it is essential that a referendum be held to gauge public feeling on the matter.

Many students in Australia and America would be glad to have the medical benefits available to New Zealand students. It is often difficult for them to pay expenses, and one student in Auckland has only recently paid off a debt of £200 incurred in an essential operation performed in Australia last year.

If the Government feels that the cost of the scheme is too heavy, it should be reminded that a generation of happy, healthy children is adequate recompense for even a billion pounds of expenditure, let alone the few paltry millions the health scheme involves.

If Social Security is axed by the administration, students can rest assured that education will be next.

It is vital to the interests of New Zealand that these irresponsible statements cease. Coming as they do before the opening of a few week's time of the next session of Parliament, they cause unrest and doubt.

We request the Government to state its intentions in regard to this matter as soon as possible so as to alleviate the present apprehension.

In making any decisions may we suggest that not only the financial, but also the philosophical and practical aspects of the matter be considered.

## VOTING ENDS IN ELAM S.S.R.: NOBODY BEATEN

Voting has been concluded for the Elam Students' Association Committee. Polling was based on good Soviet principles, as there was a 100 per cent. poll, and only one candidate for each position. Returning officers were sent round to each class to take the votes. Only one of last year's committee stood—Randall Young, second year students' representative. New officers: President: Tom Foran; Vice-President: Jolyon Saunders; Secretary: Joan Stevens; Treasurer: Barry Brown; plus representatives of each year.

# Letters Confirm View That All Not Well

Correspondents support our contention that all is not well with "Craccum." We appreciate the points of view expressed below and assure our readers that an effort is being made to brighten up "Craccum" and make it function in its intended way.

Sir,

I am sure you will be delighted to have some controversial discussion on the subject of this paper.

In your last editorial you raise the question of humorous articles. I think that humorous articles are an excellent idea, but what a pity there seems to be nobody on "Craccum" with a sense of humour.

About this "Fare Slash Query Snarl." Being indulgent, I thought it mildly funny in a moronic sort of way. As a burlesque of modern newspaper style it would be quite effective in a "Craccum" whose usual layout was less spectacular, but as it is, it only seems like a burlesque of "Craccum" itself.

I turned to the "O.U. Med. Frolics" and thought we were having a really happy fling with comic use of invective. After reading it right through I gathered that it was meant to be taken seriously. I think a good case could be made out for condemning initiation ceremonies, but the tone in "Craccum" is hysterical and ridiculous. "Brutal mauling" implies a deliberate intent to injure, which we have no right to assume. Surely the initiation ceremonies are fundamentally good-humoured, or the University authorities would not smile benignly upon them. If the editor attended stage 1. English he might profit by a discussion of irresponsible emotive prose.

Geopolitikon favours us with two anti-Communist articles from the Liberal point of view. Vyshinsky—"one of the most cold-blooded mockers of peace the world has ever known"—Yes, but doesn't it ring a familiar bell?

Mr. Utting seems to take a delight in baiting Gale and the Socialist Club. Really, are they worth baiting? The University Socialist Club does not seem capable of rising above the level of name-calling of the most hackneyed sort. I suggest that the Socialist Club be ignored until it finds a more intelligent approach to its subject.

"Exec. Meets." I thought was good. All executive bodies should be before the public eye as much as possible, and as deflated as possible. I hope this will be a regular feature.

I also liked the photos of skiing on Ruapehu.

I confess that your "arts" section did not delay me very long. Once I have read the film reviews of the "Star," "Herald" and "Listener," I have pretty well lost interest, especially when the films have long since departed.

"Two Varsity men in classic race." I am sick of the private joke contained in the printed frolics of a small group of obscure people revolving round some former co-editor.

"Craccum" is not connected enough with the students. It is not good enough to shift the blame for this with the hoary old excuse of apathy. There is a good deal of student life if you look for it (who defaced the statues anyway?).

The clubs are the real lifeblood of the student body. "Craccum" should try to get club support by offering incentive for that support. It is no compliment for a club to have its copy tucked into a corner of the back page, as was the fate of French Club and Music Club last issue.

As a positive policy I suggest that club activities be given greater feature interest as headline news, and that

"Craccum" cease to ignore worth-while University events. Sir John Shepherd got half a column, when a man of his intellectual stature and personality should have been given bells on the front page. No mention was made of his lunchtime address, which drew several hundred students and had a wider appeal than his evening talk.

"Craccum" tends to ignore everything that gives the full-time student some faint sense of being involved in a University. Stud. Assn. is paying a lot of money to provide an outlet for the flashy journalistic attempts of junior reporters frustrated by our dignified dailies. If this is all we want from a student paper, let us scrap "Craccum" and sell "Truth" in the Caf. After all, "Truth" does the job so much better.

D. Aimer.

[To correspondent Aimer, thanks, and may we suggest he join our staff. —Ed.]

## PLEA FOR VALUE

Sir,

Have you any self-esteem whatsoever? Have you ever felt your conscience yelling out at you? For I am sure it would have just cause to do so. You call yourself an "editor." I call you a rubbish-collector. And I suggest you do with all "Craccum's" material what the rubbish-collector does with his — burn it.

I am sure that would make life in this unbearable University a little less unbearable. Such trite trash; such brash, bumptious and flouncingrodomontade as we find on your pages should never have been conceived, much less published in a 'varsity magazine. Words fail me. (Sic.)

I am sure others will take up the crusade to get some worthwhile magazine. Your rotundity, sir, is a symbol of your mental lethargy. I suggest you exercise your mind a little more.

May I suggest the same to those smug and glib persons who call themselves the reporters of the Arts (???) Page. They just spit out out-dated Herald and Star criticisms. Their minds are as stale as the activities they review. Could something not be done about getting competent contributors and a more up-to-date set of critiques.

I for one would like to see "Craccum" as an organ for all sorts of controversy, rather than a provider of stale news.

Here's hoping,

John Brown.

[To correspondent Brown, a job, "Craccum" reporter.—Ed.]

## SEDITIONOUS?

Sir,

I noticed in your scandle-paper, a literary effort attributed to "Pro Bono Publico," which attempted to inculcate fear and shame into the hearts of this year's freshers.

As a fresher, I suggest that this venerable institution would be a far healthier place if he and his fellow-wallowers-in-the-mores were exterminated. Admittedly, all non-freshers are not included in this category, but I have observed amongst them, a fair number of dissolute, washed-out specimens, who should have been eliminated at birth.

We freshers are certainly a rather motley collection, but beside "Pro Bono Publico" and the other parasitical lounge-lizards who contaminate this sanctuary of learning: I am sure we appear as shining examples of healthy New Zealand youth.

One awaits the disposal of this sediment in our midst. In anticipation, I am,

Yours faithfully,  
A Fresher.

[This correspondent did not sign his name to his letter. In future such mis-sives will not be printed. We understand the reason for this particular lapse, but correspondents must sign their names to letters, although of course, nom-de-plumes will be used if desired.—Ed.]

## CAMPUS CRITIC

Sir,

I am writing, not to criticize "Craccum," but to make a long overdue complaint about the College tennis courts. It is time they were jettisoned. At present they are a shambles of bent poles and sagging wire surrounding a patchy "sward," forbidden to all but the few. They look like a decaying cage from an abandoned zoo. Occasionally one sees that rather outmoded game of tennis in progress; more often the courts are deserted, but for the overworked groundsman, trying to encourage the last few blades of grass. They are neither useful nor beautiful. They should be cleared and grassed so that everyone can enjoy the area. Perhaps a fountain could be added—Wellington is getting one now, so Auckland should have two. Or an open air branch of the Caf. might be started. At all events, the so-called courts should cease to be the domain of the privileged few—the tennis players—and be opened up, as a green, to all. There seem to be many satisfactory-looking tennis courts elsewhere in the city.

—John Edwards.

## CHOPPING STICKS

Sir:

After a period of years at this venerable centre of learning, one has somewhat complacently formed that conviction that the many and varied noises issuing from the Men's Common Room could be ignored simply by adopting a cynical attitude toward the existence of the objects which produced the noises.

One was of course aware of a piano of sorts: one had in fact accustomed oneself to the awesome cacaphony of sound produced during the titanic struggle of man with aforesaid monster.

Yet one begs to submit, sir, that this year's harvest of ineffectual musicians appears to display less knowledge of their art than at any previous time, and show no outward signs of conception of the meaning of human dignity.

One feels that one's views are shared, sir, by others to whom the more select of the aesthetic sensibilities are not unattainable.

Think you, sir, that these tone-deaf sadists might, taking counsel from this letter, comply with the request of the actress to the bishop: "Tone it down."

—Constant Listener.

(Craccum shares "Constant Listener's" views wholeheartedly. For weeks now the student block has echoed and re-echoed to "Chopsticks." We are all sick of it now. The buzz is that unless it stops, drastic action may be taken by the local branch of the Death-to-Culture Movement.)—Ed.



# TOO MUCH TIME ON SPORT

## Did N.Z.U.S.A. Neglect Vital Matters?

Staff Reporter

Most of the business at the recent N.Z.U.S.A. Council meeting had to do with varsity sports. I do not know if this is normal or exceptional. That it is normal is indicated by my own experience at the last winter meeting of the Council and the remarks of the New Zealand delegate to the Australian equivalent of Council.

Mr. Cory-Wright stated in his report: 'It was refreshing to forego the enormous time expended on sporting administration associated with our own Council.'

### TOO MUCH

Sport is and should be a major activity at the University; but the dominance that it exercised at this year's meeting is to be deplored.

I shall give two instances of the sort of thing that I am criticising.

The V.U.C. delegation announced in a matter of fact tone that if it were necessary to cut down on the numbers already attending Winter Tournament in order to permit the entry of women basketball players and an extra couple of male table-tennis players, they were prepared to vote for the removal of Drama from the list of Tournament activities: this despite the fact that the drama competitions provide a most welcome change from sporting activities for both players and public, and in addition, are a source of revenue at a time when most if not all other activities are absorbing Student Association funds.

The second instance concerns a remark of the chairman on Sunday afternoon. Friday afternoon and evening, the whole of Saturday, Sunday morning and part of Sunday afternoon had been spent in discussing the size of Winter Tournament, the difficulties of billeting, the inclusion of new sports, the augmenting of teams, the awarding of blues and the composition of the blues panel.

### SUBSIDIARY MATTERS

The last matter of a sporting nature had been brought up, wrangled over, voted on, recommitted, voted on a second time and, finally, disposed of.

Several remits from Congress had been briefly discussed. A speaker asked whether it was not probable that the Council might finish its meeting if it were to remain in session until about six o'clock. The Chairman, noticing that the main items remaining on the agenda were such matters as the S.L.F. bursary proposals, World Student Relief, a remit concerning the recognition of the Chinese Government and the appointment of student counsellors, agreed, "Yes, we might be able to finish up if we keep going. I do not see anything very controversial to come up."

IN THE MINDS OF MOST OF THOSE PRESENT THE ITEMS THAT REMAINED WERE THE FAG-ENDS OF THE SUBJECT MATTER.

WITH THIS POINT OF VIEW I MOST VEHEMENTLY DISAGREE.

Having stated at some length that the Council was unduly preoccupied with sporting matters I should like to discuss some aspects of the subjects that took up most of the Council's time.

The Sports Officer, Dr. McCoy, had previously been asked to report on the holding of Winter Tournament. Consequently the Council had to discuss a long report that raised a large number of basic questions which affected the several hundred students who are likely to be going to future tournaments. (Hence some preoccupation with sport.)

Dr. McCoy recommended that many more players be sent to Winter Tournament; but at the same time suggested that restrictions on the entry of new sports be placed so that Tournament should not become unwieldy.

### NEW SPORTS

Council therefore decided that new sports should be admitted only if all colleges were in agreement on the matter. It was also decided to give new sports a trial period during which competitors should receive all normal privileges except that points gained in the sports on trial should not count towards the Tournament Shield.

The size of the table-tennis team was increased from four to six, that of the small-bore rifle team from four to five; and golf and women's indoor basketball were included on trial.

### BILLETING

This is a perennial difficulty for the organisers of Winter Tournament.

Dr. McCoy suggested the imposition of a levy of £1 on every student who did not find his own billet. This, the Otago delegation argued, would provide the necessary incentive for persons to find their own billets rather than happily writing to the host college and saying, "here, you get a billet for me, will you."

### GROGGY

The man who wrote to the billeting controller, "I absolutely refuse to stay with relatives even if they ask for me," would be penalised to the extent of £1 unless he could persuade a friend to take him. (Incidentally, the same correspondent wrote with reference to his capacity for liquor, "It is terrifying!")

V.U.C. (in the persons of David Horsley and Maurice O'Brien) argued against the inequity of the proposal to impose a "sectional" levy on just the persons that it was most necessary to help—those students who probably, for no fault of their own, were unable to obtain their own billets.

### WE COMPROMISED

The A.U.C. delegation unhappily attempted a compromise by having the levy reduced to 10/- and in this form the resolution was passed. However the indefatigable and loquacious O'Brien had the motion recommitted; and on this occasion A.U.C. and V.U.C. voted together to defeat the proposal.

Consequently the position is as it was before except that there will be about fifty more billets required at future tournaments. All students are therefore urged to help the host college by obtaining billets for themselves if at all possible.

### TRAVEL MONEY

Dr. McCoy urged that these be removed. (A.U.C. pays its sporting

## PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN FAREWELLS EDITOR

The thanks of the whole student body are due to Gerald Utting, whose term of office as editor of Craccum has expired.

Two years ago Craccum retailed for sixpence a copy. Rarely were more than two hundred sold. A thousand were ordered in order to obtain the advertisers' support; but there was a regular waste of copies. On at least one occasion sales numbered only a hundred, while the nadir of the circulation was reached when all of twelve copies found purchasers.

There followed a period in which editors changed with rapidity (for to edit Craccum means a great deal of work for which thanks are rarely given).

Gerald then took over the sole editorship of the paper and continued the policy (inaugurated by Rod Smith, I believe) of dis-

tributing Craccum free. This is undoubtedly preferable to selling the paper, mainly because there is then no necessity to organise a force of salespeople from students whose perpetual cry is, "Oh, but I have work to do!", and also because of increased circulation.

Gerald's distinctive policy was sensationalism. He maintained that this was a sound journalistic device for arousing interest. The increased circulation of Craccum (about 2000) supports his contention.

When relinquishing his office the editor remarked, "Perhaps this year I shall be able to get two units." With his week-ends free from editing and proof-reading, perhaps he will. I hope all students join me in wishing him well.

—NORMAN THOMSON,  
(Chairman of Publications Comm.)

## Shop Soil!

**VELOCIPEDS**—Owners above instruments advised to conduct said missiles carefully whilst riding to and from stands. Rumours of a clean-up in this direction.

**MUSIC**—Suggested Students' Association take steps in re. piano in Men's Common Room. Suggestions:—Remove (a) noisy jazz and "chop-stick" fiends and/or (b) piano.

**LA BELLE FEMME**—Femmes draped over balcony of W.C.R. advised to stance selves more appropriately. Blood Pressure Dept. downstairs reports increase in chronic cases.

**GLIMMER**—Rumoured prospective attempt to bestow phosphorescent glow to spire gather in force. Not advised. Civil Aviation Department and seagulls both state would make city's lights confusing.

**WELL NOW**—Two freshers observed holding hands during history lectures should refrain. This is neither the time nor place for such goings on. For advice as to what is and where refer "Craccum's" social editress.

**BIBLICAL**—Suggested by some Freshers that Lecturers refer too much to Bible. At least there seems to be (so they say) a certain air of "Deity" exuded from rostrum. Is this infallible?

**OPINIONS**—Plenty of space in "Craccum" for your views on anything. Have you got a grudge? Good-oh! Air it here.

**CLUB NOTES**—Club Secretaries! If we do not cover your activities then for the love of Mike let us know what happens. This is your Journal—use it.

**WANT TO BE A SCOOP?**—We want staff. Can assure real training in fundamentals of journalism. This is not meant as rivalry for Journalism class. If you are interested in newspaper work and have a "nose for noos" (sticky-beakishness to outsiders) consult "Craccum." All welcome to "give it a lash."

**CRACCUM**—Is read from cover to cover by 3,000 students. Do you think that many people read ads. in the dailies? If you have anything, want anything, etc., etc., advertise here for nominal rates, getting to the people YOU want to contact.

**LA RONDE**—or the Roundabout. A French film on sex that received high awards overseas. Coming shortly—are you over 21?

representatives one third of their second class fares.) Peter Butcher (A.U.C.) said that the matter of subsidies was surely one for the individual colleges; and this view the Council accepted.

### LET GOLF IN!

There was much controversy over the admission of golf. V.U.C. as yet has no club: nor is the formation of one expected. C.U.C. will probably have a club this year, but has not one at the moment. Otago has a strong club with a course which it regularly uses. The position at Auckland was therefore of considerable interest.

The A.U.C. delegation pointed out that the club had a membership of over a hundred, and that its activities included organised contests for its members. The other delegations were very sceptical; and the opinion was openly expressed that the picture given by the A.U.C. people was altogether too rosy, and that in fact a club worthy of the name did not exist.

However, it was eventually decided to include golf for a trial period.

## Purely Functional

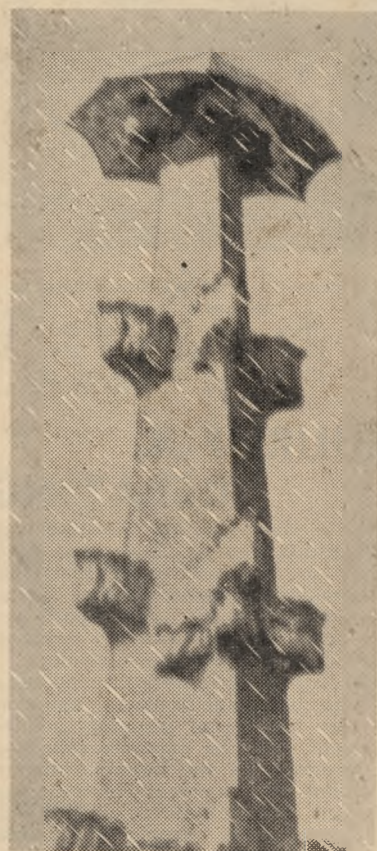


Photo taken during a recent sun-shower before the umbrella assumed its inverted position.



# What's on in the Arts ...

## CAPPING PLAY EXPLAINED

Talking to "Flash Gordon" the other day about Carnival and Capping, the question arose: "Why is the usual weekly Revue to be replaced by George Farquhar's Restoration comedy, 'The Beaux' Stratagem'?"

### Reason

The truth, as Mr. Gordon gave it, is that Carnival Committee had set a deadline of January 31 for revue scenarios. When this date had come and passed, all they had were four promises and no scenarios, so it was decided to revert to the practice of former years, when humorous plays were in vogue.

The decision to give a "straight" play has not been taken lightly, and student and staff opinion was sought before it was decided to depart from the norm. "I feel sure," said Gordon, "that the students and public of Auckland will enjoy Farquhar's lusty, if somewhat earthy, wit."

### Cast

The cast reads like an Old Vic "Who's Who"—

★ Charmian Paterson (Mod. Languages Graduate) plays Mrs. Sullen (female lead).

★ Noeline Pritchard (Jennet of "The Lady's Not for Burning") is this time able to hold her head among respectable women. As Dorinda she endeavours to patch up the Squire's marital relations with Mrs. Sullen.

★ Archer, of course, has the same end in view, but gives it a slightly different slant.

★ Helen Davidson plays Lady Bountiful and Jill Evans "Cherry," the inn-keeper's virtuous daughter, who ladles out the porridge.

★ Chris Venning and Neil Smith are the two rakes. Students who saw the staff reading in 1950 will doubtless remember the original rakes.

The play will run three nights (May 12-14) at the Concert Chamber, newly "sound-proofed" and coloured to look like the W.C.R., and one night (May 16) at the Regent in Rotorua.

### Quotes

Some excerpts from the script:  
**Boniface** (villainous inn-keeper): Sir, I have now in my cellar Ten Tun of the best Ale in Staffordshire; 'tis smooth as Oil, sweet as Milk, clear as Amber, and strong as Brandy, and will be just Fourteen-Year-Old the Fifth Day of next March old Stile.

**Sir Charles:** But, I presume, sir, you won't see your wife to-night; she'll be gone to bed — you don't use to lye with your wife in that pickle.

**Sullen** (drunk): What! not lye with my wife. Why, Sir, do you take me for an Atheist or a rake?

**Sir Charles:** If you hate her, sir, I think you had better lye from her.

**Sullen:** I think so too, friend—But I'm a Justice of Peace and must do nothing agin the Law.

## POETRY ...

### STILL BALLADMONGERING

Last year's Poetry Reading in the College Hall has already been adequately dealt with, but surely a word of reproof is warranted regarding the audience's attitude towards the two musicians so competently providing interludes.

Their pieces were not merely background music, but an integral part of the programme — items well suited to the occasion. Yet the audience saw fit to chatter loudly and even to get up and walk out while the playing was still in progress. And in this respect, several of the poets, presumably most cultured New Zealanders, were the worst offenders.

**Manners Maketh Man.**

—J.C.

Don't you think this a typical Aucklanders' reaction? The audience thinks they are just playing "for fun." His Majesty's offers sufficient proof — have YOU ever caught more than a few strains of the overture?

—A.Ed.

## FILMS ...

### AT THE MIGHTY CIVIC

#### FABIOLA ...

But how are the mighty fallen! ... anyway you should have gone from curiosity.

I did. I wish I hadn't. But the poster did say: "Most magnificent screen spectacle of ancient Rome, City of Sin (goody) in all its lustful (goody, goody) glory. At worst I could still hope for one or two Roman senators charging round the screen, smacking little boys on the bottom."

I took my little pet pig along with me. Incidentally, he speaks Latin like a native. His only comment was: "Pigaro, Porche, Squealie, Gruntum." —Fanfare.

### WHEN NOSES WERE IN BLOOM

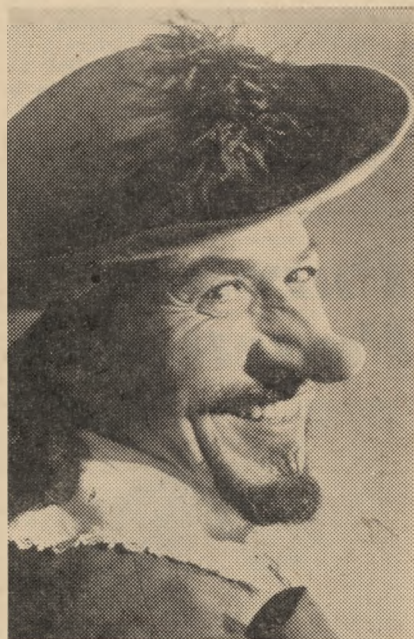
Overheard in city tram:—

She: "Seen any films loitely?"

Second She: "Ye-e-es. Saw that one at the Plaaza last week ... yer nah ... that 'Cyrano der Bergerack' thing."

"Any gewd?"

"Naah; it's the worst oi've ever seen ... It's all high-fellootin' look ... I dunno, they spoke so unnachewral."



"Y'mean tch couldn't unnerstand it?"  
After a moment's thought: "That's raat ... tew poetic f'me. But, did I tell you. I went and saw 'That Midnight Kiss' yesterday ... and, aw, gee, it wus wu-nderfull!"

## MOURNFUL DEBATING

At the last Debating Club meeting, the question whether "Divorce is detrimental to the sanctity of Marriage" was decided in favour of the affirmative, represented by Kevin Lynch and Dan Feist, who defeated the negative, Michael Driffin and Jim Chamley.

The four speakers were disappointing, all in manner, some in matter, and even the very essence of debating, pointed argument with the opinions expressed by the other side, was largely neglected by all but Jim Chamley. The issue was befogged and undecided, until Kevin Lynch sufficiently changed his manner of speaking in his summing up to gain enough supporters to win the day.

The general discussion which followed was the most interesting part of the evening.

—Falstaff.

Concert Chamber, Thursday, 17th—

## NOVEL CHAMBER MUSIC

Tancibudek-Kriegel trio; oboe, violin and piano; recital ranging from the 16th century to the present day ... unknown names, unusual combination and a variegated programme to boot. To have gone out of curiosity and come away pleasantly elated perhaps points the evening's success as well as anything.

Assurance and ease with oboist and violinist were always to the fore in the classical first half. Technical difficulties immediately gave way to a spirited interpretation of **Mozart's oboe sonata**. Jiri Tancibudek's tone filled the hall without forcing, but more character to the accompaniment (and this could be said of all Vera Tancibudek's playing) would have enhanced the tenor of the work.

The **Handel trio**, coming just before interval, had the effect that follows a good helping of pudding — one has had ample yet still remains for more. This work united the best that had gone before and that followed — a symmetrical flow, matching of violin and oboe in "piano" passages, and happy give-and-take between the instruments.

The most exacting work of the evening, the **César Franck violin sonata**, was not always artistically treated. The pianist (this time Daniel Koletz) was guilty of fumbling and the violinist of breaking the serene melodic line. Adam Kreigel's style, free, but unmistakably foreign, quickened at the very end of each stroke and one did not get the imperceptible bowing change essential to a work of this nature.

The remaining works came off well; no more fitting finale could have been wished than Holford's bantering "rondo burleska."

—J.McN.

## RADIO NOTES ...

### SWEET ... AND SICKLY

Ossy Renardy's recording of the **Brahm's Violin concerto**, heard about a fortnight ago from 2YC lent conviction to H.F.'s remarks in the July Gramophone of last year, that "this is the best recorded performance of the beloved Brahms I have ever heard." Most noticeable was the silky sheen of the violin tone, the astonishing ease with which intervals of up to tenths were overcome (first mov. especially) and a rounded orchestral accompaniment that treated the soloist with respect even when going full blast.

Though Renardy's phrasing is chocked with glissando and rubato it never palls, which is more than one can say of the Bronislaw Huberman recording of the **Mozart G major violin concerto**, which 1YC presented recently. Possibly one of the worst concerto recordings ever consecrated to wax, it is certainly the most blatant example of sentimentalised Mozart disembowelling I ever hope to hear. Who was it that remarked that "there are paintings which stink to the eye; there may also be music which stinks to the ear?" —Fanfare.

### ORGONZOLA

The worst feature of **Bach's St. Matthew Passion**, as relayed from St. Matthew's Church on Good Friday, was the organ. Over the air at any rate, the playing was muffled, lacking any sure beat and hindering the singers throughout. The strain between accompaniment and soloists was obvious.

On the credit side, Jean Reeve was a pleasing soprano. The choir was sound and Roger Errington sang the tenor role magnificently. Unfortunately the work was so cut that many points in Dr. Nalden's lucid introduction went unillustrated.

### A RARE FEAST

To have heard **Verdi's Otello** broadcast (2YC Apr. 13) was truly to undergo an emotional experience—no wonder Otello ranks as one of the world's great operas. But how rarely are New Zealanders given the opportunity to hear it! Overseas it is popular—here it is scarcely known.

—Falstaff.

## HANG 'EM ... ELSEWHERE

For some time past we have all been conscious — some of us painfully — of three paintings gracing the wall of the cafeteria. Obviously perpetrated by the students of the Elam School, they were at first a welcome sight, for while many deplored the fact that they were ever painted, it was thought that they would be changed at regular intervals—after all, replacements could hardly be worse if not better.

The value of fresh paintings — say every week — must be obvious to all Universities are supposed to be seats of learning and culture, and while this hardly be said of our College, there is no reason why something should not be done about it.



One of the Caf. paintings (now replaced)

Why not borrow from painters of Auckland — about three paintings at a time, for periods of not longer than a week? Also, the new director of the Public Gallery, Mr. Westbrook, would probably be only too pleased to let work belonging to the Gallery. Numerous painters would welcome the idea for most of them are fighting for recognition of the value of progressive painting.

—David Kennedy

## RECORD CRITS

**TCHAIKOWSKY: Violin Concerto in D. Isaac Stern and Philadelphia Orchestra (Hilsberg).**

Stern toured N.Z. several years ago and if you liked him then you will certainly enjoy this. His is an absorbing performance and he displays a technical command that brings Heifetz to mind. A slight twang from the D string in the slow movement and an orchestral accompaniment that sometimes dominates unnecessarily are not grounds to one's enjoyment.

**WAGNER: Overture to Rienzi. London Philharmonic Orchestra (Hans Knappertsbusch).**

Into this little-heard Overture Wagner has put some of his most serene pages — and also some of his loudest. There is little to criticise here, unless it is the cymbal player, whose sounds as though he is in an adjoining room. Perhaps the most outstanding feature is the glowing sonority of tone achieved by the strings.

The fourth side is filled out with the Prelude to Act III. of Lohengrin — the twelfth version of a much-abused excerpt.

—J.McN.

**VERDI: La Traviata (complete). Albanese, Pearce, Merrill and N.B. Symphony Orchestra (Toscanini).**

This set has probably not yet reached New Zealand, but foreign reports are unenthusiastic. The recording is on moderate, and Toscanini has turned singers' opera into one for orchestra with disastrous results. Timing is sixes and sevens, and the soprano often woefully off pitch. Not as good as the current Columbia recording.

—Falstaff.

\*Most records reviewed here are available in Auckland.



# ATTEMPT TO GAG SAYS EX-EDITOR

## Gerald Takes a Dying Kick

**HERE** At the March 20 Executive meeting it was decided to ask Mr. ("O'Rourke House") Crawley to act as censor for the wall of Craccum. The reason: some members of the executive who had seen proofs of the front page of the March 25 edition of Craccum objected to the caption "Staff investigator . . . makes a clean breast of it."

Mr. Crawley having been appointed, Craccum had to submit the copy for his year or nay. He had no objections. But the matter did not end there.

Publications chairman Norman Thomson ("Naked Power Force") Thomson, convened a meeting of the Publications Committee March 25, presented a series of motions aimed at (a) curbing the power of the editor of Craccum in the internal organization of the paper, (b) changing the policy of the editor of Craccum regarding make-up (appearance of the paper) and style of presenting news. Thomson was largely frustrated in both these aims.

What he did succeed in getting the Publication's Committee to pass was a motion saying: "There should be no sensationalism for the sake of sensationalism. As a university publication, Craccum should be reasonably mature, but by no means necessarily confined to topics and styles of a serious nature."

The editor of Craccum stated that the passing of this motion would have no effect on the present policy of the newspaper, as Craccum's present style was not "sensationalism for its own sake, but an attempt to shock students into reading the paper."

Mr. Thomson had another motion: "That risqué humour should be avoided." However, this lapsed through lack of support. Incidentally, Mr. Thompson made it known that he found nothing wrong in the caption "Staff investigator, etc."

Another motion of Mr. Thomson's was amended so that it lost its original purpose. At first, it read: "All articles

of a political nature must appear over a signature"; but the words "or pseudonym" were tacked on the motion in its final amended form.

However, the Committee, acting on Mr. Thomson's behest, did propose the establishment of censorship board, consisting of Mr. Crawley, the president of the Students' Association, and the secretary of the Students' Association. Theoretically, this board could stop any news item, editorial or contributed article from appearing in Craccum.

Mr. Thomson's next motion struck at the roots of editorial independence: "The name of the contributor of any article shall be available to the Publication's Committee." However, there again the committee did not see eye to eye with Norman. The motion was flatly rejected.

Craccum is (for the time being at least) still permitted to be an organ of free opinion, unshackled to the whims of any college organisation. It remains to be seen whether it can be kept that way.

ALL STUDENTS  
Are invited to an  
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS  
by  
DAVID KENNEDY  
(Crucifixion Series)

and of  
GOLDSMITHS' & SILVERSMITHS' ART  
by  
TREVOR NICHOLS AND CYRIL KELSEY  
IN THE ROOMS OF  
THE SOCIETY OF ARTS,  
VICTORIA ARCADE,  
SHORTLAND STREET,  
FROM MAY 5th — 9th.

# ATTEMPTS TO WRECK PROCESH

## Students' Aid Requested

Procesh organising committee chairman, Dixon Reilley, dropped in on us just as this issue was going to press and begged some space.

Dix had a few ideas he wanted to put across and said he thought there was a faint chance that enough students might read "Craccum" to get the idea across herein.

## The University in the Community

The University is part of a community which has a right to expect a lead from those receiving a higher education. Instead, certain members of the University act in a way that cannot do other than bring it into disrepute. Instead of leading, we must be pilloried, and justifiably so, by newspaper editors and by the general public. The conduct of members of the University should not be of the sort to interest Truth reporters. We will never succeed in obtaining the goodwill of the community if we behave like childish adolescents — childish is the only word that I have heard used by people who know anything of English and Continental University life. Perhaps they are right . . . I would prefer to call it uncivilised.

## SOLID SLOG NO GROG AT CONGRESS

The taking of liquor to Congress is prohibited. Congress this year followed its predecessors in urging that all restrictions relating to the consumption of liquor at Congress be abolished. V.U.C. once again mentioned proposals designed to regulate the consumption of liquor. N.Z.U.S.A. Council once again declined to alter the STATUS QUO.

"There is a mistaken idea prevalent that under-grads are not invited to take part in capping week ceremonies," he said. "The boot is on the other foot and the idea of the show is that under-grads help their elder brethren to celebrate their success."

### Open Go

Lulling us into a sense of sympathy with a deep mid-western drawl, Dix dropped the information that only during capping week does the Professorial Board "turn the blind eye" on students' frolics and that only during this week does the heavy hand of officialdom raise its elbow.

Queen Street, that mighty speedway, is handed over to students for a whole two hours (grateful acknowledgements to Sir John Allum—Mayor, Chairman Drainage Board, Harbour Board, Royal Commissioner, etc., etc., etc.—Advt.).

Hundreds of volunteers are needed, says Dix, and he advises all students to get in for their chop. It is their day of the year.

How does a student get into procesh? There are activities to cater for all tastes (collectors, book-sellers, float decorators, etc.). The material and the trucks are available and an appeal is made to the clubs to each decorate a float — There are, too, "foot-floats." Models are acceptable (candles, birds, etc.).

### £1000, No Less

"What we do need is about 300 collectors and if each of these gathers about £3/2/0 we will have about £1000 for the Red Cross," said Dix, waxing enthusiastic. He pointed out that this collection for the Red Cross is the main purpose of procesh, combined with as much fun as possible en route.

Previous processions have been successful in both of these avenues and it is hoped that this year, students will be able to keep up the tradition of the past, both in the amount of money collected and in the general standard of procesh.

### Bad Taste

"We have left a bad taste in the public's mouth in the past," said Dix, "and if we cannot provide a procesh this year which is the best the public has ever seen, then procesh is doomed, principally because the trucks for the floats are donated."

"In Auckland everything that is collected goes to the Red Cross (this year) and the costs of procesh are borne entirely by the Students' Association (i.e., the students)."

"It is the duty of each and every student to see that this is the best ever procession," said Dix. "In the past month the committee has been working flat-out on the arrangements and as far as organisation is concerned all is ready. All we need now is the support of the students."

All committee members can be contacted through the Men's House Committee and all details will be posted on the notice board.

### Sands Flee

Dix says the committee is confident that it can fulfill its obligations regarding procesh, but time is running short and there are still many clubs which have not started to build.

By this time we had aroused from our slumbers and decided to do something about the matter.

We wrote this article . . .

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# CAF. CRITICISED OUTSIDE

## Should Be Chastised

### Says "Craccum"

"At the N.Z.U.S.A. meeting in Wellington the question of Cafeterias came up for discussion. One of the Auckland members at Congress apparently had complained about what he termed "deplorable food" to a member of another University.

That we had in our delegation a member who would thus complain to a member of another College smacks of the deplorable and we suggest to the Executive that efforts be made to find the offender and that steps be taken to chastise him severely.

In view of sporadic complaints about the quality and quantity of food sold in the A.U.C. Cafeteria it seemed desirable to obtain some comparative information from southern colleges.

As is well known, we at A.U.C. have the caf. under the control of the Students' Association which employs the manageress and the kitchen staff. The points of contact are the Cafeteria Committee of the Executive and the manageress of the cafeteria.

At Otago University the cafeteria is run by a contractor who pays £10 rent a year and who must seek permission from the Students' Executive before he raises prices. Apparently the system works to the satisfaction of students and contractor. The price of a three-course meal is 2/4. The Students' Association pays for all utensils including stoves.

At V.U.C. the position is very similar except that the contractor pays all the costs of running the kitchen.

When the Council was told that the A.U.C. Students' Association made a profit of £92 last year, Mr. Horsley of V.U.C. commented: "In view of the fact that at least one Auckland at Congress said that the food provided by A.U.C.'s cafeteria was deplorable, the profit made need not cause surprise."

Miss Spence spoke vehemently to the effect that the opinion quoted was not generally held at A.U.C., and that on the contrary most of the Exec. members at any rate—and all of them ate very frequently in the cafeteria—were satisfied that they were getting good value for money spent.

A.U.C. students would be well advised to consider the following points:

1. Do they get a meal adequate from a nutritious point of view?
2. Can the Caf. be run more efficiently — and if so, how?
3. The private contractor has advantages over the Stud. Assn. in that he usually has other meal places to cater for and consequently can buy in very large quantities.

### Claimer

The article on Congress, Page 2, was written by N. Thompson.

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## Socialist Club and Debators Have It Out

### EDUCATION CREPT IN

In response to a challenge issued by the Debating Club to the Socialist Club, representatives from each met in W.C.R. at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, to debate:—"The National Government's Economic Policy is Detrimental to the interests of N.Z. Students."

The Socialist team, consisting of Jack Grant-Mackie, Jim Gale and Graeme Blair, took the Affirmative, the Debating Club team, consisting of Murray Marsden, Miss Juliet McMahon, and Graham Vaughan, taking the Negative side.

Don Lang was in the Chair.

Opening the debate, Grant-Mackie emphasised that, for the purposes of the debate, it was irrelevant whether or not any particular policy had been initiated by any previous Government—the question was, whether or not the policy pursued by the National Government was detrimental to New Zealand students.

#### DEFENCE UP 222 PER CENT.

Giving a general survey, he stated that the National Government's rearmament policy adversely affected, both directly and indirectly, the economic situation of most New Zealanders, including students and showed that over two years, Defence expenditure has risen by 222 per cent., whereas Education expenditure has risen by only 30 per cent.

Marsden gave an historical survey of New Zealand education, and suggested that the National Government's policy was largely one of retrenchment after wasteful haphazard spending by the late Labour Government, especially in the construction of large numbers of small schools in country districts.

Dealing with the opportunities to become a student, Gale treated inflation, increased difficulty of students in finding vacation employment (due to the Government's action on import restrictions), and noted that the Government grant for Bursaries had actually decreased over the last year.

Miss McMahon criticised the Affirmative speakers for concentrating largely on University Students, and suggested that it was selfish of students to expect preferential treatment over Defence, Health, Public Works, etc. She showed that, disregarding payment from taxes, Education in the Budget gets more from the Consolidated Fund than anything else.

Blair dealt with the effects of the policy on Student Facilities, including increased costs of board, books, fees, decreased earnings over vacation due to enforced Military Training; and also with school building deficiencies being aggravated by large-scale Military building.

**PHILOSOPHICAL**  
Vaughan started on Philosophical Considerations of Education as training for Living (as opposed to training for A living); and later produced some rather startling economics which, carried to its logical conclusion, means that the National Government's policy on Credit has made student's bank accounts of infinite value.

After the team-leaders had summed up, and discussion by the audience had taken place, the popular vote decided by 13 to four that the Affirmative had proved its case.

No blows were struck.

## Human Rights Department

N.Z.U.S.A. was not all serious consideration of the rights of students.

Our special reporter submits the following which we print (necessarily without comment).

On Saturday, the chairman asked: "We have a quorum for a meeting on East Sunday morning after people going to church and to the rowing had been excluded?"

Several delegations said that they could send members; and after consulting his colleagues the leader of the C.U.C. delegation Mr. Stewart, made reply: "I find on examination that Miss Brown is prepared to impute herself on the altar of duty."

Mr. K. O'Brien: "Might I ask precisely what that involves?"

A voice: "Will the high priest be Mr. Stewart?"

Mr. Stewart: "Mr. Chairman, I move that the matter lie on the table."

### CONGRESS

Has Congress any right to send remits N.Z.U.S.A.?

Mr. Kevin O'Brien replied: "Congress is a body of students meeting for a short time. It has no right to direct N.Z.U.S.A. It has a right to copies of our minutes. However N.Z.U.S.A. has always been willing to hear recommendations and discuss them."

### FINANCES

When it was mentioned that we at A.U.C. had recently paid £1500 towards renovation to the students' block, and that our financial position, despite our low Stud. Assn. lev. (32/6 as against £2/12/6 at O.U.) was buoyant, members of other delegations questioned us to find out how our money was spent. Did we pay out much in the form of grants to clubs? Yes, we did—as much or more than the other colleges paid out.

Mr. Kevin O'Brien then mentioned a fact that is of crucial importance.

"A.U.C., Mr. Chairman, has about seven hundred more students than any other college."

Rod Smith interjected: "A.U.C. also has efficient administration, Mr. Chairman."

Kevin's reply was to the effect that A.U.C. was so efficient that, while all the other colleges had paid the levy due to N.Z.U.S.A. Auckland had not done so; and that consequently it was a matter of some doubt as to whether the A.U.C. delegation had a right to sit in the Council.

Frances Spence, rather worried, replied sweetly, "We have not been told about the debt, Mr. Chairman — not recently, at any rate."

## Are We Socialites

The per capita cost for supper alone at this year's Tournamen Ball (held in the Wellington Town Hall) was seven shillings.

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