

Salient

An Organ of Student Opinion at Victoria College, Wellington, N.Z.

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STUDENTS AND TRADE UNIONS Holiday Work Problems

Over the recent vacation practically all full-time university students, either via the Manpower Office or of their own volition, took up work in freezing chambers, woolstores, tobacco farms, orchards, or on the wharves.

Most of these took a good attitude to the particular unions associated with their industries, joined up, paid their fees, and took an active interest. There were, however, certain elements who did not realise either the necessity or the moral obligation of supporting their unions.

There appear to be two reasons for this:—

Firstly; a considerable number of students moved from job to job at intervals of three weeks or a month and were required to stump up union fees on each new project. While they were entitled to a considerable rebate on these fees it was often difficult to collect. They did not know the correct way to go about it and in certain of the weaker unions were hampered by bureaucracy in the trade union leadership. This position can be remedied from both sides. As is already the case in some unions, dues should be levied on a weekly basis. It is suggested that the Victoria Students' Association approach the Wellington Trades Council with a proposal to this effect. Of greater importance, however, is the second reason for student apathy towards the unions and it is with this that we are mainly concerned.

Students take vacation jobs to pay their way through the University in the following year. They have a less responsible attitude to the organisation which has built up and preserves working conditions. They lack the background of struggling for a living for themselves and their families and have little or no knowledge of the conditions preceding the advent of a strong union.

We Interview . . .

With a view to finding the attitude of responsible trade union leaders to student labour, "Salient" approached Toby Hill, President of the New Zealand Watersiders' Union and Mr. Thompson, secretary of the Freezing Workers'. Both were most obliging in supplying information.

"We can look at the matter from two angles," said Mr. Hill. "Firstly, what have the unions done for the students and other casual labour?"

"Let us take the wharf as an example. Militant union action has ensured that, for the past 25 years, unionist and seagull together receive the prevailing union rates of pay. Students who worked on the wharves over the August vacation will remember being approached by union officials concerning their pay. As a result, strong action was taken by the union, the anomaly was removed, and the student workers' pay was brought up to the standard hourly rate, which almost doubled their pay-checks.

"The unions also spend thousands of pounds each year fighting for accident compensation, whether the victim be unionist or not. Last year, on the Picton wharves, a college boy was involved in a bad accident. We took up his case, demanding eight hundred pounds and the guarantee of a steady job. The case is not yet settled but we have so far forced agreement to four hundred pounds. This boy was a non-unionist. Most unions have as good a history as ours in this type of dispute."

The Other Angle

"At the moment the unionist is well paid. That is the result of many years of militant struggle. Students receive this pay. They feel that a ten-minute smoko is quite normal without realising that it was only recently won.

"Students must surely realise that an employer is not Santa Claus, that he grants concessions to his employees only in the face of a determined, well-led and militant organisation such as a trade union. In the woolstore, for example, the 1933-4 wages were one and sixpence halfpenny per hour. They are now two and sevenpence, with an additional cost of living allowance. Those wages have been fought for and must be cherished, not only by the men who achieved them, but also by all who benefit from them.

"The employer attempts to split the unity of his employees by playing off the seagull against the unionist, the student against the worker. At a time like this, when the prosecution of the war depends largely upon the virility of the labour movement, no such split must be allowed. The unions must be strengthened by the active support and co-operation of all associated with them."

Freezing Workers

We thanked Mr. Hill for an interesting half hour and made next for the Trades Hall where we were welcomed by Mr. Thompson.

"Yes, there have been many students working alongside our men," he said, "and the majority of them are good workers and union conscious. But there has been a small minority which has refused to join the union. Because they may occupy white collar or technical positions they seem to forget that they also are workers and are un-

willing to join a union. I have a list here of obstinate cases; you may recognise some names."

We had to admit that the University was fairly well represented.

"A few facts may open their eyes," continued this forceful unionist. "Let us consider the 1935 figures for wages alone; these are by no means the lowest. Slaughtermen and boners then received two shillings and two-and-two-pence respectively. Today they get three-and-six, and three shillings. The lowest paid adult then received one-and-eleven, as against two-and-sevenpence today.

"A point of interest to you—in 1935 a boy did not attain adult pay until he was twenty. The maximum wage below this age was thirty-five shillings a week. That maximum is now three pounds, adult rates are given at the age of nineteen, and any boy holding down a man's job must receive adult pay."

Figures floated before us; the files were brought out in evidence of past struggles by the freezing workers and of their growth into the present powerful organisation.

"Now, these men have fought for years," continued the secretary. "They have struggled for security for their families and themselves. To see a few individuals accepting their achievements without supporting the organisation which won them, annoys them. We very nearly had a work stoppage at Ngahauranga over a student who refused to pay union fees."

Mr. Thompson is a busy man. He concluded:

"This was only one student out of the thirty odd employed there. As a rule we welcome your boys. They are good workers, intelligent and keen. At the present moment, when some of our members cannot understand that their militancy must be employed, not in strikes, but in the battle of production, they are the type of men we want in the unions, and want badly."

"Salient" was well satisfied, and, we think, so should you be. Here is the case.

The task of fulfilling our war effort to the utmost depends upon the working class, of which we are members. The task at the moment is to mobilise the workers behind production, and to prevent the provocative attitude of certain types of employers, who place their own profits before the interests of the country, from causing strike action. The whole labour front must be strong enough to resist and ignore these attempts; the component bodies—the unions—must be strong, and in this we can help.

When on an industrial job, join the union, support and strengthen it, expose wavering elements or bad leadership, and do your bit in this People's War.

HEALTH SCHEME

Do you remember an epidemic which broke out in the College last year? It started in a small way as most epidemics do, but rapidly spread through all corridors, over the notice-boards and seemed to flourish most of all in the warm cheery atmosphere of the Cafe. This disease took the form of large brilliantly coloured spots which broke out in the most unexpected places during the early hours of the morning or just after dark. It is believed that the small number of students responsible for the spread of this disease were mere carriers and were themselves not affected.

These spots had a decidedly irritating effect, often leading to a definite rise in blood pressure and temperature, on any students coming within close range.

Terrible as this may sound the general effect on the College was not as drastic as may be expected. The spots disappeared from the corridors, walls, notice-boards, etc., gradually, without leaving any ugly blemishes and the students once more resumed their normal state of equilibrium.

Ah, but again, like all chronic diseases, there is likely to be another outbreak, perhaps not as severe as the original attack, but still quite disturbing.

And here we come to the point—for the health scheme of which you heard so much last year did not die a natural death as you all imagine—nor is it lying under several inches of dust with fungus growing on top. Oh no, during the vacation the committee in charge of this scheme has been busy arranging for a system of complete medical examinations of all students attending lectures at V.U.C. during the 1944 session, to be enforced. There is no need to elaborate on the advantages of such a scheme with which you are no doubt familiar.

Instead you are asked to prepare for a second outbreak and to do all you can to help the committee make this scheme a success by reading the article in the next issue of "Salient" and keeping a watchful eye on any likely locality for a fresh onset of last year's disease.

THINGS TO COME

Friday, 31st March.—

The Freshers' Welcome Ball will be held in the Gym. at 8 p.m. Freshers free. Good supper and an excellent band.

Saturday, 1st April.—

Athletic Club:
The annual Faculty Tournament will be held on Kelburn Park. Come on, you Freshers and show us what you can do!

Tennis Club:
Yankee Tournament at 1.30 p.m. See Tennis Club notes.

SALIENT STAFF

Editor: K. T. FOWLER.

Associate Editor: CECIL M. CROMPTON.

Staff: GEORGE TURNER, ALEC McLEOD, MARY BOYD, MARGARET BEATTIE, MARGARET GIDEON, RALPH BENNY.

Business Manager: HYLTON BURT.

Press Bureau Correspondent: BEVERLEY WILLIAMS.

EDITORIAL

OUR TASK FOR 1944

To quote Mr. Churchill, probably inaccurately, as he summed up the situation of the United Nations in a recent speech on the war, "The patient has passed the vitally dangerous crisis of his disease, but is in a difficult period of convalescent impatience and unrest. . . ." Quite!

The footsteps of war are now heard less clearly from New Zealand shores; we are no longer directly threatened. The advances of the Red Army, the successful campaigns in Italy and the Pacific, the inspiring note of the conferences at Moscow and Teheran; these have all shown quite conclusively that the initiative is now ours; we are on the offensive.

But this does not lessen our responsibilities. On the contrary, they are greater. The speedy conclusion of this war will save the lives of millions; the complete and utter defeat of Hitler and his allies, is vital to the post-war security of the peoples of the world. Are we then justified in reducing our commitments? Can we at home slacken just as our brothers overseas are on the verge of victory? The answer is obvious and its application to the University means this. Work hard, support all moves which help the war, and above all, study, study to fit ourselves for the more responsible tasks in civil life, be it as teachers, accountants, engineers or chemists.

These, as we see it, are our tasks for 1944. "Salient" hopes to assist in these tasks by attempting to become less "an organ of student opinion" than "a leader of student opinion." Its policy has always been that of criticism rather than mere reportage, of sharp and constructive comment rather than anæmic acquiescence. We will try to feature topical articles of international or local importance. These will have two functions. Firstly to forward the attitude and policy which seems to us correct; secondly, to provoke students into expressing their views in letters, articles of reply, etc. It seems that only by this means can we elicit outside contributions to the paper.

If you agree with us, let us know; if you object strongly, we offer an opportunity to burst into noisy print. Above all, do not merely accept "Salient," but read it, criticise it, and write for it.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

On behalf of the executive and members of the Students' Association, may I extend a warm welcome to those in their first year at Victoria College.

Many of you will no doubt find the Varsity atmosphere a little strange at first. Some of you may perhaps be disappointed. Things are not as imagined—our activities not as exciting as you supposed.

My reply is an obvious one: there has been a war on now for nearly five years. Student activity has necessarily been subordinated to the needs of New Zealand's war effort. The men and women of former years who might have given a lead in College affairs have tackled a sterner task. Hundreds of our students are with the armed forces. For the home front it has been the duty of this College to train men and women for key posts in research and production.

But the tide of fascism is on the ebb and our soldiers, sailors and airmen will be returning to Victoria. As students we have a duty to those who will come back. We must be able to hand over to them a Students' Association which is vigorously alive. While it is our primary duty as students to study, we nevertheless owe it to ourselves and to the community to extend our interests beyond the limits of the University curriculum. The Students' Association provides you with a means to that end. In all our activities there is a place that only you can fill.

And above all, remember that you

are the guardians of a tradition for which our men are fighting—a free University.

In conclusion may I, in the words of Kipling to the graduates of the Middlesex Hospital many years ago, "wish you in your future what all men desire—enough work to do and strength enough to do the work."

O. J. CREED,
President, V.U.C.S.A.

N.Z.U. PRESS

The establishment of a N.Z.U. Press was discussed at the last meeting of the Senate. Previously the N.Z.U. Press Bureau has recommended that theses should be published, but it is hoped that the aims of a University Press would be much wider. Many overseas Universities have their own Press, but in New Zealand, although there is a blanket clause covering the establishment of a publications body in the University Statutes, no such Press exists. The objects of the Press would include the publication of textbooks, lecture notes, theses, periodicals, scientific works, and special material for research organisations.

It was resolved that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee of the Senate for full enquiry, and that a report be made to the Senate at the 1945 session; so we can only reiterate the support of the student body of these proposals, and hope they may see the light of day early in 1945.

PROGRESSIVE CLUB

A Letter . . .

Dear Sir,

It is not without concern that during the war years I have witnessed a steady decline in the activity of the cultural clubs of the college and of the student body generally. This disintegration has proceeded until now the student body is almost a corpse with its corporate life at a very low ebb indeed.

This situation can perhaps be accounted for by the war situation, by the loss of students to the armed forces and by the very commendable zeal with which present students approach their work, which is after all their wartime job.

However this may be I cannot help but feel that students over the past few years have sought their cultural and leisure time activity outside the college and have looked on the college simply as a collection of lecture rooms where they must spend a requisite number of hours each week.

I would like to see all students devoting their leisure time to college clubs and activity. I would urge new students to seek their cultural and spare time activity in the college, in debating, dramatic and other clubs which have flourished in the past but are now almost extinct.

It had occurred to me that a new progressive club on the lines of the

BOARD PROBLEMS

Many women students whose homes are outside Wellington have experienced much difficulty in the past in finding suitable board or lodgings. A scheme has therefore been instituted this year to help you to find suitable board. Mrs. Bogle has been appointed by the College Council to assist in this matter, and all women students should pay her a visit when they are enrolling to let her know whether they have found suitable board or need some assistance. Any students who are interested in finding board where they could work so many hours a week in return for board or reduced rent should also get in touch with Mrs. Bogle. This applies not only to freshers, but to all women students.

Radical Club at Canta. might well be inaugurated combining the activity of our International Relations Club with a wider field of activity and covering a greater diversity of student interests. A club which would develop into a cultural organisation of the highest order in which a large percentage of students would be interested and active.

A comprehensive programme should be envisaged—discussions, lectures, brains trusts, debates, films, Sunday hikes, etc. The club would thus include and combine the activities formerly divided among many weak clubs.—Yours, etc.,
D. COHEN.

THE WORM TURNS

"SALIENT" REVIEWS "SPIKE"

(Thanking Mr. Clare for his suggestion)

What should be the aim of "Spike"? To some extent it is a record of college activities, a filing spike; to some extent it has usurped the domain of "Salient" as a political rostrum, a spike or stimulus for the complacent and the reactionary. But its function as the University's contribution to the development of New Zealand literature has been largely ignored.

"Spike" has had to face difficulties, chief among which is the apathy of potential writers and the practice common among those who do write of cooking up something at the last minute. It is a pity that contributors do not develop ideas during the year and have contributions maturing and written early, and brought up to some degree of literary presentability by October. Failure to do this is probably the chief cause of the undeveloped ideas and lack of precise expression justly criticised by the judges.

Not N.Z. Literature

But there is an equally grave shortcoming in the choice of subject matter. "Spike" contributions were not New Zealand literature at all. Since the Romantic Revival there has been in literature a consciousness of locale, of setting in time and place. Whereas Horace or Pope were poets and only incidentally Roman or English, authors since the time of Scott are national, Lowland Scots, Irish, etc. This is true of today; writers are modern and of this or that place—U.S.A., China or U.S.S.R.

New Zealand is finding herself as a nation. As an independent part of a greater Pacific unit we are passing from adolescence to maturity. This change has found its political expression in the Anzac pact and its literary expression in such publications as "New Zealand New Writing."

"Spike" lags behind these literary pioneers. From internal evidence it

would be difficult to discover its country of origin. Similarly there is little to stamp it with the mark of modern times. Certainly the cinema is mentioned; the war is hinted at; the "now" has come out better than the "here."

Most of us know other countries only through study. By neglecting our own literature we must turn to standardised and conventionalised themes. We hope some day to pick up a "Spike" which has the freshness of our own literature; where we read not of Moscow and Hollywood but of Wellington and Taranaki—and of Libya (for the exploits of the N.Z.E.F. are part of our national life).

The critical analysis of life in other countries has been a necessary prerequisite of any literature of our own that will not be crude and elementary, but we have reached a stage where we should have assimilated enough of this to begin solo flight.—JUNIUS.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Are You on the Roll?

EXEC. MEETS

The Executive has met and deliberated during the vacation, but without overmuch enthusiasm, we hear. Meetings have dragged and attendances have been poor. Now that Tournament has been cancelled, however, we may hope for more interest and enthusiasm in other student activities.

Students have been dissatisfied for some time with the way the Executive has been handling its responsibility of welding the College into a united body. Of course this demands more co-operation from the students, but it is felt that the Exec. should give a better lead in student activity.

Now, more than at any other time, study must be our first consideration, but it is our duty to assist the war effort wherever possible and to support enthusiastically the world anti-Fascist student movement. With this end in view, we regret that plans to hold a National Student Congress in Wellington this year have fallen through.

1944 Programme

The Executive approved the suggestion of the S.C.M. to publish an information booklet for freshers this year and guaranteed financial support. The S.C.M. is also to provide an information bureau for freshers and run the second-hand bookstall.

The New Building Committee is to meet early this year and new plans are to be discussed for the raising of more funds for the Student Union Building. It has been suggested that the building might be a suitable memorial for students of the present war.

Once again it is impossible to hold a full-scale Extravaganza during Capping Week, but the Executive agreed that some form of entertainment such as a nonstop revue or club items might be held instead. Ian MacDowell was appointed Extrav. Organiser and Pam Wilton Undergrad. Supper Controller tentatively. Mr. Starke was appointed Convenor of Capping, and a motion passed requesting the Council to make arrangements for the Capping ceremony to be held in the Town Hall this year.

It was decided to hold a series of lectures sponsored by the Executive again this year, and Mary Boyd and Jim Winchester were appointed to arrange a programme.

Faculty Committees.—Following the recommendation of the annual general meeting the report on Faculty Committees has been forwarded to the Professorial Board and the Executive hopes to be able to arrange for Faculty meetings early in the term.

A Precedent for Sports Clubs.—A request was received from the Tennis Club Committee that they might be permitted to set up a trust fund from their court improvement fund. The Executive ruled that such a trust would have to be set up in the name of the Students' Association and incorporated in a schedule to be included in the Student Association Constitution.

1943 "Salient."—A report on "Salient" 1943 was received from the Editor, Cecil Crompton, and a vote of congratulation to the Editor and staff passed. The increased cost of "Salient" was offset by the increased issue in order that copies might be sent to students overseas, and by the increased cost of printing, the use of blocks, and two double issues for Capping Week and N.Z.U.S.A. Conference. A healthy sign was the increased number of subscriptions and sales.

Resignations.—Robin Oliver's resignation from the Executive was received with regret and his place has been filled by Jim Winchester. Max

PUBLIC SERVICE

Today there is probably a greater proportion of student representation in the Public Service than ever before, and they enjoy better wages and conditions than any public servants have in the past. Only the naive will imagine that these improvements are due to the spontaneous and unassisted benevolence of any political party. The majority of students, realising that the growth of organised workers' movements is the direct result of bad wages and worse conditions of work, will find a more convincing explanation in this comparison. From 1915 to 1938 the membership of the Public Service Association rose steadily from 54% (of the Public Service) to 90%. During these years the P.S.A. has struggled with varying success and inadequate support, to protect and improve the position of the public servant. Among its achievements has been the attainment of the right of public servants to be members of a political party, the restoration of depression cuts, and the payment (at time and a half rates) for all overtime. In addition to these successes there have been numerous claims affecting small sections of the service which have been effectively supported by the Association.

Without organisation the public servant is particularly helpless. He is forbidden to make public statements affecting his work and has no access

We regret that owing to pressure of space we have been obliged to hold over to next issue a review of two publications by A. R. C. Hare.

to any governing body. The P.S.A. to some extent compensates for this, as both the Government and the Public Service Commissioner recognise it as speaking for the public service on both general and personal matters.

It is obvious that the P.S.A. has still much to achieve, in the improvement of the immediate conditions of public servants, and in elevating its own position, that it may fight more effectively in the future. There is still room for improvement within the Association itself, particularly in the need for a more democratic selection of delegates from departments; but these reforms will not be achieved by sitting outside and criticising.

Today there is an increasing threat to all sections of the working class, and the need for vigorously organised action is greater than ever. Instead, we find that over the last five years the number of public servants who are members has dropped to 72% (1942). In spite of this much has been done, though much more would have been done had there been more vigorous support. It is therefore the duty of all public servants, particularly students, to join the Association, eager for more democratic control of their Association and, above all, willing to take an active part in its uphill struggle for better conditions.

So get in touch with your delegate at work and join NOW.

Elchelbaum has been appointed Asst.-Secretary and Dicky Daniell has been asked to fill Martin Te Punga's place till his return.

N.Z.U.S.A. Progress Report

May, 1943, the annual general meeting of N.Z.U.S.A. gave the Executive of that body a number of investigations to make and actions to take along lines of great interest to constituent student bodies and to individual students. "Salient" of 26/5/43 published the main motions passed at the A.G.M. and now publishes what has become of them in the meantime.

Congress

A sub-committee of N.Z.U.S.A. Executive was prepared several weeks before the end of the last term of 1943 to launch a comprehensive propaganda and organisational programme among the four colleges for the holding of a National Student Congress at Easter, 1944. Just as the posters for this were to go to print, A.U.C. announced that they were prepared to hold a tournament at Easter, which by the motion passed at the A.G.M. excluded the holding of full-scale Congress at Easter, 1944. V.U.C. suggested that a modified Congress be held at the same time as tournament. One or two delegates from each College should here discuss the organisation of future Congresses, which, it is hoped, will be held regularly. Colleges were asked for their opinion on this and the matter was still under discussion when tournament was cancelled because of travel restrictions.

Student Labour in the Long Vacation

The motion passed by the A.G.M. that a "deputation should be sent to the Director of Manpower and the Minister of Education to ensure better utilisation of students in wartime with special reference to the long vacation," was considered by the Executive and the conclusion reached that a deputation not equipped with concrete examples of student labour misused would be worse than useless, so colleges have been asked to submit such examples, but with the exception of Otago, have been slow in doing so. Individual students of V.U.C. are hereby requested to bring to the notice of the V.U.C. Executive any cases where they considered the work into which they were manpowered in the 1943-44 vacation was not of national importance or not occupying them as well as they were capable of being occupied for the short period from a national point of view.

Bursaries

Several colleges have submitted individual examples of anomalies in the amounts a scholarship holder can receive. It is understood that the Senate is preparing to take up the whole matter of increasing bursaries with the Government.

Student Representative on Senate

The President of N.Z.U.S.A., Mr. J. B. C. Taylor, after an interview with the Registrar of N.Z.U., made an exhaustive report to the Executive of the methods open to the student body to acquire representatives on the Senate. The report was submitted to the colleges for comment and statement of preference of method to be used. As the most satisfactory methods require amendments in the N.Z.U. Act it has been decided in the meantime that N.Z.U.S.A. should co-operate with Graduate Associations for the nomination of representative graduates for the Court of Convocation Elections.

Overseas Mail

Christmas parcels and contents seem to have been appreciatively consumed from the four corners of the earth, judging by our large overseas mail. Greetings and thanks have been received from Sub-Lt. Ralph Mander, B. S. Devine, Pte. O. R. Anderson, Major A. L. Lomas, Bdr. C. T. Irvine, and Lt. J. M. Cope.

Major R. G. Bannister writes of Christmas spent in an isolated bay with no communications with the outside world except by barge; swimming, canoeing, and just doing nothing—a very much favoured pastime in this climate.

P.O. Radio Mechanic R. Kellaway asks to be remembered especially to members of Weir '39-'41. After fifteen months spent in Bombay, he says: "I have obtained quite a good idea of current Indian affairs and the Congress disturbances. It struck me that there was much room for improvement in the present order. On the other hand, when you get to know India you realise more and more that, apart from one Indian in a million, Home Rule would be impossible. It is a far greater problem than it appears on the surface."

Pte. Noel Anderson is looking forward to sequels to V.U.C. News Bulletin No. 1, included in the year's parcel.

Lt. C. J. Wright is still in light coastal forces and spent a gay seven days' leave in Edinburgh in December.

P.O. Radio Mechanic A. W. McNaught writes of busy days from Colombo and S/Ldr. R. W. Baird sends a Christmas airgraph "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" from S.E. Command.

Committee Room

The Gym. Committee (not to be confused with the Women's Gym. Club—although we both have the welfare of the student body at heart) wishes to advise all committee members of the different clubs that they now have a special committee room. This may be used for your meetings, for storing your records, books, etc., and the key may be obtained from the exec. room. Please take advantage of this room! Make your meetings brighter, better and—more comfortable! —Sec., Gym. Comm.

Unity Centre

Unity Centre functions are held at 125 Cuba Street. All students are invited to attend. On Saturday nights dances are held; Sunday night's activities include quizzes, brains trusts, lectures on cultural subjects, etc.

If you are new to the college and to Wellington and want something to do of a weekend, or if you are older and realise the value of taking an interest in down-town affairs, remember the address, 125 Cuba Street.

Affiliation of N.Z.U.S.A. with T.C.S.A.

This matter was referred to the various colleges and it was decided that Training College Students' Associations should be affiliated to a National Union of Students, to which N.Z.U.S.A. should also be affiliated, together with Technical Colleges Student Bodies and Student Nurse Bodies, etc. The next step is the formation of such a National Student Union.

SPORT

"Fellers of Victoria"

The delayed start of the Varsity year has resulted in the term beginning just as the various summer sports have ended or are ending their seasons. This means that winter sports clubs, having less time at their disposal, must stir themselves considerably more than usual and start now with vigorous membership campaigns. Club secretaries, remember the deathless words of the poet when addressing the "fellers of Australia": "Get a bloody move on, shift yer bloody boots."

Freshers, you will find lists pinned up on notice-boards urging you to sign your name thus indicating your willingness to play. This is "diligent canvassing." Be not deceived, gentle fresher. Sign your name, but also ferret out the secretary, inform him of your prowess in the world of sweat and then, but only then, you will find yourself actually playing in a team.

The only items of note in the past season have been the revival of the Athletics and Cricket Clubs. Last year we recorded with sorrow the death of the Athletic Club, but this season several hairy-legged ghosts in Varsity singlets have been performing miraculous feats around local tracks. So miraculous, indeed, that two Wellington championships were won by club members.

The Cricket Club late in the season stopped being gentlemen, "playing the game for the game's sake," and won their last three games, in the process defeating two of the strongest teams in the competition. This proves they are expert cricketers, because they did it without practising at all the whole season.—A. O'B.

BLUES

WINTER SPORTS, 1943

Football.—G. T. Cornick, O. J. Creed, D. Goodwin, W. P. Mataira, A. D. MacLennan, I. R. Overton, R. D. Patrick.

Harriers.—I. C. McDowall.

Men's Hockey.—J. Barr, A. F. Ferguson, M. B. Gunn, A. C. Ives, G. Jones, K. W. Kiddle, J. B. Nicholls, G. D. Speight, R. H. Thornton, I. Ting.

Cricket Club

The cricket club this year has grown from two teams to five owing to the inclusion of three Training College teams appearing in the local competitions under the club's name. Two played the second half of the season only but the other played the whole season in the second grade with moderate success.

The seniors spent the greater part of the season "fooling around." Potentially a strong batting team with steady bowlers they proved to be gloriously inconsistent except in fielding in which they were consistently shocking with about three individuals excepted. Considering this, the three most successful bowlers, Wilson, Stace and Brian, secured quite good figures for the season. The excellent work of Colquhoun as wicket-keeper was of course a great help. The team finished with a great burst by defeating Old Boys, Kilbirnie and Air Force, the first two being very strong teams. There were quite a string of batsmen with fair performances, finishing the season with not much between them on averages, but perhaps the best were de la Mare (33.25), Seator (24.2), Stringer (25.5), Wilson (23), Paetz (24.5), and Burnard (27.6). Gilbert Stringer, the captain, again played for the Wellington reps. in both games with fair success.

The second grade "A" team, like the seniors, were inconsistent, and

also like the seniors were handicapped by the lack of good bowlers especially when Jack Stevens left. They had several good wins, however. The "B" team proved that despite being budding school teachers they knew nothing of the alphabet by twice helping Don Beard to defeat the "A" team.

Tennis Club

While the shortage of tennis balls has curtailed interclub tennis in the Wellington district during the present season, members of the V.U.C. tennis club have been well catered for, as the club has had sufficient balls to make them available for play on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The club courts have consequently been well patronised throughout the season.

The committee responsible for arranging the club's activities consist of the following members:—Chairman, Mr. N. G. Foley; Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. O'Connor; Hon. Treasurer, Miss N. Turner; Committee, Misses M. Beattie, D. Filmer, H. Quinnell, A. Reed and R. Turner, Messrs. M. Bengé, P. McKenzie, G. Taylor, and J. Williams.

A welcome to all Freshers will be held on Saturday, April 1st, when a Yankee tournament will be held commencing at 1.30 p.m. Freshers and others interested are invited to come along and take this opportunity of meeting their fellow students.

Table Tennis

At the end of 1943 the V.U.C. Table Tennis Club held a strong position with 15 to 20 keen members, who did excellently in winning the C and D grades in the Wellington championships. During the vacation the club was naturally dormant, but hopes to make a good start in the first term. Remember, those competitions start in only three weeks' time. All you keen table tennis players, keep this in mind and watch for further notices.

Athletic Club

Last year the V.U.C. Athletic Club carried its usual winter hibernation over into the summer months. Alister Scott won the N.Z. Services' three-mile title, but so few V.U.C. athletes were in Wellington that no club meetings were held. This season, however, the club rose phoenix-like from the ashes of the past.

On the Monday examinations finished a number of Weir House students groped their way to Kelburn Park for a work-out, and from then on every Monday night at 6.30 there has been an enthusiastic sports meeting on the ground. A back-breaking bit of work was done in establishing a jumping pit (the only one in Wellington available throughout the week).

The club has taken part in Wellington Central's Saturday afternoon meetings and has met with favourable success, and individual members have gone down to the Basin Reserve on Tuesday evenings. The highlight of this year's activities up to date has been the first Wellington Provincial Championships for a number of years. The club entered a small team and won the medley relay against good opposition. Bogle, Goldfinch, Richmond and McDowall could not have run better to pull off the event, despite their inexperience. McDowall attracted much attention (see our contemporaries, *Sports Post* and *Auckland Weekly*) by the way in which he defeated W. H. Nelson in both half-mile events. Varsity seconded to Air Force in these events. The real credit for the regeneration of the club must most certainly be given to the management committee.

All students, including freshers, are invited along to the Monday night handicap meetings in Kelburn Park. The inter-faculty meeting will be held on Saturday, April 1st. All students are invited to come along and enjoy themselves, and also to watch for further notices.

Tramping

The tramping club has a floating membership of about thirty active members, the average attendance on a week-end tramp being from ten to fifteen. Week-end tramps are run every fortnight, and Sunday tramps are frequently arranged in the intervening week-ends.

Tramps vary from the simplest stooge designed for all to very strenuous trips recommended for the fit. The food is always more than satisfactory. Campfire singing is a speciality. Trips are run to the hills round Wellington—the Orongorongos and the Tararua's. or ten-day skiing trip, formerly to the Every August the club arranges a week Chateau, but now to Arthur's Pass. Every Christmas, manpower permitting, there is a climbing trip to the Southern Alps. Last year the manpower regulations made it necessary for the Christmas trip to take place in November, just after exams. The club visited the Cobb Valley in Nelson, and returned singing its praises.

The tramping club has only one fault: there are not enough women. Whether this is because women fear the exertion or because they fear that male tramps are not gentlemen it is hard to say. Their fears are unfounded on both counts. Let us hope that in 1944 the shops of Wellington will be besieged by young female Varsity students clamouring for new boots and a pack. And where the women are there will the men be also.

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