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 the catering 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 take 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 days 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 works 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 horrified 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 union and it is this with which we are mainly concerned.

Students take vacation jobs to pay their way through the company or the following year. They have a less responsible attitude to the organisation which has built up and preserved 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 latter. For example, the student union action has ensured, for the past 25 years, union officials to check overtime, etc. As a result, strong actions were taken by the union, the anomaly was removed and the students are paid overtime. As a result, strong actions were taken by the union, the anomaly was removed and the students are paid overtime. As a result, strong actions were taken by the union, the anomaly was removed and the students are paid overtime. As a result, strong actions were taken by the union, the anomaly was removed and the students are paid overtime. As a result, strong actions were taken by the union, the anomaly was removed and the students are paid overtime."

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 smoke is quite normal without realising that it was only recently won."

"It is true 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 woolstores, for example, the 1935-6 wages were one and sixpence halfpenny per hour. They are now two and sevenpence, with an additional cost of living allowance. These 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 cooperation 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—men who may occupy white collar or technical positions they seem to forget that they also are workers and are un

HEALTH SCHEME

Do you remember an epidemic which broke out in Victoria 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 dry atmosphere of the cafe. This disease took the form of large brilliantly coloured spots which broke out in the most unsuspicious 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 more carriers and were themselves not affected.

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

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.

Here we come to the point—for the health scheme of which you heard so much last year did not discontinue. It is more likely than you imagined—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 preparing a 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 such a scheme with which you are no doubt familiar.

Instead of you are asked to prepare for a second outbreak and to do all you can last year? It started in a small way as most epidemics do, but rapidly spread through all corridors, over the noticeboards and seemed to flourish most of all in the warm dry atmosphere of the cafe. This disease took the form of large brilliantly coloured spots which broke out in the most unsuspicious 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 more carriers and were themselves not affected.

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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 past year has passed the vital danger zone of his disease, but is in a difficult period of convalescent impetuses 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 France, and the magnitude of the American invasion of the Philippines, have all shown 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 war has seen 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, like our brothers overseas, be 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, study for ourselves.

The PresenT 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 be visiting the Victoria campus for the first time. Things are not unlike what you would expect in your own community. Our Association provides you with a great deal of support --our activities not as exciting as you supposen.

The PRESIDENT SPEAKS

THE WORM TURNS "SALENT" 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 "Salent" 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 both its writers and the practice common among those who do write of cooking up their cooking at the last minute. It is a pity that contributors do not develop ideas during the year and have some kind of continuity maintained. It is written early and brought up to some degree of literary presentation by the editors. A Spike is a product of the chief cause of the undeveloped ideas and lack of precise expression, just 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 once only Incidentally Roman or English authors, since the time of Scott are national. Literature is not just a matter of internationalism. We would like to see a Spike, like the Nationalist Review, a Spike that is the product of the chief cause of the undeveloped ideas and lack of precise expression, just criticised by the judges.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Are You on the Roll?
PUBLIC SERVICE

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. The meeting of May 14/43 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 full-scale Congress in Easter, 1944. V.U.C. suggested that a modified Congress be held at the same time as the Easter tour, and notes were sent from each College about the hope that a discussion on the subject 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 useless, so colleges have been asked to submit such examples, and in the exception, the replies have been slow in doing so. Individual students of V.U.C. are hereby requested to begin to notify the Executive any cases where they consider harrassed by their institutions in the 1943-44 vacation was not of national importance or not occupying them 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. R. Beazley, has been appointed by the Registrar of N.Z.U., made an exhauster report to the Executive of the machinery for the suffrage of the student's right to acquire representatives on the Senate. The report was referred to the Legislative Council for comment and statement of preference of method to be used. As the Senate is the highest decision-making organ in the N.Z.U., and it has been decided in the meantime that the Senate should co-ordinate the Student Graduate Associations for the nomination of a representative grand for the nomination of a representative for the University as the representative grand for the Court of Convocation Elections.

Overseas Mail

Christmas parcels and letters seem to have been received from the four corners of the earth, judging by our large overseas mail. Greetings and thanks have been received from Subi. R. B. Manders, B. S. Devine, Pte. R. Anderson, Major A. L. Lomas, Bdr. C. T. Irvine, and others.

Major R. G. Bannister writes of Christmas spent in an isolated bay with no communications with the outside world except by bargie; 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 his Wellington friends. Other 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 our present order. On the other hand, when you get to know India you realise more and more that, apart from one or two methods which would perhaps be impossible. It is a far greater problem and an entirely different one." Pte. Noel Anderson is looking forward to a sequel 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.


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 a knock on the door that they now have a special committee room. This may be used for meetings, bands, lectures, etc., and the key may be obtained from the ex-wheelchair, 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 afternoons' 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 on 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' Association 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 Nurse Student Bodies, etc. The Constitution 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”: “let 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 sweet 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 Athletic Club which was badly needed. Cricket clubs have not really had a year to record 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, in that two Wellington championships were won by Wellington teams.

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 while season. — A. O'B.

WINTER SPORTS, 1943


Cricket Club

The cricket club this year has grown from two teams to five owing to the inclusion of three Training College teams taking part in the final competitions under the club’s name. Two played the second team only, but the other played the whole season in the second grade with moderate success.

The seniors spent the greater part of the season “failing 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, Mace and Brian, secured quite good figures for Wellington. The excellent work of Colquhoun as wicket-keeper was of course a great help.

The team finishing with a great burst by defeating Old Boys, Kilbirnie and Air Force first two being very strong teams. There were quite a string of batmen with fair performances, finishing the season with not much between them on averages, but perhaps the best were de la Mare (33.35), Seaton (24.2), Stringer (35.5), Wilson (23), Paets (24.5), and C. C. Pyman (24.7). The latter filled the captain, again played for the Wellington reps. In both games with fair performances.

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

Blues

Athletic Club

Last year the V.U.C. Athletic Club carried out its usual winter hibernation over into the summer months. Alliteration certainly gave the N.Z. Services only a mid-winter title, but so few V.U.C. athletes were in Wellington that no championship was held. This season, however, the club rose phoenix-like from the ashes of last year.

On the Monday examinations finished a number of W. E. House students decided a way to Wellington, and found a work-out, and from then on every Monday night at 6:30 there has been an enthusiastic sports meeting on the ground. A break-breaking bit of work was done in setting up a jumping pit (the only one in Wellington available throughout the year).

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 occasions. The highlight of this year’s activities up to date has been the first Wellington Province Championships for a number of years. The club entered a small team and took in the medley relay and that good opposition. Bogie, Goldschmidt, Richmond and McDowell could not have run better to pull off the event, despite their inexperience, McDowell attracted much attention (see our contempories). Sports Post and Auckland Weekly by the way in which he did him, W. F. Nelson in both half-mile events. Varsity second to Air Force in these events. The real credit for the regeneration of the club must most certainly be given to the management committee.

Parents, including yourself are invited along to the Monday night handicap meetings in groups of 10 or more. The inter-faculty meeting will be held on Saturday, April 1st. All students will be invited to come along and help 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 just under a fiftieth. Week-end tramps are run every fortnight, and Saturday tramps specially arranged for the intervening week-ends.

Tramps vary from the simplest stodge designed for all to very strenuous trips recommended for the fit. The food is always more than satisfactory. Campfire singing is a specialty. Trips are run to the hills round Wellington—the Orongorongo and the Tararuas, or ten-day tramping, 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 man- power 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 think that male trampers are not gentlemen it is hard to say. Their fears are yet to be justified. Let us hope that in 1944 the girls of Wellington will be only ten “weeks’” time. All you keen Table Tennis players, keep this in mind and watch for further notices.

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 excellent work winning the C and D grades in the Wellington championships. During the vacation the club was not very dormant, but hopes to make a good start in the first term. Remember, those competitions start in 12 WOODWARD STREET

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