OUR WOMEN ALSO WORK

A woman reader approached us with her angle on vacation work. We supplied her with space and assistance.

Students were working over the holidays; men and women, at jobs of national importance. Over that period men-students could, with a well-paid job and overtime, earn sufficient money to see them through the year, providing they lived frugally; women students, on the wages they received, could barely support themselves. It has been drawn to our notice that women could be the payers that men received over the vacation. It is an important matter for those students and we have endeavoured to present to our readers the various aspects of the problem.

The pay question was brought forcibly to the minds of those women students who worked during last holi-
days. On a certain job men and women doing identical work over the same period were paid in a ratio of about two to one. The official attitude to this may be gleaned from a letter from the Minister of Agriculture, replying to a petition by students working on a certain vegetable production project.

"The main point raised in your petition is that, generally speaking, female labour is as efficient as male labour, and you indicate that in your opinion certain work at this project female labour was more efficient than male labour. With this viewpoint I cannot agree, for while it is admitted that in certain small tasks female labour might be more efficient, generally speaking the work which calls for sustained effort is more efficiently carried out by male labour. That this is an acknowledged fact is proven by the differential rates of payment awarded to the two sexes in practically every occupation or profession. I would further add that in those tasks where it is felt that female labour might prove as efficient as male labour, every endeavour is made to introduce piece-work, so that the worker gains that reward to which he or she is justly entitled."

A further long letter to the Minister concerned, mentioning specific arguments, was ignored. It is, however, a question which we students cannot afford to ignore; it affects us too vitally.

Our Independence

Of course, university students doing essential work over the holidays are fortunate in this respect, they do not depend on that type of job or trade for their living. The case of the four girls in the South Island may be cited here. Questions were asked in Parliament about them—they received considerable back money for overtime which their union claimed for them. Had they been ordinary employees they might have

SOLDIERS' NEWS

H. M. S. S. Sanum thanks us for Xmas parcel—new a pleasant memory. Capt. George Saintsbury of his battalion, also had an appreciative word for the Overseas Parcels Committee. News of ex-V.U.C. students is apparently scarce at the moment, in quarter.

Lindsay Nathan sends fraternal greetings to all still at Victoria. During the Mussolini regime, he writes, contrary to foating fascist propaganda, Italian University students played a predominant and heroic part in the only opposition party.
Editorial

STUD. ASS. BOOKSHOP?

The beginning of the College year has always laid a heavy financial burden on the shoulders of students, particularly those who have been so unfortunate as to miss a post-matric. year with the accompanying bursary. The two largest items in the budget are fees and books. Little can be done about fees; they are, by comparative standards, moderate. Books are another matter.

Apart from the contribution of the second-hand bookstall, which is necessarily small, university textbooks are handled exclusively by the bigger bookshops. This is unsatisfactory in two very fundamental ways.

(a) The profit made on all books is excessive, between fifty and one hundred per cent. Overseas catalogues show retail prices on science texts, for example, to be roughly sixty per cent. of local prices. New Zealand importers buy at wholesale rates.

(b) Bookshops are unwilling to take any risk for the student. Orders are insufficient; they arrive too late and are confined to absolutely essential texts. It cannot be said that this is entirely due to the war. The situation was substantially the same in 1939.

There is a simple solution to all this. Let us take a lesson from Training College and from those Government departments which import their own books. The Students' Association has proved its ability to handle its own finance; its members have had the initiative to start a second-hand bookstall. Let it next open negotiations with overseas publishers for direct importations.

The two difficulties are immediately removed. At a conservative estimate books could be retailed to students at two-thirds of their present price, with a sufficient profit. Co-operation with the staff would ensure an accurate estimate of requirements at least six months in advance.

This suggestion is not an immediate one. The difficulties of establishing contact at the moment would over-rule the advantages of the scheme. There is, however, nothing to prevent its speedy introduction immediately after the war. Let us have a Stud. Ass. Bookshop in our new Students' Union Buildings.

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SIR,—With the general import of your article on “Students and Trade Unionism” I am in total agreement. I think it unfortunate that you should support your argument with the views of a spokesman of the watersiders' union, when the disgraceful performances of members of the water-side are well known.

The statement “the prosecution of the war depends largely upon the virility of the labour movement” is, of course, utterly unsubstantiable. Consider Germany's relative material success until recently—yet the German labour movement has been vitally deficient ten years. Even if it were correct, such a statement as that quoted above, coming, as it does, from the pen of the waterfront, can hardly be in the interests of the labour movement. What, for instance, are some of the patriotic activities of many of our virile watersiders? Have they demanded and received a shilling per hour extra pay for handling armed ammunition—more additional pay for handling armed ammunition than their brothers and cousins in uniform? Have they, in the heat of the moment, thrown ammunition fired at them? Have they not held repeated stop-work meetings on the diminutive pretext, though the country is short of manpower, and even gone on strike without attempting to invoke the conciliation machinery? And does not such action as to draw a large sum of overtime for not working but simply permitting others to do a job of urgent leading for military purposes place men among that race of scoundrels, the war profiteers?

Let us support trade unionism to the full, sir, but let us refrain from seeking support for our arguments from an industry where disgrace abounds.—I am, Yours faithfully, J. STEVENS.

FREE LIST

(By special request)

Professor B. E. Murphy, M.A., LL.B., H.Com., T. G. Macfarley Professor of Economics.

In good truth if many a sticky Byron or Byronnet, glooming over the woes of existence, and how unworthy God's universe is to have so distinguished a resident, could transport himself into the pitchcoat and sooty apron of a Sheffield blacksmith, made by God Almighty one as he was, it would throw a light on much for him.—Carlyle.

No-Man's Land

Contributors are reminded that name and address must accompany each contribution. We may be compelled to shorten letters of more than 250 words. Opinions expressed are purely those of the writers.

Dear Sir,—May I congratulate Mr. D. on this letter in the issue of this year's “Salient.” I have since discussed this matter with students and from these discussions would like to make a few pertinent suggestions.

I believe, with Mr. Cohen, that a Progressive Club or Association is very necessary, in order to “pay up” the University student life. I also believe that the Students' Association Executive would welcome such a move, as they too must be handicapped by the existing student apathy. If Mr. Cohen has a few enthusiastic from various clubs, I am sure a pro-tem committee could be set up, with a view to organizing a mass meeting of students in order to foster more interest in the various college activities.

My personal opinion is that the Societies should be subsidized. Authorities should be approached with a view to properly outlining exactly what is expected of them in helping to establish such a society. While sport and college activities are regimented at the secondary schools, freshers are not compelled to be active-ly engaged in University affairs. This apparent freedom is misconstrued by freshers and the first duty of the Progressive Club should be the immediate correction of such views.

I look forward to the formation of such a body and would like to take this opportunity of offering my services in any capacity whatsoever in order to bring to fruition a Progressive Club or Association.—Yours faithfully, STAN CAMPBELL.

SIR,—In your last issue a review appeared which regretted that the contents of “Splice” were not New Zealand literature at all. I should like to suggest that this need not be a serious drawback. The pattern of life in New Zealand is not peculiar and a country's resemblance to the pattern of life in other English-speaking countries. For instance, solemn details still pass collection plates in churches; ladies at afternoon teas still make remarks which have a distinct flavour of Jane Austen's novels; household pets flourish abundantly. If a writer prefers to draw his material from these sources, instead of from sheep stations, native bush and his choice distant from the meres (or add to the amenities) of his work?

Again, your reviewer seems to assume that literature ought to be an expression of the national spirit. I would not wish to maintain that there is no value whatever in a distinctly national literature—it is a pleasure to discover a novel, or play that captures the peculiar atmosphere of the country in which, or the set of people among whom, one happens to live. But after all, is not the greatest work universal in appeal? Do we think less highly of the Sermon on the Mount than of the Nibelungenlied? Was Plato's "Republic" because "From inter-vening evidence, it would be impossible to cover the country of origins"—Yours, etc., AVIS MARY DRY.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that the idea of inaugurating a progressive club will interest many students who find the social life of this place a little monotonous. I think it would welcome an opportunity to discuss and criticise, together with students from all other societies, matters concerning college life generally.

Such a club would admirably help the college to attain its rightful place as a centre of progressive thought and action in the community. Of thought with extent, anyone will discover after being in the cafeteria for five minutes, but, as André Maurois has so splendidly put it, thought without action is useless.

First, however, we must cease to regard the College as a night-school and regard our University as a real community of a real importance in our lives. This we can accomplish only by our active and continuous support. There will be our own club executive and with each other, through the medium of such a club as that which is envisaged.

Many I think will concur with me in the belief that the College such as ours, with a large percentage of part-time students, does not flourish from a period of economic life, is well suited to reflect the social problems of our times, and at the same time to act as the vanguard of progressive movements. Only, how- ever, each of us realises and accepts our responsibility, not only to our college, but to our country, will the University in New Zealand be worthy to rank with universities such as those in China, which have so nobly inspired the Chinese people in the trials of war. It is with this thought in mind that I earnestly hope the progressive club will receive whole-hearted support from all thinking students.—Yours, etc., JOY HALLETT, V.U.C.

Dear Sir,—The distribution of Blues, even for Football, seems an un-Herri- caine and one for Harriers, would lead one to the conclusion that the efforts of the Harrier Club were below the standard set by other sports clubs in the College.

In the 1948 season the V.U.C. Harriers were second only to Scottish in local competition and the N.Z.U. Tournament was won by Victoria. The Hockey and Polo Club also did well, although the Football Club's 3rd in the Senior B Grade was not outstanding.

In University competition the Foot- ball team was beaten by Auckland and Canterbury and, in Hockey, V.U.C. was only 3rd equal in the May Tournamen.

Consequently a more even distribution of Blues would be expected. This can only be done if the sports clubs will accept the responsibility of recommend- ing only those who definitely deserve a Blue. This decision should be made by the club, putting the onus on the Blues Committee and one of the representatives is a very undesirable form of business.—Yours, etc., IAN McDOWELL.
BOOKS, FILMS AND STAGE

Second Industrial Survey

As You Like It

“I have thought some of nature’s journeysmen had made men and not vice versa; they inspired you so obominably.” The writer might have had in mind the Repertory Society’s production of “As You Like It” and the lamentable casting it displayed. Only two players could be singled out for commendation—Touchstone, who interpreted the part excellently, and Jacques, who threw his voice admirably. Both these displayed sensibility and restraint. Rosalind was not pleasant. The effort of producing a light voice made for harshness of tone, and Orlando’s speech was so affected that he could not be taken seriously as a lover. The play is full of wit and satire, and the performance was well received.

Food and Drink

Students, did you know that the Cafeteria was run by the Students’ Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Executive? Its finances are controlled by the treasurer of the Students’ Association and it is your Students’ Association subscription that is the main source of income. A profit is shown in improvement of equipment or in reduction of meal prices.

The students are making the Cafeteria a student-run Cafeteria. The answer is—few hoary, perennial old-timers who struggle to find time between their jobs and their study to keep the Caf. on its feet, and an additional few, faithful helpers on whom a great deal of work piles.

What are the difficulties the management of the Cafeteria has to cope with?

1. Almost impossible accommodation for dealing with food for large numbers. Cakes cannot be

2. Delivery of goods, e.g., cakes cannot be delivered.

3. The usual difficulties connected with the catering business and the prices.

This is how you can help:

1. Put your name down on the roster on the notice-board for helping at rush hours behind the counter in return for a free meal, and turn up at the time promised.

2. Clear your dishes off the table on the counter habitually.


4. Don’t sit unnecessarily long when the staff want to clean up.

5. Make up your mind quickly what you want and have the right money or small money.

Here are important long-term ways in which you can improve the Caf.:

1. Make constructive suggestions and complaints. Do not grumble inarticulately.

2. Offer your services on the Caf. is opened, that is, if you have any experience of such things.

3. Get the grumbles round the place be specific and pass on their criticisms so that we will know what is wrong and what the general feeling is.

The Cafeteria Controller is Gwen Jolly.

“A Backer from Darkest

Amnesia"

To those stern critics who allowed “Mr. Chips,” “Random Harvest” would appear both sentimental and overdramatized. The plot is perhaps a little fantastic. A man has lost three years of his life. He meets and finds again, for in him is married to Miss Garson. By a series of fortuitous circumstances the story becomes a little better. And how! Very silly with a couple of unorthodox complications (how very little cottage) on minus nothing a part. Not that it was bad technically. Some of the photography, particularly in the opening scenes, re- minded us of little of our own work. I am not sure if Miss Garson and Garson played their parts well, even if one did get a little tired of the latter’s effort to recall her husband’s past to him. (Perhaps she did this once too often. It seemed to ring in the middle.) These qualities alone are a line or two too sentimental, too superficially emotional, too much, in short, no good entertainment value. But the whole thing was rather too sentimental, too superficially emotional, too much, in short, no good entertainment value. But the whole thing was rather too sentimental, too superficially emotional, too much, in short, no good entertainment value.

We take this opportunity to let you know that it is a real pleasure to have had the opportunity of attending the “Backer from Darkest Amnesia.” We should like to say that the performance was well received and that the actors did a very fine job.

New Writing, 15

It is some time since the enterprising publishing house of Jonathan Cape started issuing the “New Writing” series, and they later added to their ordinary lists of novels, crime and adventure, Penguin New Writing. At a start it aimed at introducing the general and perhaps particularly the young and un-informed reader to good modern writing. This by reprinting and translations as well as original stories and articles. After a few early issues the standard seems to have slipped away; no continental writers were dead or imprisoned, and therefore no longer represen- ted. This last issue seems to have recovered that virility which typified early numbers. There are right new contributors to No. 15, of whom, probably, only two are known to New Zealaders. Anyone interested in present day writing and modern life will find this selection both provocative and stimulating.

In Which We Serve

“Tougher Freyder, ist alle theorie
End gruis des Lebens goldner Baum.”

—Goethe.

“All theory, my friend is easy, but the spreading tree of life is green!”

That this man who is demonstrating to us just why “Britons shall never be free” is not receiving due credit for holding securities in America “just in case.” One is not at all surprised to find labour unions gaining into our minds the idea that the Navy must always be controlled by the spirit of the old-time seaman. Every man on the crew except the captain, not having had the opportunity of being a sailor or mentally incapable of anything more than mechanical action. Lastly, having been told the story of the ship, suggesting something interesting in the manner in which he tells it, one finds without a doubt, it is a picture of the man, the captain, the author, the present-day seaman, in one perplexing unity, with occasional shots of the crew and the ship for old times’ sake.

Grand, tourer Freyder, ist alle theorie

end gruis des Lebens goldner Baum.

—Goethe.
SPORT
When We Dead Awaken

The time has come when returning students flood the College and possibly its sports, and when the deathless army of ex-students who keep the summer sports alive in the period of short-comings and long goings, departs. In view of the operations of the National Service Department, the lean periods which the summer sports clubs enjoy are at present unavoidable, but in peace time there can be no excuse for them. Of the total roll, a comparatively small body of students are full-timers and corresponding to the number of summer players absent during the long vacation. The reason for the weakness of the Varsity summer sports clubs is to be found rather in the number of potential wearers of the green who are playing in outside clubs or not playing at all during the summer and are well content to do so. It can hardly be doubted that if half the energy which club officials put into the resurrection of the Dead be put into canvassing the College Roll, the clubs would flourish like the green bay tree.

By now, the winter sports clubs will have held their meetings. Some, such as Hockey and Harriers, will, we have little doubt, open as successfully as of yore—we are even more certain that other clubs will see the same old bunche sitting on the same old benches.——D.N.Y.O.

Baffled With Science

On Saturday, April 1st, the bowler hat-wearing Leslie opened the Inter-Faculty Athletic Meeting for the fortith time in succession. A heavy track and a strong wind made it difficult for athletes to secure good times, nor did the Freshmen's Welcome of the previous night add any spice to lend the limbs.

The meeting was a good one and well organised but there were too few runners. It served, however, to show off to advertisers that small will be the Club and to discover new talent, and was thus a fitting climax to the revival which the Athletic Club has staged this season.

Interest naturally centred round the performances of Ian McDowall, provincial half-mile champion, and vanquisher of the resiliently Nelsen. He won the mile, half-mile, and three miles without having to exert himself much, and his times were affected by the day's conditions.

J. Goldfinch made a fine show in winning the 440 yds. open in 34s.; and a promising freshman was McDowall who followed McDowall and Danell in the 880 yds. The relay race resulted in a win for Science, whose team comprised McDowall, Boyle, Cooper, and Ferrin, followed by Law and Commerce with Arts third.

The Inter-Faculty Contest resulted as follows:—

Science 40 points
Law 25 points
Arts 16 points

It is worthy of note that none of the officials of the Meeting was the president, Mr. G. Holley, who was the first secretary of the V.U.C. Athletic Club.

The Club wishes to express its thanks to all officials who participated.

Toil and Trouble

Several weeks ago the club made a southern crossing. When we left Chiki Forks the sky was overcast and rain fell at intervals. At Kime we were surrounded by mist but we started for Alpha and reached a point on the Barrock just beyond Hector before a strong wind forced us to retreat. Next morning we were again enveloped in gloom, but mist lifted as we reached Atkinson. In the south, across Hutt Valley we could just distinguish the Kaikoura. On the north-east was the Wairarapa Plain, with glimpses of the northern peaks at intervals.

Bad weather and lack of support caused the abandonment of a Palliser Bay trip. All trimmers should watch for notices and be sure to attend the annual meeting of the club on Wednesday, 19th April.

SALIENT

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Basketball

The Annual General Meeting has been held but, owing to the poor showing of past members, it was decided to elect the Club Officers at the second practice.

A fair number of new members and freshmen with excellent basketball records have joined the club, and we therefore hope to be able to put up a good showing for Varsity in the Wellington Championships this year, in which we will be entering two teams—one in the Senior A grade and one in the Senior B grade.

At the Annual Meeting of the Wellington Basketball Association it was agreed to buy a new basketball—we hope that this will act as an incentive for those who just can't quite make up their minds whether to play or not. Don't forget that old saying—"All work and no play... Think it over and join the Basketball Club.

TEA DANCES

Tune dances will be starting soon after Easter. This will be good news to old students, and freshmen—there is a treat in store for you!

Every second Saturday you will be regaled by bright music and good dancing (it depends on your partner, of course) from 5 o'clock until 7.45 p.m. A savoury tea is part of each time and a general spirit of good humour prevails. If you enjoyed Freshmen's Welcome, don't miss this. If you missed Freshmen's Welcome, come along to the first tea and join in Varsity social life in its most delightful form. What better way could you celebrate your birth of the year than by a friendly dance and meal where you can discuss that tricky goal you scored.

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