TOO MANY PART-TIMERS?

A NEW ZEALAND professor at California University recently complained that students straight from High School often lack the drive to go to university. There is a lack of drive, or even any interest, in seeking out the opportunities for higher education. The lack of drive among students is a common complaint among universities around the world. This lack of drive is particularly evident among students from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The reasons for this lack of drive can be multifaceted, including financial constraints, family obligations, and a lack of awareness of the benefits of higher education. Universities need to develop strategies to address these issues and encourage students to pursue higher education.

It's Hard To Be Good

VERY often one hears a student remark "If I had known what this subject was all about, I'd never have taken it...". What's alayout subject? The other remarks variously judging the difficulty or otherwise of a subject. "They're just not for me" or "It's too hard for me". Mathematics I has been the end of many a promising science student who just can't get over the hurdle. Psychology, I and Contractus property, are two of the many Commerce types.

We feel that the following opinions—taken at random round the table in the canteen—may be of value to students who would like to know what they are up against in planning their early academic years. The degree of most part-timers are dictated by their time. But, inasmuch as they experience gained by others before them may be of some value. These opinions also raise the question of equality of degrees. If a graduate in any Mathematics work more than a graduate in Education? If so, what is this a state of affairs which is desirable? If not who can say?

One point of view which was definitely held by the Student reporter conducting this inquiry is that in several of the degree subjects there is a great deal of the professional stuff. This is a subject that the student should have a solid background in. A solid background in the subject is necessary for the student to be able to participate fully in the academic community. The student should have a solid background in the subject to be able to contribute to the academic community and to be able to understand the material presented to them.

The following inquiry was conducted by asking the student what he or she had studied at V.E.C. and the reason they found

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Free Education?

1. That part-time study is not the right approach for many students. The lack of motivation and commitment among part-time students can be a significant barrier to academic success. Part-time students may have other obligations, such as work and family commitments, which can detract from their ability to focus on their studies.

2. Meanwhile, it seems that part-timers, like the poor, we have always with us. The part-time students who have undoubtedly more time to devote to their studies are the "politicos" to treat the part-timer with a certain snobbish air. For "We are many—you are few." Such an over-rated student must be set the standard, and the college can be said to exist for them. But can a qualified staff with the preparation necessary for leading the community study of an old-world university, be allowed to become a machinery for the distribution of notes? And a painful five minutes to the lectures, the acquisition of a magister hallucinatus?—C.B.

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Objection

SIR—I object to the statement put to my credit that "haggling over money is an unpleasant way of dealing with student affairs." What I said, or intended to say, was that it would appear from all the haggling that went on about the sums that were (or were) paid to those bodies (i.e. W.P.D.Y. and U.U.S.) that we did not consider whether we gained anything from membership but "How much does it cost?" and the fact that W.P.D.Y. has been budgeted for, and that we were no longer affiliated, did not run us into debt by allowing $50 to three U.S. observers.

I feel that in a lot of cases, one of the functions of the Exec. is to haggle over the expenditure of the Association's money and to say that it is an unpleasant way of dealing with student affairs is somewhat erroneous in that it may be unpleasant but is necessary.

Audrey Cook.

Who Lost The Way?

SIR—Your report of the Annual General Meeting omitted all mention of the resolution.

"That the Executive be recommended to five favourable consideration to affiliating V.U.C.S.A. to the World Assembly of Youth."

This was passed by 45 votes to 29 and is an urgent, important body of 1.

I. It shows that white V.U.C. was dispossessed with W.P.D.Y. It was still willing to look into alternatives rather than shut its eyes to the world outside.

2. Previous apologists for W.P.D.Y. argued "never mind about it Communist thing—let us do what we can to put our point of view." These people were apparently unwilling to consider W.A.Y. at all, whereas I expected them to overlook any de-

sciences in their anxiety to do their bit to improve it.

A. D. COOK.

Your Slip Is Showing

SIR—Your paper has been very gracious in its review of our article which had been overlooked in your previous number. We thank you for this small mercy. You complained bitterly that you had no information about this year's World-Master's road race while our report—"critical" this time since more reporting of events does not interest your readers—was sitting in your letter rack marked with the assistant sports editors' name. To accompany this same initial report, the club had prepared a careful from the Evening Post a block photo of the change over in the race this year and you were pleased to publish it and label it last year.

This mismanagement is understand-

able, stand-in the decedent weekly which published a similar article, but we do object to the bumptious patronizing overbearing arrogant attitude of your various sports writers adopt towards sport, and sports clubs of the college. We ask you, Sir, to see that they mend their editorial comment should letter be published.

W.M.M., Harrier Club.

(Here it comes. The slip was due to the fact that both of the Sports Editors were absent for some time. This block was mistaken for one which slipped up and has not done so. I am quite prepared to acknowledge the error and apolo-

(Continued col. 1, page 4)

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**Farewell, Film Review!**

We suppose it was too good to last. For some 500 (is that correct?) weeks, the National Film Unit at Miramar has been turning out their So-early movies, and were still hard on the lap—on the edge of opening because we were not paid on the matter. However an attempt will be made to give a general picture.

I.U.S. had caused some suspicion in New Zealand right from the time when Miss Janet Bogle attended the 1946 Congress in Prague and reported to us. Even more critical was the then Australian delegate, Mr. Aner, but many of his criticisms appeared to have sprung from pure bias. The following year we received a more favourable report from our delegate, Mr. J. M. Ziman, and this was supported by the report of the Australian delegate, Mr. J. Redrup, who had been specially flown to Prague in 1947, who rendered a 120 page report and who was elected to the I.U.S. Executive.

However, there was still some doubt in the minds of Colleges. Our affiliation fee, to I.U.S. was 100% more than half our present income from levies. Money was collected for this purpose but held as it was expected that Mr. Redrup would be able to arrange for some to be put towards a Pacific regional organisation working under the aegis of I.U.S. of which New Zealand would be a foundation member.

In 1948 our delegates were Mr. J. M. Ziman and Mr. J. Dodd. They gave a long report on their summary stated: "I.U.S. can be either a Service Organisation or a further student political activity." They felt they were developing along the N.Z. I.U.S. style, as in the I.U.S. could have decided whether it would accept this as inevitable and remain in I.U.S., co-operating in the few services it offered, and whether to break on these grounds.

From the record of debate it appears that the Resolution executed the meeting that it felt I.U.S. could not be accepted by N.Z. students as a body furthering a political line, such political services as were offered could not be availed of as we were so far from the centre of I.U.S. activity.

The delegates from Canterbury argued that I.U.S. had not proved itself, and that we should consider the question again. As I.U.S. had, finally, for motives of jealousy, refused to accept the idea, we should start to build our own Pacific connections on a solid basis of mutual help.

The delegates from Otago felt there was little need in the way of information to be gained. Our opinions were in the minority and were not effective, while in any case the decision was too large for the dubious benefits.

It should be stated that there was a general feeling that I.U.S. had not lived up to the policy of the Eastern bloc only, particularly in the way it had moved closer to the World Federation of Democratic Youth. In this way it was no longer a truly international organisation.

Another evidence of bias was felt to be its attitude to the "Prague incident" when no action was taken on behalf of students arrested and attacked by Prague police when they demonstrated against the coup d'état in that country in the early part of 1948. It was explained by the U.S. Secretariat that they could do nothing because the students were breaking Czech law, while under Czech law police could not carry firearms. This was felt to be not in conformity with the I.U.S. attitude in appealing for support for students and the breaking similar law in Spain, Greece, South America and elsewhere.

In addition to this many National Secretaries, including ours, have been in correspondence and arguments included some in Scandinavia, Greece, and the U.S.A. who pulled out over the Prague incident. The latter had not formally joined but had a seat on the Executive and a representative on the Prague Inquiry Committee who dissented strongly from the majority decision.

The Australian students had also disaffiliated, as a result of an accumulation of causes, including the Prague incident. They also had a seat on the Executive and faced many other difficulties, including apparently partial treatment of Australian students both inside Austria and against other groups. Problems had arisen with Belgians and Canadian students while the Swiss, of course, had never been able to consider the I.U.S. Constitution on account of their traditional political activity.

That, then, is briefly the back ground of the 1949 I.U.S. decision to disaffiliate. The statement is made because there is a feeling that not enough publicity was given at the time to the decision and its reasons. It is hoped that the text of this decision will be published in full by College papers. It should be noted that U.S.C. disaffiliated from the disaffiliation motion.

For the Resident Executive,

K. B. O'BRIEN
President, N.Z.U.S.A

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Continued from “No Max’s Land” page 3.

We publish the letter although the correspondent could well learn that abuse is no valid argument.

Ed.

Vive Le President

Sir,—In profound hopefulness that the gloomy prophecies about the future life of our President may be fulfilled, I venture to suggest that the Association might consider the above sign to show that it is not uninfluenced by the theory of the welfare state; a practical move towards the instilution of a superannuation scheme so that a suitable retiring allowance might be paid to Presidents retiring after forty years in office.

Pro Bono Publico.

CONGRESS, 1951

What are you doing in February next year? Do you want a commission as a private officer, or a couple of months’ seasonal work, or a chance at that, too? The answer to your problem depends on the year.

As in the past two years, 1951 Congress will be held in the Marlborough Hotel, that ideal spot in the Marlborough Sounds, or by Air Force transport in the warm of a recuperative centre, and now one of the Sound’s best tennis centres. There are miles of warm water for the keen swimmer, thousands of fish for the angler, boats for the rowers, walks for the tramper, grass for the lazy to lie on—and fun for everyone.

There is another side to Congress—that of a student—students who are preparing to confront us this year. Formal sessions are being arranged at which prominent speakers will talk around a theme “There Is Still Hope”: those who have been to Congress will recall the vigorous discussions which follow the talks. Don’t be frightened by the idea that this is something very intellectual and quite out of your reach—the talks are all of a high standard but are of interest to all students.

Otago are organising Congress this year, and the committee have decided to hold it between February 16th-18th. It is hoped with these dates that a greater cross-section of students may be able to come than in past years.

Further details will be published in this paper and posted on your notice board later on in the year. So keep watching, and be early with your applications when these are called for.

Golf Club

On Thursday 6th July the V.U.C. Golf Club held its one-day competition on the Hutt course. Unfortunately, we are unable to play in the weekends, ab only full-time students were able to attend. Twelve members took part, and all had a good day. In the morning a Stableford competition was won by B. Phillips, the runner up being J. Woolston. The medal competition was won by Owen Fryer, a 6th year student (Med.) and B. Phillips and J. Woolston were runners up. The most important activity this year is the Inter-varsity golf tournament (unofficial) which is at Otago. We are sending a team of four, but as the Tournament is open to anyone, other V.U.C. students may enter. Unfortunately those not in the official team arrange their own transport and accommodation. Any people interested in another club day during the August holidays should get in touch with Brian Phillips. (Second week of the vacation only, that is.)

Outdoor Basketball

Recent results have been:

- Senior: 10 Furor 11
- Taupo 23
- 12 Manawatu 14
- Intermediate: 7 Soma 19
- 9 Peter-Paul 13
- M.B.O. 18
- Junior: 14 W.C.O.G. 9
- 19 Kaitaia 19

‘Ici on Parle Francais’

On Monday, July 7, in the Concert Chamber there was not an empty seat to be had when the students of French V.U.C. provided the event of the last meeting of the Wellington French Club. The occasion was the celebration of France’s National Day (actually July 14), a day which should not be allowed to have meaning for us, for it was the day on which the Bastille fell to the army of the French people.

The meeting opened with short speeches by the President, Miss R. Fillayson and His Excellency the Minister for France, Mr. Lancel. These were followed by the main item of the evening, a full-length two-act play, "Mort au Vif" ("Dead or Alive") by Max Regnier, first played in Paris, which play provides the audience with the satirical and social thriller but at the same time it contains comedy of unlikely forms of entertainment. The plot centres round a "Murder Party," a game believed by respectable people to have nothing to do. It is found however that the "hangman" corporal is in fact only too real and the rest of the play, including some very humorous scenes, is concerned with the discovery of the murderer. There was no question as to whether the play itself was dead or alive. The actors displayed all the melodramatic vim and vigour which was required and kept the guessing. What with a fake detective, a manufacturer of fantastic burglar alarms, a long-lost husband who escaped himself from the wedding breakfast table never to return, a card-sharp and his illiterate wife, the odd entomologist of doubtful sanity and a sleep-walking servant, one never knew quite what was coming next.

The play demanded a great deal of hard work and was soundly produced by Prof. Boyd-Wilson and Miss Huntington who were assisted in its running by a large and willing group of students. There are also due to Chris Pottinger, Paul Cotton and Robin Adams for make-up and stage-mangem. The cast was as follows: the fake detective, "Stav" ("Stick-em-up"); Christine, Miss Fillayson. Prof. Boyd-Wilson, Miss Sioleton, Piers Munro, Lindsay Macdonald, R. Hereford, Prof. Miles, J. Willison; George Gay and D. Currad, over half of them students and most of the remaining students connected with the modern languages staff of V.U.C.

It is seldom if ever that the public has such a chance to see students doing something creative. It was therefore a time a direct product of their academic work. Extrav. and Major Production hardly qualify under the second requirement. The play gave obvious pleasure to the large audience in which were a great number of people from the Diplomatic Corps, tourists from five or six different countries, students and Wellington members of the Club. The cast were well chosen, and the ability to speak French “as she is spoke” and it was a pleasure to hear no few traces of New Zealand accent. The programme was a witness to the liveliness of the Mosgiel College and faculty and to the pleasant and friendly relations existing between its staff and students.

Barbara Fougere.

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