

UNITY NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE UNION

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Issued Gratis

Text Books v. Comics

The shortage of textbooks and the high price of those available pose serious questions for every student this year. A few of the answers to this vital question are outlined below . . .

In 1942, a Prices Commission regulation allowed booksellers to make an average margin of 40% on the import cost of textbooks from overseas.

Since then, American publishing costs have risen steeply, but the booksellers, at present, are only allowed to make a margin equal to the 1942 margin IN CASH on reprints and new editions from U.S.A.

Completely new works are subject to the 40 per cent. margin, as previously, e.g. in 1942 a textbook costing 10/- to import would be subject to a seller's 40 per cent. margin (i.e. 4/-) making selling price 14/-. The same text book imported in 1948 at say 18/- with margin allowed (still 4/-) would cost the student 22/-.

"YOU—foot the bill."

Since text books give the sellers a relatively slow turnover (except at commencement of year), they demand the highest rate of profit obtainable with the result that YOU foot the bill.

A few examples will suffice to explain this point.

- In 1935 Practical Alternating Current (Smith) cost 10/6.
- The same book in 1948 costs 35/-.
- Elements of Electrical Design (Still) in 1936 cost 32/6.
- In 1948 costs 38/6.

This situation requires immediate action by students along the following lines:

- Support RIGID Price Control of text books
- Press for Government importation of all text books.
- Agitate for Government subsidies on text books so as to bring prices more within reach of the students' pockets.

As a result of this, the booksellers are complaining and want the retention of the 40% margin on all textbooks imported—whether new works or not.

So far, the Prices Commission has taken a firm stand in regard to the pressure applied by booksellers for the waiving of this margin; but if sufficient pressure were brought to bear the Commission might weaken, with the consequent result that text book prices will skyrocket still further.

(Continued Page 8)

Another Enrolment Over!

Once again the thousands of young people interested in receiving higher tertiary education poured into our dingy buildings to enrol for the ensuing year.

There seemed to be more order and less time wasted with enrolment than in previous years. Students welcomed the Orientation Week for newcomers and Science people seemed to approve of the "appointment" system but wish it had been carried out as originally designed.

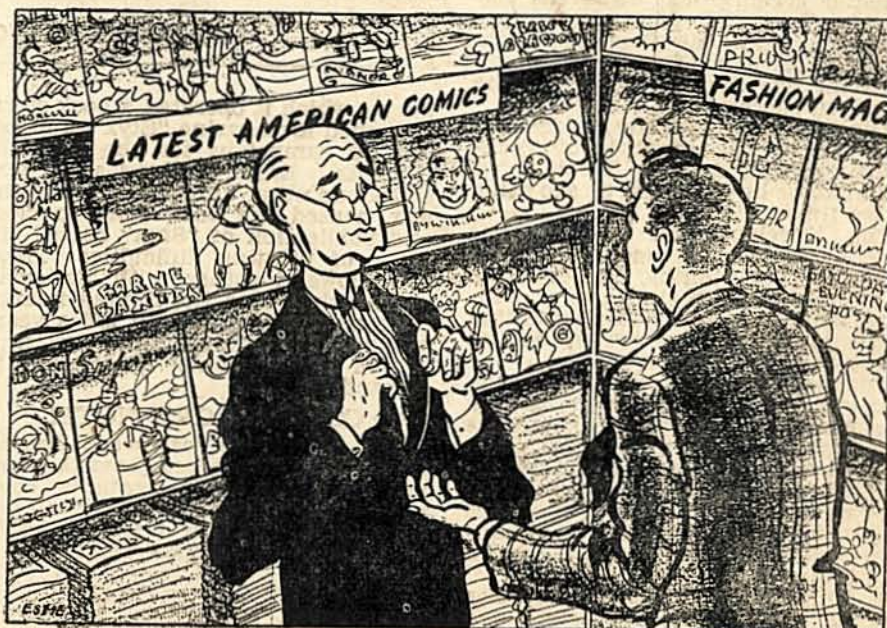
Many enrolling second year students joined with the enrolling officers in cursing the examiners about the lateness of Deferred Diploma Physics I exam results which seem to affect the register of a few hundred students.

The various associations and the Union inquiry tables were on the average more attractive, better staffed and more eager to help students than previous years. The publication of the Students' Guide undoubtedly assisted in introducing the new students to the Associations and the Union.

POLAND PRINTS 34 MILLION TEXTBOOKS

WARSAW, March 4th.—Poland has printed 34 million text books since the war ended. Of these, 20 million were produced in 1947, compared with 6 million in 1937.

Pre-war Poland printed one text book for every five inhabitants. Post-war Poland prints one for every inhabitant. Text book production in 1948 will fully cover the needs of primary, secondary and professional schools, enabling 100 per cent realisation of the Government's education plan.



"Textbooks . . . ?? Good heavens boy—
Don't you know there's a dollar shortage!!"

UNITY NEWS

Editor G. Montgomery
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EDITORIAL

TARGET FOR 1948

The student movement at S.T.C. has got off to a good start this year. General meetings have been held already by the Union and Associations to plan policy ahead instead of reviewing past history close to final exam time as usually has happened in former years.

What are the problems confronting us?

By far the most vital is the text book shortage. Searching for the underlying cause we find that this question is closely bound up with the dollar position.

Not only is the amount of dollar exchange reserved for the importation of text books totally inadequate but precious paper—paid for in dollars—is being squandered on "comics" and other literature of doubtful value which the printing presses turn out in a never-ending flood.

Surely there is something wrong somewhere!

Can we stop this state of affairs? We can and we must, but we have to go the right way about it.

It is clear that our organisation unaided can do little to influence the Government to direct dollar expenditure into more essential channels. But let the students of Australia who are all equally interested in this speak as one and let's see what will happen!

That this viewpoint is being generally recognised as correct is borne out by recent developments. It is no accident that we should, just now, see the various student bodies of Australia showing greater interest in each other. Following their University colleagues, Tech College students have formed a National Committee, for only by National Co-operation can problems like the text book question be solved successfully.

The second big task the Union faces this year is the Institute of Technology (What, again? We're sorry, but what we have started we are going to see through!).

The Developmental Council has done a tremendous amount of work in a short few months: The Institute is established, the standard of Diploma Courses with a view of granting degrees is being investigated, and so is Diploma Degree conversion.

Yet the financial barrier around the Institute, which we have battled against for 2 years almost stands as firmly as ever; and worse, the double standard, i.e. Diploma courses alongside with Degree courses—the situation we anticipated early in the piece and sought to eliminate before it happened—has nevertheless become an established fact!

A dim outlook? Take heart, we've cracked knotty problems before and we are going to crack them again. Some hard work, it will take, that's certain, but then what can stop 6,000 determined students who know what they want and mean to get it?

NEWCASTLE SPEAKS

Fraternal greetings to the students at the Sydney Technical College from the students of the Newcastle Technical College.

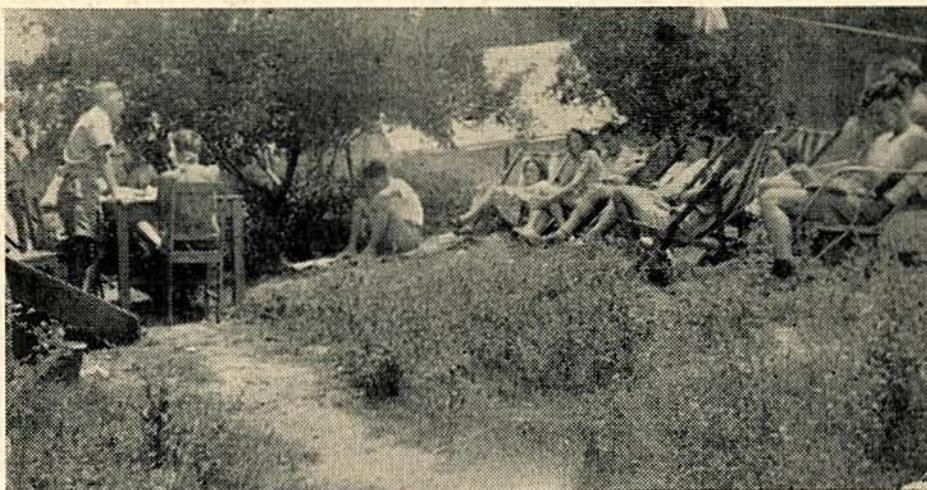
The history of student organisation at the Newcastle Technical College is not brilliant with success but it has a history from which to-day's students have learnt much.

Briefly, it is as follows: In 1926 an Association covering all students and ex-students was formed which lasted two years. In 1929 it was revived and continued under several names until 1944. The Association failed to adequately organise the students, its maximum membership in 1943, being not greater than 150 out of over 2,000 students. However, it carried out much good work, organising social functions, sponsoring various sports clubs and, throughout its life, was responsible for Prize Presentation Night. Its most successful period, under the name of the N.T.C. Students' Association, was from 1940 to 1943,

Science and allied students and in 1943 a Students' Representative Council was formed to co-ordinate the activities of the two bodies together with the lesser groups such as sports clubs, music clubs, etc., existing at the College. The composition of the S.R.C. is thus seen to have been rather muddled. The S.R.C. failed to function at about the time of the collapse of the Students' Association.

Never at any time were Engineering Diploma or Trades Students organised as separate groups and it was eventually realised that students must have an association covering their section or department before

SCIENCE CONCENTRATES



Scene from Science Conference at Springwood.

during which it operated a book store, published a magazine "Styx", and organised campaigns for the needs of students. Erratic deliveries of text books and other difficulties due to the war, caused the book store to close and publication of "Styx" ceased because of printing difficulties. These two blows, together with its small membership (and the limited finance from membership fees of 2/6 a year) and a faulty organisational structure, caused the Students' Association to disband in 1944.

COUNCILLORS' NOTE!

The Association was weak because it was too far removed from the rank and file students, its executive committee being formed by officers elected from the students as a whole and by delegates from the five main departments.

In 1937, the Science Students' Club was formed, continuing to operate successfully with an average membership of 140 out of a possible 300. With the successful operation of this organisation it was agreed that the Students' Association would not cover

attempting an overall body. This fact would have been apparent sooner if closer liaison had existed between Sydney and Newcastle Technical Colleges.

Early in 1947, the Trades Students Association and in October, the Engineering Students Association were formed. The former has a potential membership of over 1200 engineering trades students and is rapidly improving its numbers. The latter covering mechanical, electrical and civil engineering diploma students was formed at a difficult part of the year, just previous to the final examinations and has yet to enrol a good working membership.

The need for a strong student organisation is and always has been apparent at the N.T.C. and students here have much to do to build such a body. However, it is now commencing to be a practical possibility and it is hoped that we will take advantage of the co-operation with S.T.C. students, gaining much from their experience and mutually assisting with the pressing demands and needs of students of to-day generally.

Tech. Students form National Committee All-Student Federation Soon



Retiring Editor

It is with regret that we farewell Mr. George Strauss as Editor of Unity News.

George, who was universally known and liked,

was a familiar figure around every department at Tech. Constantly seeking information for our Monthly Journal, he often resorted to tears to obtain many a promised article which should have been in before the paper went to press.

Possessing an extremely cheerful and tactful disposition, George always managed to bring the paper out on time even though he had to spend most of his leisure periods chasing outstanding articles.

It is mainly due to his untiring efforts that Unity News will soon be swinging to a fortnightly publication.

The zest with which George rendered assistance to the new Editors has earned him their undying gratitude and it is with this thought in mind that we wish him every success and the best of luck for the years to come.

—Editors.

UNITY NEWS IN NEW GUISE

In case you've wondered about the reason for the smaller page of your favourite (?) journal, we'll let you into the secret behind this sinister move:

Unity News is getting ready for fortnightly publication!

Which, unless all that hidden journalistic talent comes forward will mean smaller issues. So be prepared for half the number of pages when we do switch to bi-monthly production.

Did we hear someone ask WHEN?

— Well, all we can say at the moment is "Before the year is out", and if that's not soon enough, you can make it sooner by joining the staff of "Unity News" right now.

Qualifications — Plenty of pep and enthusiasm.

Reward — A better Technical College.

A National Committee of Technical College Students has been founded as a result of discussions at the Students' Congress, held in January, at Somers, Victoria.

The Congress was called by the National Union of Australian University Students but was also attended by representatives of Technical and Teachers' Colleges and Pharmacy Students.

Congress almost unanimously supported the early formation of a Federation of Australian Students which is to hold an Annual Convention representing all tertiary students of Australia.

The S.T.C. Union was represented by Miss Jess Brunner and Mr. Les Spurway. Mr. Spurway has been appointed Chief Co-ordinator of the new committee which has its headquarters at the Sydney Technical College.

The initial meeting was held at Somers between the delegates from Sydney, Melbourne and Swinburn Technical Colleges and a provisional council was set up consisting of Mr. Les Spurway, convenor (Sydney), Mrs. Moira Tolhurst (Melbourne) and Miss Pat Cullis (Swinburn) pending ratification by their respective organisations.

The Union Council has already approved of the new organisation and has confirmed Mr. Spurway as its representative.

"ISSUES" BEFORE "ORGANISATION"

"Our first task will be to deal with issues rather than organisation", Mr. Spurway said. "We must guard against organising for organisation's sake and forgetting the tasks we came together for."

"Student subsidies, the text book shortage, high prices of equipment, daylight training, etc., are some of the problems that students must solve on a National scale, and these are the issues around which we will organise ourselves," he added.

N.U.A.U.S. IN FULL SUPPORT

Full support was given to the new organisation by the National Union of Australian University Students. This Union, in fact, was responsible for bringing Tech. College and other

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL



From left: Pat Cullis (Swinburn); Les Spurway (Sydney); Moira Tolhurst Melbourne

tertiary students together at its Congress.

Particular credit is due to Messrs. Redrup and Murphy of the N.U.A.U.S. who both lent an active hand in setting the ball rolling.

HOW THE COMMITTEE WILL WORK

Already Mr. Spurway has made much headway in contacting all Technical Colleges which were not represented at the inaugural meeting. A questionnaire has been prepared and is now being circulated, to gain information on the number of students, whether courses are full or part-time, student publications, etc.

It is proposed for each constituent organisation to have one local N.C.T.C. (National Committee of Tech. Colleges) representative.

On present indication, strong support should be forthcoming soon from all tertiary College organisations thus assuring steady growth of the National Committee.



Bill Simpson (Past Sec. Mech. Eng.) and lady friend at End-of-Year Ball.

STUDENT'S CONGR



By Jess Brunner

Along the Mornington Peninsula, 40 miles from Melbourne, lies the small town a mile out of town is a large R.A.A.F. camp, which has been recently converted into an ideal spot that more than 200 students from all over Australia and New Zealand came for the conference of the National Union of Australian University Students.

This year as last year, Technical Colleges, Teachers' Colleges and Pharmacy Students were invited to view of forming a National Union, which would cover all students.

When I arrived at the Congress in the late afternoon of the first day, I found that my co-delegate Les Spurway, together with three other Sydney Tech. personalities (who were passing through on their way to Tasmania, namely George Strauss, Bob Niblett and Gus Spielman), had already arrived and were making their presence felt in no uncertain manner. They had already rounded up all the Technical College, Teachers' College and Pharmacy students delegates and had arranged a meeting for 6.30 p.m. that very night. This meeting was chaired by Mr. Redrup, and was well attended by University students as well as the students previously mentioned. It proved to be the first of several similar meetings throughout the Congress and went a long way in making students F.A.S. conscious.

IN FAVOUR OF I.U.S.

At the session on the International Union of Students, Mr. Redrup gave a brief resume of his printed report which was supplemented by a short report by Mr. Zymond the New Zealand delegate. Nevertheless it was sufficient to convince the students present that I.U.S. was of definite value and that their misgivings based on the Arcus report of last year were entirely unfounded.

Consequently a motion recommending Council to reaffiliate with I.U.S. was passed with an overwhelming majority.

U.N.E.S.C.O.

Following along the International theme other sessions included "Australia's Place in International Affairs" given by Miss D Ross, delegate to U.N.E.S.C.O., who told of the work being done by this organisation and the part Australia is playing in helping with post-war reconstruction of all things educational, social and cultural.

She also stated that U.N.E.S.C.O. intends setting up a student branch and as it recognises the work being done by I.U.S. it will probably approach them on this matter.

WORLD STUDENT RELIEF

In a session devoted to world student relief, Miss Frances Paton, Australian Student Christian Movement delegate to the Oslo Conference told of appalling student conditions in Europe and of the grand job being done by World Student Relief.

The gathering was so impressed that they pledged themselves to assist in every way possible to further this work and unanimously passed a resolution recommending N.U.A.U.S. Council to endeavour to raise £2000, together with a collection of fats and foodstuffs before the end of the year.



From left: Gus Spielman, Les Spurway, Bob Niblett.

Words were followed by action and a collection for World Student Relief at tea that night received an immediate response.

WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL

Mr. Forrester, one of Australia's 40 delegates to the World Youth Festival gave a brief report on this festival and the work of World Federation of

Prague was completely thrown open to Youth during the festival and of Democratic Youth. He told how the success of Graeme Bell's Dixieland Band. He also reported on the building of the Yugoslav Youth Railway on which he worked together with the rest of the Australian delegation.

STUDENT HEALTH

Away from the International theme but nevertheless of great interest to all students were sessions such as "Student Health Schemes" which were lead off by a report from Peter Colville. In this report he outlined what had been done in the past, gave what he considered the reasons for their failure and urged that in future all health schemes should be made compulsory.

This brought forth one of the most heated discussions at the conference. The one point which did strike me was that apparently the Sydney Technical College X-ray scheme of last year was the most successful of its kind ever run in Australia!

Apart from the official programme, various clubs and societies held their own little get-togethers and as I've mentioned before Tech, Teachers and Pharmacy students met separately and together in order to establish their own National Organisation. The Pharmacy students are to be congratulated in getting their properly constituted and under way.

The final two sessions were in the form of an open forum where all the work of the Congress was summarised and thrown open for discussion.

So far I have concentrated on the work of the Congress but it had its lighter moment—and many of them. Students found plenty of time between sessions to enjoy the summer weather that Victoria turned on for the occasion. Whilst Sydney at that time was in the throes of rain and cold, we at Somers were experiencing a heat wave in which the temperature soared to 140 deg. Needless to say the nearby beach proved the favourite spot during the day.

We were extremely fortunate in that the camp had a sports store where all



CENSORED

I must not forget to mention here the Revue. This was intended as a student contribution to the entertainment of the entire camp but as it passed by Manager's censorship as suitable for students only it was confined to our section of the camp. Nevertheless many of the other guests were seen sneaking furtively into our meeting hall that night. The only item I can comment on without also being censored was the Maori Haka performed by well known student identities, dressed in bath towels, and led by the New Zealanders.

RADIATORS AND TEACUPS

Other rare sights witnessed at the Congress were; the sinking of a rubber dinghy full of University students caused by the added weight of a certain hefty Sydney University identity, the tangle on the dance floor on the first night when interstate visitors discovered that Melbourne had their own rules for dancing the Pride of Erin; the line up of students waiting for the pictures with pillows under their arms as a counterattack against

must be obvious to all that this type of conference where students can get together, interchange ideas, argue, ask questions and receive prompt answers with 10 whole days at their disposal instead of brief intervals between lectures can do more to break down prejudices and misunderstandings than hundreds of hurried meetings and heaps of correspondence.

By the way, the New Zealanders were financed by their Government. I wonder if our's will reciprocate?

In conclusion I would like to say that the whole Congress could be summed up by the theme chosen for the next Congress which is "National Co-operation".

SCIENCE PLANS FOR 1948

Science Association got off with a good start by discussing their policy for this year at their Annual General Meeting on February 26th.

Basis for discussion was a series of recommendations from the Association's Conference held during the holidays and this draft policy was adopted by the meeting on most points.

The conference's proposal that a number of sub-committees should be set up to deal with organisation, curriculum questions, etc., produced a lot of discussion. In the end it was agreed that too many sub-committees would only make the committee itself too diffuse and hamper efficient work by the Association.

The Institute of Technology also got a fair amount of attention (what student meeting these days does NOT discuss this burning question)—many students concerned about the lack of information (this meeting was held on the day before Mr. Brown's address) were disappointed about the student movement not being kept informed on developments.

The meeting unanimously endorsed the Union's resolution which expresses students' concern with the present arrangement where courses can only be undertaken by full-time study; and urged that provision for part-time courses shall be made so as to provide equal opportunity for all; and proposed, so as to ensure this, that legislation should be enacted to assure students of at least one day per week study leave. Legislation for one day per week study leave, for Institute students, and to be paid for this day by employer.

New office bearers were elected at the end of the meeting. They are:

- President: Clare Olive.
- Secretary: Norm Piper.
- Vice-Pres.: Les Spurway.
- Treasurer: Audrey West.
- Stage Convenor: Stan Enge.
- Union Delegates: Jess Brunner (Grad. Rep.), Norm Piper, Bob Niblett, Gustav Almgren, Bob McCann, H. Spies (Student Reps.).
- Proxy: Keith Davidson.
- Graduate Reps. on Assocn. Committee: Messrs. Hunt & Davidson.
- Editor of "Technician": Terry Waldron.
- Auditors: Messrs. E. C. Martin, J. Anderson.

ip of Somers, and about a holiday camp. It was to this for the second Annual Congress send delegates with the object in



Jess Brunner on the banks of the Yarra.

types of sporting equipment were made available to the guests. The old parade ground was used as a cricket oval and three tennis courts were also at our disposal.

One of the highlights in the sporting field was the cricket match between N.U.A.U.S. and the other guests. Late nights told on the students who were given quite a lacing in the first match but they rallied enough in the return match to force a draw. By the way, if you want to stay on the right side of Les Spurway, don't ask him about his innings; it was the shortest ever recorded in cricket history. However he did shine brighter in tennis and ping pong tournaments.

Almost every night students had a choice of entertainment; in the Main Hall there was generally a dance or films whilst over in the students' hall and lounge, lectures and musicales were run. A sing-song around a bonfire on the beach generally rounded off the night's entertainment.

the hard seats for which the hall was famous. The frantic effort to keep the leaking radiator of the last bus from Frankston full when the only utensils available were two rather delicate china cups bought by souvenir hunters in Melbourne that day. Full advantage was taken of the two free days, special transport was arranged and students visited Melbourne and Phillip Island.

All present voted this Congress a great success and this success was due in no small way to the efforts of Miss Valerie Wodsworth the organiser. All are looking forward to the next Congress which by the way will be thrown open to all tertiary students and what's more it will most likely be held in N.S.W. It would be a good idea to keep this in mind when you are considering where to go for your next holidays.

GOVERNMENT PLEASE NOTE

The subjects covered by the Congress were many and varied, and it

FACTS ON THE INSTITUTE

At last much sought after information on the Institute of Technology has come in, and wild, unconfirmed rumours have been brought down to earth.

From Mr. Brown's address to a student meeting on February 27th, the facts published by the Acting Director of the Institute (Mr. Denning) the following points emerge:—

1. The Institute has started Degree Courses in Coal Mining, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering which are conducted at the Sydney Technical College.

2 These courses are "sandwich courses" i.e. 6 months full time study alternating with 6 months work in industry for 4 years.

3 Fees are £27 per YEAR and the question of subsidies as well as the granting of the necessary study leave, is left to the discretion of "employers".

4. Degree courses are being conducted simultaneously with Diploma Courses in the same branch of learning, with no provision as yet for present and past Diploma students to convert their Diploma to a Degree.

A LITTLE PATIENCE

Outlining the Development Council's work, Mr. Brown asked for a little patience as the Council had been set up for only 6 months. In that

NO FINALITY YET

Continuing, Mr. Brown said that no finality had been reached on the acceptance of existing Diploma Courses, the upgrading of any Diploma Courses falling short of the standard required and on Diploma-to-Degree conversion courses.

The Council had NOT committed itself on these points and the Draft Bill merely gave the Institute "power to conduct courses and to grant degrees", Mr. Brown added.

In answer to many questions fired at him from all sides Mr. Brown further explained:

"There is no Institute staff as yet, and no buildings will be erected for 4 to 5 years. The Institute therefore will use the facilities of the Education Dept. and only function as an approving authority." Mr. Denning has been appointed Acting Director, and Mr. Brown Acting Deputy-Director of the Institute.

be undertaken on a full time study basis and urge that provision shall be made for the courses to be undertaken on a part-time basis so as to provide equal opportunities for all and to ensure this, legislation should be enacted so that all Tech. students have at least one full day per week.

"We further urge that the courses at the Institute should be developed from the present diploma courses, by the addition of further subjects where necessary, and that Diploma Courses should cease as soon as possible after the establishment of the Institute Courses. We also stress the need for student representation on the Governing Council of the Institute."

TOO MUCH OPPOSITION?

The resolution met, with slight opposition from Dr. Murphy chiefly on the grounds that too much criticism may jeopardise the smooth passage of the Institute bill.

The Government had no power at present to grant subsidies, said Mr. Brown, but if all students were covered by Trade Unions they might obtain subsidies through industrial awards.

Supporting the resolution, Mr. Brian Johnson, A.S.T.C. (Radio Engineering) said that all students in question were already covered by the Federation of Scientific and Technical Workers, the Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draftsmen of Australia and various Public Service Unions which either had, or were in process of obtaining awards.

Mr. Johnson continued: "The Institute's Council is leading a "poor horse" if they depend on employers to sponsor students. My own firm during the war granted a full day per week study leave to its trainee engineers. As soon as the cost plus system ended this was cut by half and I have no doubt that a further reduction can be expected when the present boom period comes to an end.

There is nothing in the State Constitution of N.S.W. to prevent legislation for a Government subsidy. If such an act is challenged in court—as evidently, is all legislation benefitting the common man—it can be fought out.

MR. HEFFRON'S AMBITION

"A POOR MAN'S UNIVERSITY"

"Some two years ago, Mr. Heffron said his ambition was to establish a "poor man's University"—and to provide for this legalised subsidies are essential, speaking from his own experience."

Dr. Murphy said there would be strong opposition to legislation for even ONE afternoon a week, particularly from engineering firms. He thought that with the situation as is at present, the time is premature to press or such legislation.

Commenting on the clause calling for part-time Institute courses, Mr. Brown pointed out that there was no objection to this but the fundamental principle of part-time degree courses had not yet been adopted—recognition of such a course both in Australia and overseas must be assured first.

The meeting carried resolutions congratulating Mr. Brown and Dr. Murphy for attending the meeting.



SCIENCE SOCIALITES AT END-OF-THE-YEAR BALL.

From left: Audrey West, Warren Cullen, Janette Jorgenson, Bob McCann.

time, the Council had tried to do what in other instances might have taken years. At this moment a Draft Bill has been prepared and will be brought down in the Legislative Assembly any day now. Following a proposal from the Coal Board (Federation of Coal-owners) a 4 year sandwich course in Coal Mining had been planned, and the first year had already started. Seeing that the first year course is also suitable for other branches of Engineering, students in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering had been accepted.

The Developmental Council consists of people representing no particular organisation and a permanent Governing Council will take over after passage of the Bill, when it will be decided who shall be represented.

We were assured that a research centre and post graduate courses will soon be established.

RESOLUTION CARRIED

Following extensive discussion the meeting unanimously carried the following resolutions—

"We are concerned with the present arrangements where courses can only



LES SPURWAY DELIVERING N.C.T.G.S. REPORT TO CONFERENCE.
 From left: Fayette Kelly (Min. Sec.); Les Spurway (Past. Sec.); Jess Brunner, (Union Vice-Pres.); Claire Spies (President).

SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The 29th February was an historic occasion for the Science Association. It was the inauguration of a new phase in the development of the Association, a Conference of Students and lecturers to review and discuss the past and future work of the Association.

The Conference was held at Springwood's Youth Camp, meals and accommodation being provided for a minimum charge of 15/- Out of session everybody scurried to enjoy the swimming pool, play volley ball or just be lazy.

During the week-end twenty students and graduates discussed and amended a report presented to them by the Executive, President Clare Olive and Secretary Les Spurway. There were three sessions of about 2-3 hours each, with a change of chairman at each and everybody being kept well in hand by Jesse Brunner, Clare and Les.

Every conceivable aspect of the Association's work was covered generally in the report. It ranged from Union campaigners, class representation, study, to sport, Technicians and Social activity.

The week-end was an example of student co-operation. Discussion continued actively even in those hours set aside for relaxation. Our two delegates (Les and Jesse) to the National Union of Australian University Students' Conference held in Somers, Victoria, gave a brief report on Federation of Australian Students, International Union of Students and World Student Relief.

This gave rise to a lengthy discussion which concluded by a splendid example of student consciousness when everyone at the Conference decided unanimously to support World Student Relief by contributing sixpence per £ of their wages per week.

The report in the final form was presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Association and it will

be a policy guide for the oncoming year.

The efficiency and organisation of the Conference was due to the initial planning by the executive and the will and co-operation and keenness of all present.

No Extension of Youth Concerts Despite Popularity

The A.B.C. has announced the dates for this year's series of Youth Concerts. Contrary to many students hopes, only one series has been arranged.

Dates of the concerts are:

- Wednesday, 31st March.
- Wednesday, 14th April.
- Wednesday, 26th May.
- Wednesday, 7th July.
- Wednesday, 1st September.
- Wednesday, 15th September.

ALL AT TOWN HALL, SYDNEY
 6.30 p.m.

The Union wrote to Mr. Burnett, Concert Manager of the A.B.C. expressing concern at the inadequacy of one series.

We were hopeful of getting the Union Store approved as a booking office so that students could form a party and get block bookings. Unfortunately this arrangement, which worked well last year has not come off. And as a result, on Saturday morning, 6th March, young people began to line up at 6 a.m. at the booking office. When bookings opened there was a queue nearly 1/4 mile long and, needless to say, all seats were booked out by 11 a.m. that morning.

This, and the "full house" sign at every concert last year and the countless numbers that were turned away show the necessity for a second series to be run.

A NEW MOTTO FOR TECH?

"You don't have to be crazy to work here, but it certainly Helps."



CHORE BOY

Les Spurway (Past. Sec.) gets stuck into the dirty dishes at Science Conference held at Youth Camp, Springwood.

THE S.T.C. SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The long-heralded, but unfortunately little-publicised, meeting of the above Association was held in Turner Hall on Thursday, March 11th, and attended by some 30 enthusiastic sportsmen (and women!).

Several clubs were set up to form the nucleus of the new Association, these being Tennis, Football (Rugby and Soccer), Hockey and Basketball. The members of these individual clubs are now actively engaged in attempting to organise teams for entry in the forthcoming winter competitions. It is planned to enter teams in such competitions as City Houses Comp. (football), Metropolitan Hockey Clubs competition, City of Sydney Basketball, etc.

Tennis is as yet a problem, in view of the difficulty in obtaining courts for competition play, and for the present the activities of this club may be confined to social games and occasional Inter-Association and Inter-College matches.

The Association was set up as a semi-independent body, but it is intended to approach the Union with a view to it being admitted as a constituent Association. Finance of the Association, or rather, the means of obtaining finance has not yet been finalised, but it is hoped to obtain a

subsidy from the Union.

Those students interested in any type of sport, either those mentioned above or others such as Baseball, Volley Ball, etc., and are interested in joining the Association should contact Mr. Janssen (Mech. Eng.), Mr. Luke (Elec. Eng.) or Mr. McCann (Science) or those persons in charge of the individual clubs. Membership is open to all members attending any department of the college, and membership of the S.T.C. Union is not necessary.

Bob McCann.

Engineering Association General Meeting

The Engineering Association General Meeting held on 20th February at 8 p.m. was quite a success and we must thank the administration for their co-operation in allowing time off from classes and especially Mr. J. Wood (Engineering) for addressing the 1st year students on the importance of their attendance at Association meetings.

There were 78 present, but it was disappointing not to see more from the higher stages.

The President's address was given, in which the 1st year students were welcomed as an indispensable section of the student body, and emphasised the need for students to take an active part in their various Unions and Cultural organisations.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report followed with discussion on Pinion and the proposed Sports Union.

Patrons: Messrs. Wood, Hirschorn, Lockeridge, Hall, Dodds.

President: Mr. T. Moulang, Naval Arch. Vice-Pres: Mr. P. Vanry, Mr. K. Ryan.

Secretary: Mr. R. Nivison-Smith. Assist. Secretary: —

Council Delegates: Messrs. W. Bailey, T. Moulang, W. Simpson, G. Keen. Institute of Technology.

In General Business Mr. Maycock, by invitation led the discussion on the Institute of Technology and to summarise the discussion as a whole; it was moved by Mr. Bailey seconded by Mr. Janssen "That this Annual General Meeting of the Sydney Technical College Engineering Assn. Students Division, congratulate the Developmental Council and those responsible for the early introduction of the Institute of Technology but are perturbed at the Diploma running parallel with the new Degree courses and also for the lack of equal opportunity for all to participate in the Institute Courses (i.e. £27 per 6 months without pay or subsidy).

We urge that the standard of the Diploma be raised to that of the

Degree courses, and become Degree courses, and that this be facilitated by legislation to give all students attending the courses a full days leave per week with pay to attend classes. This was carried unanimously by the meeting.

A further motion was moved by Mr. Gould and seconded by Mr. Davidson "That the act include student representation on the Institute Council." Carried.

WEEK END CONFERENCE.

On the week-end of the 10th and 11th April the Association is holding a conference at Springwood for all interested members of the Association to help plan the year's activities. It is hoped that every member of the Association will try to attend this conference and thereby assure its success, at the same time proving that they are taking an active interest in the affairs of their Association.

TEXTBOOKS v. COMICS

(Continued from Page 1)

To confirm the data given below, the profits of two of Sydney's leading booksellers for the year ended 1947 are given:

- Angus & Robertson—£25,067 including rents and interest.
- Dymocks—£44,686.

Do you wonder now why the high price of text books is a continual drain on the pockets of the average student who can ill afford to meet this enormous monetary expenditure in order to attain a higher standard of education and secure a better paid job.

Last January a leading Sydney bookselling firm reported that their quota of text books for the coming 6 months was likely to be cut to 6% of their previous year's imports from dollar areas.

Ostensibly, the cut is to save precious American dollars, but we find on the other hand, dollars are being squandered on cheap American comic, crime and adventure magazines, which, reports claim, are contributing to the juvenile crime wave in America.

American syndicated comics are gradually gaining ground here to such an extent that recently, four all-Australian comics folded up because of the Government's patronage of American "literature".

Here then we have a beautiful contradiction—Dollar shortages are causing cuts in the imports of newsprint, text books and other needed commodities resulting in Australian students experiencing hardships in their studies, and Australian authors, artists and journalists facing unemployment due to newsprint shortages while . . . Approximately \$1,000,000 per year are poured down the drain for trash comic strips and sex novels.

The answers students must give to these latest attempts of dollar domination in Australia's Educational field are clear:

- Demand that the Federal Government allocate more dollars for text book imports.

- Demand the removal of American literary (?) trash from Australian markets and safeguard our own artists and journalists' employment.

Only by the concerted efforts of the student movement of Australia can this latest imposition be checked and allow students to pursue their work with all the facilities possible won by their campaigning.

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