

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 21
AT TURNER HALL

UNITY NEWS

DON'T FAIL TO ATTEND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY, 1951

THE PROPOSED MERGER

On Saturday, 10th February, a Conference between representatives from the S.T.C. Union and the University of Technology Society of Students took place in the Union rooms. The purpose of the discussion was to decide whether one student organisation to represent Diploma and Degree students should be formed, and if so, how such an organisation could be formed and operated.

It is my intention to set out briefly what was discussed and some of the ideas brought forward. I am not saying that the suggestions that were made will be accepted or used. The purpose of this article is merely to give you a little information of what is taking place.

This year lectures in Diploma courses of the Sydney Technical College are being given by the N.S.W. University of Technology.

This in effect makes Diploma students, students of the University of Technology and thus it seemed logical that all students of the University should be represented by one student organisation.

ACTIVITIES

The Society of Students has been operating since 1949. In view of its short life and also the fact that the University has, as yet, only about 400 students all told, the past activities of the society have been somewhat limited. However, what they have lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm. Last year they fielded a Rugby Union team in the mid-week competition and reached the semi-finals. This year they hope to field three teams in Saturday afternoon competition.

The University Amenities Officer, Major R. K. Wilthew, who acted as chairman at the Conference, was able to give

information on this year's sporting programme and he was of the opinion that part-time students will be accepted as players in the University teams, if of the required standard, and if suitable coaching arrangements can be made. In this regard one suggestion he made was to hire the Sydney Cricket Ground No. 2 or the Sports Ground after 5 p.m. for the coaching of part-time student.

STUDENTS

Outside of sports, the Society of Students had arranged free X-rays for students each year, they have established a second-hand book service, and various clubs, such as a camera club, bushwalkers' club, discussion group etc., are functioning.

They publish a student paper called "Unilogic" and they have arranged lectures time to time.

The activities of the Society so far have been mainly sporting and social. Any matters that the students felt required the attention of the University Council, they have been able to settle quietly through

are required to join the Society, membership fee 10/- per annum.

The discussion then got down to the methods of effecting merger.

It was pointed out by the delegates from the Society of Students that some of their members were very wary about a merger with the S.T.C. Union because of the "rather militant" way that things had been dealt with by the S.T.C. Union. In reply, it was made clear that in the past the militant manner had been used, very often, of necessity, and not by choice and the hope was expressed that its use would be unnecessary in the future.

Another point of misunderstanding was cleared up when Union policy regarding Diploma-Degree status was discussed.

Union policy on this question is:—

1. The University of Technology should issue a degree and diploma in any one department.

At present a diploma of the Sydney Technical College is the highest award it is possible to obtain from that institution and as such the S.T.C. diploma is widely recognised and its holder respected in the professional world.

If a University issues degrees and diplomas, then the diploma is immediately branded as a second grade degree.

Until such time as a wholly part-time degree course is available, the S.T.C. Union requires that the graduating diploma should receive a diploma of the Sydney Technical College, an award which is now recognised by many professional associations and by industry generally.

In most departments the degree course covers more academic ground than the diploma course and its ultimate aim is the establishment of a part-time degree course.

3. Any secondary course that the University sets up, even if it were identical with a present diploma course, should not be termed a diploma course—perhaps certificate or some similar term, but not a diploma.

After these points were clarified, discussion continued. It was suggested that a merger be effected by forming a Student Council, consisting of representatives of the Society and the Union. The number of representatives to be proportional to the members in each organisation. This was rejected. It was considered that it would not be an effective merger, and would not draw the full-time and part-time students into one body at all.

A second suggestion was a similar Council consisting of an equal number of Councillors from each body. This was rejected for the same reason as the first, and also on the grounds that it would be as unworkable as a government

SCIENCE BALL

Next week the Science Association celebrates the principal social function of the year. The Ball, to live up to other Science shows, will have to be the best of the year. Judging upon rumours this will be so. What with things from Can-Can to Fan Dancers, everything will go with a terrific bang. Wine women and song are the bywords in class at present, with the emphasis on wine. One would not think it possible that so many concoctions could result in the glorious ambience of liquor. Some brews have been down two months, others down two weeks. Even if the beer hasn't got a head on it, everyone is assured of knowing they own one the next day. Let us all be thankful that we have been provided with a public holiday the following day.

The only one who will see the sun rise will be the bloke who just couldn't say good-night and decided it would be much simpler to say good-morning.

On sailing back to the Ball, one must congratulate the Science Committee for the originality of having the deck float. The idea of the Show-boat is terrific, and the only suggestion that can be made is that plenty of barley sugar be aboard for those who cannot carry their beer and those who can't carry their stomach.

The boat leaves No. 8 jetty at 8.30 and sails along the southern shores of "Our Harbour," crosses the rough at Watson's Bay, back along the North Shore, under the span and then back home, finally berthing at 12.30.

Anyone leaving the boat sober needs their head read and have none to blame but themselves. On a final note it

consisting of equal numbers of government and opposition.

A final suggestion was that the merger be taken down as far as the present departmental associations and sports associations, which would then comprise full-time and part-time students. Representatives of these associations would then form one governing Council. This seemed to be the most acceptable suggestion.

Many difficulties were immediately seen, and it was decided that the most effective way to overcome these was for a small committee to draft a tentative constitution of the new body as a basis for discussion. This is now being done. When it is complete, it will be submitted to the Councils of the Society of Students and the Union for their comments and advice. On approval by both Councils, it will be submitted to you for your consideration.

However, until such time as you know all the facts about this proposed merger, I would earnestly advise you not to form any opinions that you are not prepared to review.

FILTERING ATOMIC WATER

It is reported that a small filter weighing 8 ozs., capable of filtering from water 99.9 per cent. of bacteria and 98.3 per cent. of radio-active particles, is available overseas. This technique is in direct opposition to the practice during the last war of using sterilising tablets which purified water without filtering.

Man gazing into liquor store, in companion: "Remember the fun it was fighting cold before antihistamins?"

The possibilities of television are breath-taking—the probabilities depend on who is going to pay for it.

Not many sounds in life, and I include all urban and all rural sounds, exceed in interest a knock at the door.—Charles Lamb.

As suggested that any non-drinker registers with the "wharfies," as he shall be required to guide the wheelbarrows from deck to taxi.

For those who cannot dance, don't let it worry you. The Science Ball caters for everyone. One complete deck has been allocated for that glorious pastime of sailing the seas, watching the stars and — but we shan't go into that. All that requires to be said is, "A man's technique must be poor for him not to excell himself. If he doesn't make a success of his experiment, I suggest he gives wide berth to many subjects in the diploma."

Well, we say farewell, hoping you have a darn good time, good drinking, good dancing, and good—ah!—luck!

6th COLUMN

Heard it rumoured that Union Council intends applying for overtime rates and tea money—the last meeting sitting for approximately six hours.

To be or not to be!—Union representative on the Cafeteria Board.

Latest Innovations:

Seen at a certain Chinese restaurant: "Bring your own food—everything else supplied." Ask Phil Vanry, he knows all about it.

Writing on the Wall Section:

Rather a different approach to this very prevalent pastime. Noticed in the outhouse of aforesaid Chinese restaurant the computation of some rather complex electrical calculations.

Broken Hearts and Backs Department:


Noted with regret—the failure of the last two Engineering dances. Tip—try some other night than Friday. Keep trying.

Another attempt is being made at obtaining a First Aid Station. The Union and the S.T.C. R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. Sub-branch have combined in an effort to obtain this very necessary facility.

Miss Coleman reports that business at the Store is on the up-and-up. A very good range of stock is kept at all times. Any suggestions gratefully received.

Certain motor cyclists seem to think the driveway from the Chemistry Department to Mac Ann Street is a flying half-mile. Take it easy, fellas—you may skittle somebody.

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EDITORIAL

No doubt, many of you have been wondering what has become of "Unity News." Unfortunately, it is quite some months since an edition has been produced. It is hoped that readers have missed it. If they have not, then it would be a waste of time and money in publishing the paper.

The aim now is to publish "Unity News" monthly and to have it ready in the first week of each month. In order that this can be accomplished, complete co-operation is necessary between the editorial staff and the publishers, and in order that this co-operation can be maintained it is absolutely essential that contributions to "Unity News" must be in the hands of the Editor at least three weeks before the issue is to be published. The publisher has assured us that editions can be got out on time providing that the bulk of material is in his hands three weeks prior to publication. The editing of a paper such as "Unity News" is no easy task by any means. A considerable amount of time is required to gather materials, in the typing of such materials, and in the general organisation of the paper. The Editor cannot write the complete paper. Contributions must come from the many readers of "Unity News." Your complete co-operation is these respects is desired.

It will be noticed that the general layout of "Unity News" has been changed. This has been done for a number of reasons, of which expense is one. It is hoped that this layout will prove satisfactory to readers.

As time goes by it is expected that a number of completely new features will be run. Considerable thought has been given to a number of these already, and it is hoped that at least one of these will appear next issue. Your criticisms and suggestions are very welcome, but in criticising, by all means let it be constructive.

Let it be stressed once again that the quality and regularity of "Unity News" is almost completely in your hands. Without your help "Unity News" cannot survive and become the virile organ it should.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO "UNITY NEWS"

1. Articles must be written legibly.
2. If typed, to be double spaced on quarto paper.
3. Must be in the hands of the Editor by the end of the first week of each month.
4. Name, stage and course must be stated. If name not to be published, state so, but it is essential that your name, etc., be submitted. Strictest confidence will be observed in this regard.
5. There is no limit to the length of articles. If they are too long for one issue, then we will publish them in serial form.
6. Letters to the Editor must also contain the name, stage and course of the writer. Again state if you require your name published or not. If this is not stated, it will be taken for granted that the name of the contributor is to be published.

RESIGNATION

R. A. Daly has given notice of resignation from the post of Editor of "Unity News."

PINION EDITORIAL

You have by now read our programme of functions for 1951. These functions have been carefully selected so that students will at least find one to his liking if not all.

Remember, these functions can only be a success if students attend them.

It will be noted that Engineering Association members will have first preference followed by Union members and a third preference non-Union members to all functions with a decided financial benefit for Union members in most cases.

There has been a general apathy in students for Union organisation but it can be realised that without organised protests and criticisms, is such things as the upholding of Diploma status and improvements to amenities cannot occur.

So this year take an active part in Union organisation by becoming a class representative or at least join the Union. Remember, "united we stand, divided we fall."

I would at this point like to wish every one of you a very successful and happy year, both academically and socially.

CLASS REPS.

This year elected officers of the Association will go to the Mechanical, Civil, Production, Aeronautical Engineering and Naval Architecture Diploma classes where they will help to elect class representatives whose jobs will be to keep the various classes reminded of functions, arrangements for functions and meetings of the Association.

These class representatives will pass on to the various stage representatives any complaints, criticisms or suggestions, which need to be forwarded to the Executive Council.

The stage representatives will be elected by the class representative committees of the various stages and they will be responsible to the Council for stage class representative organisations.

If you are selected as a class representative, please do not take this job lightly, because even though not much work is attached to it, it is you who will take a part in keeping the Engineering Association alive, active, and a true representation of the students in the constituent Diplomas.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO "PINION"

The Editor will be pleased to receive any articles from students on any matter deemed to be of interest.

The Editor will also be pleased to receive letters on current matters or improvements to this page.

In respect to the latter, the writer should state, if he requires his name and Stage or a nom-de-plume, but in any case the name and Stage should accompany each letter so that the student can be contacted if necessary.

SCIENCE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Science Association was held in the Main Lecture Hall, Chemistry Building, on Thursday, 29th March, 1951.

The Vice-President, Mr. W. Thomas, took the chair till the President, Mr. J. Gannon, arrived. The Treasurer's Report, given by Mr. E. C. Martin, showed a healthy financial state, assets being approximately £500. During the year £25 was contributed to the R. K. Murphy Research Scholarship Fund, £20 to the Prize Presentation Fund, and approximately £20 to Journals for the Study Room.

Membership for 1950 was approximately 370 Student members. Although this number compares with previous years, it could and should be increased during 1951. The Secretary, Mr. J. Anderson, in his report, briefly commented on the Science Ball, Prize Presentation, Mr. Tucker Appeal, "Retort" and Student Conferences.

The Ball, held in the Grace Auditorium, was extremely successful, some 420 people attended. For the first time the prizes were not presented at the Ball. This change proved a very wise move, as many more people attended the Ball and allowed the prizes to be presented at a more appropriate function.

The Prize Presentation was held in Turner Hall, about 100 people being present. Prior to the presentation the Chemistry Department was open to the general public for an inspection. Sir Herbert Jepp, the Federal President of the A.C.I., presented the prizes, and after the distribution, an excellent supper was served by the Association. A pleasant evening was had by all.

During the year the name of the Science journal was changed to "Retort." Only one issue appeared.

Science participated in three Mona Vale conferences, all of which were highly successful.

After the Secretary's report was adopted the election of Office Bearers for 1951 was held. Result was as follows:

Trustees: Dr. R. K. Murphy, V. S. Rawson, the President.

President: J. Donnellan.

Vice-President: Miss M. Paine.

Secretary: J. Gannon.

Editor of Science Journal: B. Frawley.

Stage Convenor: R. Jones.

Student Councillors: D. Pemberton, K. Morris, J. Donnellan, W. McMaugh.

Student Proxy Councillors: R. Jones, G. Simpson.

Graduate Councillors: W. Briggs, B. Reubens, J. Gannon.

Graduate Proxy Councillors: K. Bowling, J. Anderson.

Graduate Committeemen: J. Anderson, J. Pilkington.

Auditors: K. Lark, F. Ayscough.

The new President took the Chair and was welcomed by acclamation.

During general business the following motion was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting approves in principle of a merger between the University of Technology Society of Students and the Sydney Technical College Union. However, the anomaly of compulsory unionism of the Society and voluntary in the Union causes a problem which can only be solved by a referendum of all students

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

MAKE 1951 A BIG YEAR

It is the intention of the Executive to make 1951 a very active year for the Association. A full programme of activities of both social and technical interest is being arranged.

WE WANT NEW MEMBERS.

The status of the Electrical Engineering Association this year depends on the number of new members enrolled, and the number of new members depends on your active support during the first six weeks of term.

Now . . . We realise that you are essentially a student, and that your course and your job are primary considerations, but do take an interest in at least some extra curricular activities. By getting to know your fellow-students better and by trying to become part of the Tech., instead of merely going to it, you will find your studies become less of a burden.

What better way is there to get to know your fellow-students than by taking part WITH THEM in the activities provided by the Union?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

At your Association-Committee meetings, you will discuss how we can get to know our fellow-students better, how we can improve conditions and provide technical activities, like inspection tours, especially how we can best work to maintain the status of diploma students and graduates.

To help us, to help your fellow-students, and to help yourself through this year of Tech., come along to your Committee meetings and join in the Union activities. THIS IS A CULTURAL INSTITUTION, NOT A DIPLOMA FACTORY!

ENGINEERING GRADUATES NOTE

It has been in the minds of the Engineering Association's Executive Council to reintroduce Pinion in its Old Book form.

It is necessary to defray the cost of printing by advertisements.

By now, some of the Graduates should be in the position to obtain advertisements for PINION.

If you can help, please contact the Engineering Association.

concerned. We therefore insist that if there is any move from any quarter to impose compulsory unionism on students, Union Council should publicise the move and immediately arrange for a referendum of all students concerned."

Two motions, one concerning military training, the other Australian natives were defeated.

The meeting concluded after it had been agreed to hold another general meeting for the purpose of electing stage representatives who, together with the elected Office Bearers, constitute the Committee for 1951.

A really excellent supper was served and two good films added to the success of the night.

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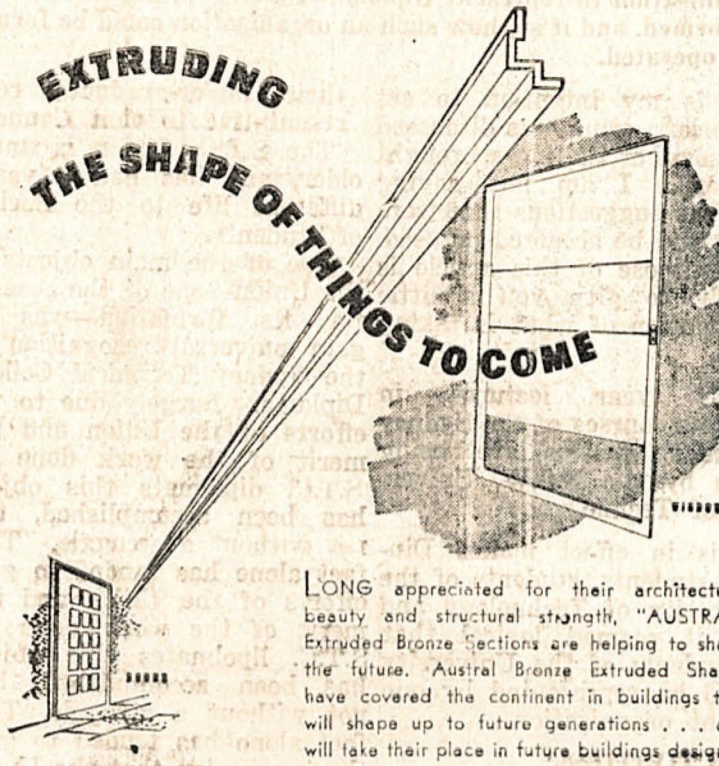
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SOME NOTES ON CHEMISTRY

(B. M. Graham)

Some analytical techniques in this subject may only be adequately described by demonstration; some may only be acquired by practice. This article deals with certain others not usually mentioned in the printed notes.

EQUIPMENT

Provide yourself with half a dozen stirring rods; one with a flattened end (heat and press on to charcoal block); one with a point for piercing filter papers. Glass rod may be cut by heating the desired spot and cutting with a pair of pliers like wire. It should crack clean without applying much pressure.

When boiling down liquids to a small bulk, bumping is made small, and much time is saved by leaving a glass rod in the beaker. More efficient still is a rod which has been heated at one end and a dimple pushed in with the tang of a small file.

Rubber fingers for handling hot glassware are made by cutting two one-inch length of half-inch tubing once lengthways.

A glass towel, fine balance brush, stainless steel spatula, and some gritty soap are also necessary. Use a 500 ml. Florence flask for a wash-bottle and wind the neck with string or asbestos rope.

TITRATIONS

When you bring your burette level to zero, remove any adhering drop by touching on the outside of the flask. (Beakers are only used for large volumes of liquids—if you must use a beaker, use a policeman on the stirring rod.) When near the endpoint, remove each drop on to the inside of the flask and wash it in. Be sparing in additions of indicator and a sharp exact endpoint is easily obtained. A blank for methyl orange endpoints is helpful, especially at night. Have a flask of the volume as that holding your unknown, add the same number of drops of indicator to each, then add a little sodium chloride or acetate etc. (according to what the final product will be), and approximately the volume of water to the blank, and titrate to a colour match.

Always calculate your results from first principles—you may save yourself a few checks this way. If your definitions are sound, any problem may be solved using these three rules

- (i) If C and V represent concentration and volume of two solutions, one being titrated with the other, then $C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$.
- (ii) A solution strength may be expressed in three ways: e.g., 1.021 N/10, 0.1021 N, N 9.795, the first being preferable. The factor is then 1.021 and titrations are multiplied by this to correct to the volume of exactly N/10 solution used.
- (iii) When additions or subtractions of volumes are involved, factors in each term must be first multiplied out.

Remember that borax must be freshly weighed out from storage over a salt and sugar solution, also that some substances or equivalent weights need to be stored and weighed in tightly stoppered apparatus.

IODINE
Iodine dissolves very slowly in dilute potassium iodide solution, but quite readily in a strong solution, as would be expected from the weak nature of the potassium tri-iodide complex and the low solubility of iodine in pure water.

Accordingly, to make up a standard solution, the potassium iodide is ground up with just sufficient water to dissolve it and the iodine is then ground in, when solution is complete in a few minutes. Wash out the mortar through a funnel, into a volumetric flask, and make up to volume.

Starch should be made up as follows:—While 80 ml. water is boiling vigorously, add a slurry of about 1 g. of starch in about 20 ml. cold water, and boil the mixture for a minute before cooling for use. The solution only keeps two days. A red colour often formed in strongly acid solution is due to poor or old starch, but may be regarded as showing independently of the blue due to iodine. When titrating iodine, the starch should not be added until the brown colour has become pale yellow.

ARSENIC IN ARSENIOS OXIDE

This determination is often spoiled by failure to have excess sodium bicarbonate present to prevent the back reaction which occurs in an acid solution. The safest way is to maintain an excess of solid bicarbonate throughout the titration. More bicarbonate may be kept present for a given amount of arsenic simply by diluting the solution before saturating with bicarbonate. Should you result be wrong, first check the iodine by titrating a known weight of pure arsenious oxide.

TIN
Dissolve the weighed sample by boiling with 15 ml. sulfuric acid in a 500 ml. conical flask over the naked bunsen flame until the residue is white. Cool, add 200 ml. water and 100 ml. HCl and boil with nickel shot in the usual way before titrating. Due to the dilution, the endpoint is not masked by a deep green from dissolved nickel. Ignore the precipitated lead sulfate.

WATER ANALYSIS

All tests on the water should be finished in one session, because the sample does not keep, but hydrolyses, the composition changing long before solids deposit. Chloride and total solids only may be estimated in an old sample, but not if solids have deposited. Fresh samples are easily obtained.

SILICA
The determination of silica is simple in theory, but needs great care in practice. When evaporating, take to apparent dryness, then dry for another hour. Add the dilute hydrochloric acid, warm for a few minutes only, and immediately filter and wash well with hot dilute acid, then with small lots of hot water until free from chloride. These steps must be taken during one session, since silica gels and will re-hydrate.

After charring, ignite at 1,000°C. and weigh very quickly using the crucible lid, which, of course, is kept permanently in the desiccator. Since silica is a much better dehydrating agent than calcium chloride, the desiccator is worse than useless unless packed with fresh calcium chloride or silica gel for the silica weighings.

Most of the necessity for ignitions to constant weight disappear if the following procedures are adopted:

- (1) After charring, ignite 20 mins. in the muffle. Cool in the air for one minute, then cool in the desiccator 20 mins. Silicas require 30-40 minutes ignition. Always use exactly the same procedure.
- (2) Place the weights on the balance pan before taking the crucible from the desiccator, and complete the weighing quickly.

Much time may be saved during gravimetric analyses by analysing two samples at once. This is always a good practice, since speed is the most important aspect of industrial laboratory work. Keep a careful record of the stage that each analysis has reached—nothing is more maddening than to find that you have precipitated magnesium at the calcium stage or a limestone.

MAGNESIUM

If magnesium ammonium phosphate is ignited in the presence of a filter paper, the pyrophosphate so formed, being an excellent agent, may occlude up to twenty per cent. of its weight of elemental carbon. To prevent this occurring, scrape the precipitate from the dried paper on to a sheet of black gloss paper (obtainable on request) and ignite the filter paper first in the crucible, brushing in the precipitate for a final ignition before weighing.

There is a filter-paper made for every purpose. Use of a coarse paper for a heavy crystalline precipitate may save you half-an-hour's tedious filtering. A list on the notice-board indicates the most suitable grade for each purpose.

IRON IN FIRECLAY

There is very little iron in fireclay. Dilute 50 ml. N/10 Permanganate to 250 ml. quantitatively for the titration reagent, else be prepared for a titration of one or two drops. A blank titration is advisable.

Finally I would advise duplicate determination wherever an analysis has not been previously attempted. Allow me to prove particularly difficult—most of it interesting. Good luck.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, "Unity News."
Dear Sir,

I wish to bring to the notice of the many readers of "Unity News" the sectarian manner by which articles have been edited.

I refer to the unsigned article, "The S.T.C. Union and You," written by one of the Science Councillors, George Tangie.

Towards the end of the article, the student clubs that have been formed at Tech. were enumerated under point 4, the original wording was this:

"The Bushwalkers' Club,
"The Fencing Club,
"The Christian Fellowship Club.

"The Photographic Club."
And the newly-formed "Tech. Students' Labour Club." These clubs are not connected with the Union, and have no bearing on Union policy, and all but the last mentioned meet regularly in the Union rooms."

The Editor, by refusing to make any reference to the Labour Club, has shown his OWN bias toward it, and by so doing has been sectarian.

Perhaps the name "Labour Club" has scared him, but if he or anyone for that matter cares to read the Club's constitution, which is on the Union files, then he will see a clause eliminating "party politics and sectarianism" from the affairs of the Club.

And I would like to point out here that a similar motion was carried at the 1950 A.G. Meeting of the S.T.C. Union.

Thus from this clause in the constitution it appears that the Editor has gone against the decision of the membership and violated the constitution.

Now, if the Editor wishes to pursue his own personal views, he must leave it to his editorial, for NO editor has licence to imply his views throughout the paper. I don't object to any editor doing his job, but I do strongly object to sectarianism, especially when the A.G. Meeting of the Union emphasises that SECTARIANISM IS OUT! How about it, Ed.?

I remain, etc.,

N. E. WOODS,
Stage I. Chemistry Diploma.

EVENTS TO COME

May 8th: Science Ball.
May 23rd: Engineering Class Repts. Dinner.

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