

# UNITY NEWS

Official Organ of The Sydney Technical College Union.

Incorporating PINION.

1.

SYDNEY FEBRUARY 1951.

## WELCOME!

To me has fallen the task of conveying a message of greeting to Diploma and Certificate Students, both old and new, from the Sydney Technical College Union.

This message must of necessity be brief, but I trust it will lose none of its sincerity by being so.

Many of you are back again to continue with your chosen course. We look to you to help the new student all you can in this coming week. Pass on your knowledge of the general routine of the College, it may help to settle some of the confusion in the new student's mind. Just remember how utterly confusing everything appeared to be during your first enrolment week. Perhaps you can help somebody out with your knowledge so painfully gained.

This year the College functions under a completely new set-up. Briefly, it is as follows.

The N.S.W. University of Technology will administer the College. Its staff will deliver lectures, etc., but on completion of the Diploma course, a student will receive a Diploma of the Sydney Technical College. Also, of course, the usual lectures for Degrees, part and full-time, and conversion courses will be carried out.

All this may seem confusing, but remember that this is a transition year and there is bound to be some tie ups here and there.

The Sydney Technical College Union has at all times an eye on student needs and welfare. We have worked very hard to protect the status of the Diploma. The Union provides a Store which operates on a non-profit basis in order that students may obtain notes and materials at the cheapest possible prices. Many are the ways we help students, not only members of the Union, but also non-members. Will you help the Union in its work, or will you just sit back and accept these things as being natural? Think it over carefully. The cost of helping is cheap, but if the many things the Union stands for are lost, the cost of not helping will be very dear indeed.

Please accept a very cordial welcome from the Union and may your stay with us be a happy one.

A. MacDonald, Hon. President.

## HERE WE ARE AGAIN!



Remember?



The S.T.C. UNION and YOU.

The S.T.C. Union Council welcomes all old students back to toil and hopes all had a good holiday after the last academic year.

A special greeting is sent to all new students of the College, together with the wish that they will become active Union members who will find some time to take a serious interest in the problems that will confront them and their fellow students.

If you remember that Unity is Strength and help your Union Council to work in your interests, the task will be much easier and the results will be attained more quickly and thoroughly. Obviously the Union Council cannot contact all students to find their views, BUT STUDENTS CAN, AND SHOULD, keep the Council notified of their opinions, either personally or by letter, to Unity News or the Union Secretary. Students should also use their newspaper as a forum for discussion on every subject of interest to them; so read each copy from "cover to cover". If you have aspirations towards writing let us hear from you regularly. Any article on any subject, other than party politics, will be suitable for publication.

History of the STC UNION.

Originally each Department formed an Association or Club, which worked independently of the other Departmental Groups. This was obviously an unwieldy arrangement when so many problems of students are College wide. After some years under this system, the separate Associations amalgamated to form the STC Students Union in its present form, whilst as constituents of the Union, they kept their separate internal arrangements and governed their own Departmental issues.

The Union has functioned under this arrangement for the past fifteen years and is almost certain to remain as such until the Diploma Courses of the Technical Education Branch cease to exist.

The Union Mechanism.

When a student has a worry or wishes to clarify a problem, he approaches the Class Representative who has been either elected by his class mates or has volunteered.

The Class Rep. then passes the matter on to the Stage Rep., to bring up in your Departmental Association, which will have been elected at the Annual General Meeting of your Department. This Association will discuss the matter, and either formulate a resolution of policy, or, if the question may affect other Departments, the facts will be passed on by the Association Councillors to the Union Council, which is elected at the Annual General Meeting of the whole Union.

Conversely, any policy change or important problem, is communicated to the students in the reverse manner, for full student discussion both prior to, and at any special General Meeting.

From this you will see why it is imperative for every person at Tech., whether, student, lecturer or graduate, to take an active and intelligent interest in all Union activities. Finally, you must realise that it is sometimes impossible for the Union Council to communicate all the facts to students by these means. This can be overcome by students and particularly, Class Reps., dropping into the Union Rooms for a few minutes every week to pick up latest developments on the important student problems.

What the Union Provides

1. The Union Store is run on a minimum profit basis by your Union Council and is open to all students both members and non-members, but the production of a Union membership card brings a discount of 5% on lecture notes, slide rules and some math. sets, etc. Stocks include stationery, drawing instruments and materials, Lecture Notes on College Courses, Technical Publications, exam. papers, etc., and cigarettes, tobacco and other items. The Store is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday each week.

2. During the year there are several popular social functions which are organised by your Union and include the Annual Ball, the new STC Revue, Theatre parties, and week-end relaxation and discussion camps. The Union has a Social Committee and a Students Needs and Welfare Committee, which do the

(Please turn to page 5.)



## THE SECRETARY SAYS.....

"A Rose by any other name....."

In extending a welcome to new students of 1951 and to those who were with us in previous years, I shall not dwell on our student organisation, the Sydney Technical College Union, as this has been adequately covered elsewhere. I should like, however, to place a few thoughts before you regarding the most important and urgent activity of our Union as we begin the 1951 Academic Year.

Our Alma Mater, the Sydney Technical College is now becoming integrated, as far as Diploma courses are concerned, in the N.S.W. University of Technology. That means that the year 1951 is an historic one and it will be appreciated that all students of this time are privileged indeed in that it is given into their hands to launch this great undertaking.

The quarter century of tradition and achievement of the A.S.T.C. Diploma will carry on through the University of Technology. Every student must realise that while he is registered as a student of a new body (in theory at least) he has a time honoured standard and tradition which must be continued.

The new establishment provides unprecedented opportunities for students organisation. This opportunity can only be exploited by student interest and co-operation.

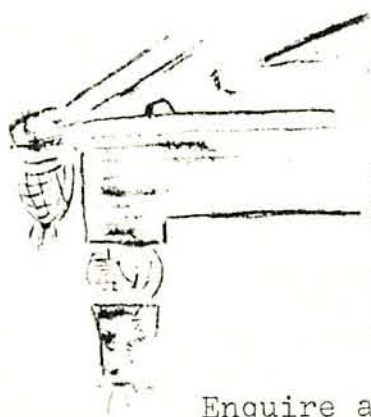
The S.T.C. Union, which has been an active body since 1935 is now arriving at a cornerstone. The question of integration of the University and the Technical College has posed the question of student organisation in the new establishment. This involves the Society of Students of the N.S.W. U.T. and our own Union. During the vacation period, your Council and Executive have been working on this vital question by way of deputations, conferences and special meetings.

This year of change will affect you, so come along now, rally to your Union and have a voice in your own future! I repeat, we are privileged in 1951 to be in a position to lend our influence to the shaping of this great institution and to ensure the carrying on of the glorious traditions of the Associateship of the Sydney Technical College.

In future years, let us look back with pride and say "I did my share".

On behalf of the Union, I wish each student a happy and successful year, academically and otherwise.

Paul C. Kellett, Hon. Secretary



## BILLIARDS!

The use of a Billiard Room (three tables) is available for UNION MEMBERS.

Enquire at Union Rooms

TABLE TENNIS bats will be loaned to members on a small deposit.

Available at the Union Store.

## IF YOU WANT TO KNOW

## HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LIFE.

Then come along to Sydney Technical College Christian Fellowship. Meetings are held regularly each month in Room 2 first floor of Chemistry Building.

2nd Tuesday at 9.00 p.m.

3rd Wednesday at 5.30 p.m.

4th Thursday at 9.00 p.m.

A friendly, informal atmosphere, good speakers, and worthwhile messages provide twenty-five enjoyable minutes.

COME ALONG AND JOIN US. (Adv.)



A.Y.C. - What's it all about?

True to its policy of co-operation with other youth organisations nationally and internationally, the S.T.C.U. has for some time been an active participant in the activities of the Associated Youth Committee (A.Y.C.) of N.S.W. Many not acquainted with the details ask "What is A.Y.C. and why does it exist"?

To answer briefly - the A.Y.C. is a body of delegates from the various voluntary youth organisations in N.S.W. The object of this Committee is to bring together those organisations, to advise the National Fitness Council on their needs and to do all such other things considered in the interest of the youth of N.S.W. generally.

Some of the more outstanding activities of the past include the holding of a Youth Parliament, Drama Workshop Weekends, Snapper Island Conferences, Recreation and Sport weekends, Leadership Training Courses, and so on. One of its biggest yearly events is a Youth Week which this year will be held from 4 May to 12 May, 1951, beginning with a combined Youth Concert at the Assembly Hall on 4 May, and ending with a Barbecue at Narrabeen on the 12 May.

This brings us to the point. All affiliated organisations are invited to participate and if last year's Tech. Revue is any indication we should be able to swamp the Concert with our talent, so get ready now.

One of the biggest worries to the organisation is lack of funds available for even the smallest and most essential requirements. Once, money from a Federal Grant was distributed to the various affiliated youth organisations for the extension of club activities. But this was stopped about four years ago and the money accumulated and could not be used. Last year a determined attempt was made to obtain that money for various specific purposes and applications were received from organisations including the S.T.C.U. However, from latest information the money will not become available for Youth Organisations but will be used for part of the Exhibition Building taken over by the National Fitness Council.

One other important activity is the formulation of a youth policy, Already a considerable amount of time has been spent on this and a draft copy is available in the Union Rooms. If you have any bright suggestions on the subject, don't be backward, let us have them.

Whilst there are some weaknesses in the Organisation, much can be gained by continued co-operation and increased participation in the activities of the A.Y.C.

WATCH FOR THE DATE

OF THE

ANNUAL

GENERAL

MEETING. -

Can you sing? dance? act? or  
Entertain in other ways?  
See the Union Social Committee

Watch for Recorded Music Recitals

All your technical  
requirements can be  
purchased at the UNION STORE

It will pay you to pay us  
a visit.

If it is not in stock, tell  
us. We will try and get it.

Make it a habit.....

BUY IT AT THE UNION  
STORE.

BE THERE -- IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST -- ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



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The S.T.C. UNION and YOU.

bulk of the organisation on these functions, but we also need active and sincere help from the body of the students.

3. "Unity News" is the official organ of the S.T.C. Union, and is a means by which students learn of the latest happenings affecting them; social activities around Tech., are advertised; and it provides students with information of general topical interest. Also the newspaper, which is printed once a month to six weeks, (and is issued free) is an open forum for student discussion by means of letters or articles on controversial or provocative questions.

4. Student Clubs to discuss particular matters of interest include  
The Bushwalkers Club.  
The Fencing Club.  
The Christian Fellowship Club.  
and the newly formed Photographic Club. These clubs, although not attached to the Union, or having any bearing on Union policy, all meet regularly in the Union Rooms.

5. These are the services available for Union Members only:-  
Reading Room, where magazines and periodicals are supplied.  
Writing tables and a typewriter are available.  
The Billiards Room, with a full size and two three-quarter tables for Billiards or Snooker.  
The Table Tennis Room with two tables. Bats may be hired from the Union Store for a small deposit, and balls are sold at 6d.  
Free coffee before or after lectures.  
Chess men and boards are available on request.  
The Committee Room where all members are welcome for a lively talk or to exchange a story or two.  
Theses or reports will be typed for students (members only) at a reasonable fee. (Union Store.)

All these facilities are housed in a handy position in one building near Harris Street entrance and all students are cordially invited to drop in to make any enquiry on Union or student matters at any time.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

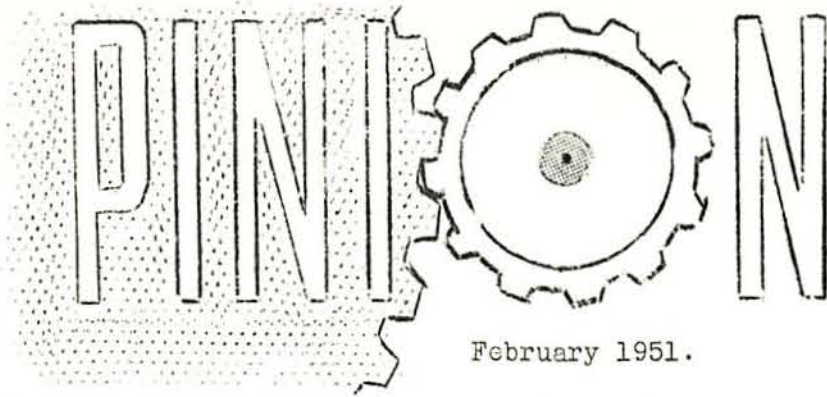
To all students returning to the Sydney Technical College after a well earned vacation, I extend a sincere welcome, and I congratulate those of you who successfully completed examinations at the conclusion of the 1950 session. I hope your progress will continue to be satisfactory, so that at the completion of your chosen course you might enter the professional world with confidence in your training and background.

To those of you who are enrolling at the College for the first time I give a special greeting and I hope that your years here will be both successful and happy. I would point out to you that this institution requires from its students a high standard of both integrity and performance; capabilities perhaps dormant can only be developed by hard work and clear thinking; and students have to rely to a large extent on their own initiative and ability. It depends on each individual to make the best use of the facilities available here, and some experience has shown that some of you will fall by the wayside, but if you are beset by any problem or difficulty, then I would recommend you to discuss it with your lecturers, who are always ready and willing to assist any students.

The year 1950 figured prominently in the history of our institution; may 1951 and succeeding years be as happy, as interesting, and as successful. For this to be achieved all sections of the Department of Technical Education - administration, lecturers, staff, and students - must pull together. I am sure I can count on the support of the student body.

R.K.MURPHY, Principal.





Official Organ  
of  
S.T.C. Engineering Assoc'n.

Editor:  
Ben Nurse.

February 1951.

## ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION - 1951

By  
H. Winter, Hon. President.

On behalf of the Engineering Association allow me to extend a welcome to you for 1951.

If you be a student enrolled for the first time, let me congratulate you on your decision to undertake a professional course.

During your forthcoming year you will be faced with many difficulties, and it is our hope that you will bring these problems to us. For it is our job to help in any way, the students of the Engineering Department.

Particularly do we urge First and Second Year students to participate in the Association's activities, for it is only by such interest that the continued life of the Association can be assured.

Those re-enrolling after the completion of a successful year are no doubt aware of the existence of the Engineering Association, and with the programme of our proposed activities for 1951 before you, we trust you too will take part and offer your support, opinions, and criticisms whenever possible.

The students section of the Engineering Association is made up entirely of young men in precisely the same position as yourself. Young men who are very busy with studies, and who have very little free time at their disposal, but who by taking part in Association activities find it possible to make the time spent at the College far more pleasant. They meet others with similar problems to their own, find out a little about the difficulties facing the lecturing staff, and in general develop a better understanding of what their studies entail.

Also, we must not overlook our social programme. In 1951 we hope to find a lot of enjoyment here in the College grounds, and at yachting picnics and social games of cricket, and so on.

These are some of our reasons for thinking it is to your advantage to join the Engineering Association. Give them serious thought and if you have any suggestions for the improvement of the Association, or any fixtures that you or your friends would like to have included in our programme, let us have them.

We assure you that the whole purpose of the existence of the Engineering Association is to assist the engineering student.

### EDITORIAL

A hearty welcome back to Tech is extended by Pinion to every student, and Engineering students in particular. We realise that your feelings on this occasion are mixed, but we are willing to do our best to make life easier for you.

If you just help a little and take an active part in our activities, we can achieve a lot together for the common good.

Many difficulties had to be overcome to bring out this small issue, and we

regret that a printed issue has not been possible.

We sincerely invite all readers to contribute to this little paper, and comment on its content. The main purpose of the organ is to report the activities of the Engineering Association and to provide a forum for Engineering students giving them an opportunity to express their opinions by contributing articles, technical or educational or on any matters of interest to them.



REPORT ON ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE HELD AT MONA VALE - 1950

These are the suggestions made at the Conference.

CURRICULUM REFORM

1. That lecturers be approached re improving present lecture notes and that the Union support the lecturers if they wish to press for a royalty for writing the notes.
2. That 5% reduction margin on the price of lecture notes to members be increased if possible.
3. That the syllabus for any particular subject be published in all lecture notes.
4. That the course in Fluid Mechanics be different for Civil Engineering students from that for Mechanical Engineering.
5. That lecture notes be published in the subjects of Engineering design II and Geology.

EXAMINATION METHODS

1. That the number system be abolished or otherwise that if numbers are to be used by candidates sitting for final exams that they are not to be published on the College notice boards and the record to be kept only in the Examinations Branch.
2. No written exams to be conducted in drawing office rooms as they are too uncomfortable.
3. That the students have the right to confer with lecturers if they consider that they have been unjustly treated by the examiner, at the cost of the student concerned, and that the lecturers have the examination paper of the student concerned, handy at the interview.
4. At least 10 minutes to be granted for reading through an examination paper and that the fact be mentioned on the paper.
5. That the final in E.C.M.E. be held at the end of Term 2 for students doing the subject during Terms I and 2.
6. Exam. time tables to be better organised to avoid cramping of examinations and more daytime examinations to be introduced.

INSPECTION TOURS.

Inspection tours to be incorporated in the syllabus. Organisation to be done by the association and sanctioned by the Department. They are to be conducted during week days and not at weekends.

IMPROVEMENT TO ENGINEERING BUILDING.

1. Board very poor.
2. Tee square is very bad, and in need of repair.
3. Footrests needed, 3" x 1½" timber about 7" above floor level. This greatly relieves the discomfort of students. Practically all industrial drawing offices have this simple foot rest.
4. Dust - suggest about six dusters to a room, also blackboard dusters
5. Light partition for corridor to be placed in Room 8.
6. Drafting M/c 3 to 6 M/c located in Room 8 in corner for use of students. Students often use Room 8 for drawing, even while a class may be in attendance.



ACTIVITIES OF S.T.C. ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

By

George J. Keen, Hon. Secretary.

Although the Engineering Association did not hold many functions in 1950, much valuable ground work has been done, which should lay the foundation for a most successful year in 1951.

An enthusiastic committee under the capable leadership of President Harry Winter, has been working under entirely different pattern to those of previous committees. The committee comprising of eleven students, met at least once a month, with an average attendance of nine members.

Despite the fact that the membership of the Association was below that of the previous year, the finance of the Association is very sound.

The main function organised by the Association last year was a Prize Presentation Dance, organised in conjunction with the Electrical Engineering Association. Although the attendance was somewhat below expectations it was a huge success. The Association also held two Conferences at the Union's Mona Vale Conferences, where ways and means of helping and improving the conditions of Diploma Students in the Engineering Department were discussed.

The Association has also successfully approached several leading engineering companies with the object of obtaining articles on various design problems which would be of benefit to our students. These articles will shortly be published in PINION.

The committee has arranged a most attractive programme for 1951, which will also include extensive social activities. Besides inspection tours, films and lectures, picnics as well as regular monthly dances (at Turner Hall) will be arranged. A printed programme covering the many activities of the Association will be available for all students during Enrolment Week.

MORE MONEY FOR EDUCATION

At the last General Meeting of the Union, a motion calling for more money to be spent on Education was defeated by a majority of the students present.

The following are extracts taken from an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald on the occasion of public schools opening this year.

"A survey of schools yesterday revealed two which had each turned away twenty 5-year olds, because accommodation was not available.

"The worst overcrowding found during the survey was at George's Hall, near Bankstown.

"The Headmaster, Mr. F.H. Mortimer and his two teachers are trying to accommodate 127 pupils in two small prefabricated buildings.

"The children are sitting three to a desk.

"There are only four lavatories at the school, and only one water bubbler, at which the children

queue up.

"At Bass Hill, the Headmaster, Mr. W. Muddle, said he was desperately short of accommodation. His six teachers had more than 50 pupils in each class.

"Mr. Muddle has arranged to use the teachers' staff-room as a school room while the congestion lasts.

"Mr. M.B. Ball, Headmaster of East Lindfield, said he would be in a serious position if two new rooms promised did not arrive in the next few weeks.

"He said the school has grown from



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More Money for Education.

250 to 500 pupils in two years. Four new classrooms had been built last year but these were now overcrowded."

Similar conditions are being experienced by students of this College.

Overcrowding of classes in ancient buildings, lack of equipment and shortage of lecturing staff are conditions well known to the average Tech. student.

No doubt this is due in some respect to the reluctance of the various governments concerned to allocate more money, manpower and material towards a determined effort to improve educational facilities.

Good teaching does not lend itself to large classes, as the teacher in order to practice the art of teaching must know his students, must penetrate beneath the surface, and bring out the best in them, and must at all times adjust his teaching to the preparation and aptitude of the individual student in order to recognise possibilities as well as actualities.

Our Union has been struggling for some time trying to obtain better educational facilities and conditions for students generally and Tech. students in particular.

Towards this end, the rejection of a call for more money for education seems a little out of place.

REMEMBER THESE ENGINEERING FUNCTIONS

- Friday, 2 March      Engineering Association Dance. At Turner Hall, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Bud Lewis' Swing Band. Refreshments obtainable. Admission 2/- Union Members; 2/6 non-Union members. Everyone welcome.
- Wednesday 14 March Engineering Association General Meeting. In Union Rooms, commencing 8 p.m.
- Sunday 1 April      Yachting Picnic for 25 only, so book early. 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Full day's sailing on Sydney Harbour. Only 10/- each person. Bring your girl friend!

NOTE: For additional details watch Engineering Association Notice Board.

Editorial Note:

It is hoped, prices and membership permitting, to re-introduce PINION in its old and much admired booklet form.

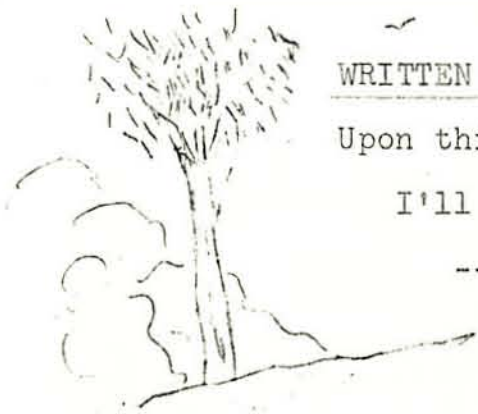
WRITTEN WHEN GOING FOR A PICNIC

Upon this theme

I'll briefly touch

-- Too far to go

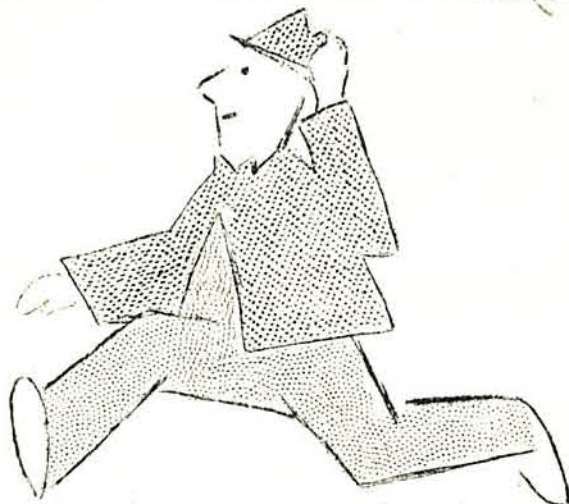
To eat too much.





WATCH FOR  
THE DATE OF

The  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the  
SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE UNION



For all Lecture Notes, Stationery  
Supplies, Slide and Scale Rules,  
Technical Publications, etc.,  
visit the  
UNION STORE.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE OFFICE is  
situated at 45 Broadway, near  
Bon Marche Store.

#### HOW TO GET THERE.

