



TALKABOUT

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WAGGA TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

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"The Gondoliers"

Those of you who visited the gym. on the night of April 22nd—or for that matter, the 23rd—must have witnessed a very pleasing scene. There, members from among our own number were entertaining an audience of 600 or more.

Marjorie Abraham and Barbara Bosler, as Gianetta and Tessa respectively, delighted us with both singing and acting. Each acted her part well, and, despite the fact that each is known to us so well, real identities were replaced by the characters portrayed. As it wouldn't be fair to Marj, I won't tell you here that for weeks before the performance dialogue between her and myself went something like this: "How's Ralph, Marj?" "If he is wise he'll shut his eyes till I arrive and not address a lady less than 45."

If we can believe Barbara, "when a merry maiden marries sorrow goes and pleasure tarries." For weeks she seemed anxious to impress this on the entire rabble of blocks 7 and 8.

Kevin and Bruce, like their partners, entered into the characters they portrayed. I am sure we are all now convinced that the way to happiness is to "take a pair of sparkling eyes." Does Bruce really "rise early in the morning"?

Marcia and Miriam, both of whom acted well, I have mentioned in last week's "Talkabout" and so will pause here only long enough to say that both captured the audience.

And, speaking of capturing audiences, did you notice Dave? Who'd have thought he had such a fine sense of humour? How'd did you hide it so long, Dave?

By the way, those original verses were so catching. I believe Darby is selling the original copy for only 19/11½ (or one dozen cigarettes).

Did you Mark the Grand Inquisitor? What a charming personality! We all appreciated that careful descent to the throne—we also held our breath. Congratulations, Don Alhambra—an outstanding performance.

What make-up can do for a person! You were excellent, Ronny. The audience was centred upon you and there was noticeable quiet, intense interest among the spectators.

Keith Willard, as Luiz, was an excellent example of the patient lover. But, he got the girl. Moral: Perseverance leads to success.

Norma Nielson, Betty Lonergan, Margot McInerney and Beth Denton all deserve mention for well-played minor roles, as do Morton Rawlin, Ray Poole, Don Davis and Arthur Kennedy. In fact the whole chorus—June Daniels, Margaret Fisher, Margaret Grahame, Jule Hill, Ruth Johnston, Doreen Mainwaring, Effie McCulloch, Margaret Moore, Maureen O'Neil, Gwen Roberts, Dawn Smith, Shirley Williams, Jack Collins, Keith Cowan, Noel Curran, Harry Gibbs, Ron Jones, Jim Munro, Jim O'Ryan, Eddy Rascall, Colin Squires, Ian Thomas, Allan Thompson and Don Westley—sang enthusiastically and admirably.

The four stars of the Cachucha—Beth, Gwen, Don and Jack—were especially to be praised for their dancing.

In short then, "The Gondoliers" was a striking success. Then let us not forget the people behind scenes. Miss Webb, and a student committee consisting of Joan Armstrong, Ken McLean and Alan Fryer, handled the finance capably. We realise the value of their work. By the way, Ken marshalled those very charming and capable usherettes and ushers.

Joan also helped with the wardrobes, as did Gloria Robinson, Edna Baker and the Tempora teacher, Miss Mills.

On the publicity side, we must admire the work of Merle Wallbridge, Margaret Grahame, Jack Akhurst and Morton Rawlin, Jim O'Ryan and Ray Poole; for properties, Clare McGee, Barbara Bosler, K. Brew, Ken McLean, Dave Rummery, Mark McLoughlin and Jim O'Ryan.

The members of the efficient stage crew were: Bill Elliot, Keith Brew, Max Cox, Lindsay Clifford, Bill Parsons and Tom Hodges (he's in everything).

Prompt, Veronica Reen, worked quietly behind scenes.

Pianiste, Miss Cornell, musical director, Mr. Pople, and producer, Miss Moore, drew all these threads together to form the completed cloth.

The Dramatic Art Option, assisted by Miss Moore, worked excellently with the make-up.

Of considerable importance to the success of the whole performance—for indeed there yet remains to be men-

tioned a most essential task—was the Lord High Page-Turner-Over, Miss Bev Dominish. Painstakingly, inspiring the awe of the front row audience, she turned the leaves. Any new ones, Bev?

WYN WALSHAW.

Duplicator

While prac. teaching at Eumony-hareenyah last year I was given the opportunity of seeing a very simple and effective duplicator in action. In my opinion, it is the most practical duplicator for teachers in small schools yet invented.

It consists of a jelly-like substance, which is placed in a large baking dish. The components of this substance are as follows:—

- 2 oz. of sheet or pearl glue.
- 4 fluid oz. of water.
- 8 fluid ozs. of glycerine.

To make the solution, break the glue up, if sheet, and cover with the water in a clean tin. Leave this to soak overnight. Add glycerine in the morning and place the tin in a saucepan of water. Heat until it is like thin honey. Then pour into the cake dish and allow to cool. It is then ready for use.

How to use: Make the required copy on non-absorbent paper with composition or duplicating ink (1/6 bottle). Allow to stand for a few minutes, then place face downwards on duplicator. Press firmly to exclude air bubbles, leave for five minutes and peel off. Place non-absorbent blank sheets of paper on duplicator in succession (at least 50 copies can be obtained). Melt solution and allow to set again, leaving surface smooth and ready for next copy.

I hope this duplicator, which, as can readily be seen, is very quickly and easily made, may prove useful to some student or other, who one day finds himself 200 miles from nowhere, and with no means of duplicating. Of course, it has disadvantages; one being that the solution takes some time to solidify after melting, and no more than two stencils can be done each day. But I think its advantages far outweigh its disadvantages.

K. T. WILLARD.

Audio-Visual Guidance

Mr. I. D. Renwick, lecturer in psychology at the Wagga Teachers' College, gave an excellent demonstration to P. and C. delegates representing all corners of this State, in the use and value of audio-visual aids in the schools. Mr. Renwick's aim throughout his address was to give guidance to these representatives, so that their selection of audio-visual aids for use in their schools would begin the introduction of the use of the most economical and beneficial equipment available.

PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS

In introducing Mr. Renwick to the gathering, Mr. G. L. Blakemore explained that this College in Wagga was selected to specialize in this new field in education, a field which to-day is of great prominence. "Mr. Renwick," added Mr. Blakemore, "was chosen, as an expert in subh affairs, to direct the research undertaken at the College in audio-visual education, a work which he has ably done with the help of an enthusiastic option group."

Before beginning his address Mr. Renwick explained his purpose: Guidance! . . . "guidance to your parents who believe that nothing but the best is fit for your children in the all-important sphere of education . . . guidance for you when you spend money to supply extra equipment, or rather luxuries, so that your schools will be a step higher than those that administer, or dispense, the bare educational necessities. What are the most useful and yet the most economical of these luxuries? How much do they cost? Are they really aids? Do you know? Then listen and watch!"

NEW WEAPONS

The actual demonstration began with a startling surprise for the audience. Wafted as if from some ethereal tomb came Mr. Blakemore's voice, repeating his opening address like a belated echo. Miss J. Moore, lecturer in speech, was called by Mr. Renwick to explain this new educational weapon—the sound recorded. Its virtues and advantages were eulogised by Mr. Renwick before directed his attention to the movie projector. A short film entitled "Learning to Live" was screened. This dealt with the modern educational methods in England.

Following this was a demonstration of the strip-film projector and the epidiascope. The relative merits and disadvantages of these three types of visual aids were listed by Mr. Renwick, who concluded his remarks on projectors by strongly recommending as the most useful, economical and practical, the strip film projector.

"Cheap, easily made, but extremely effective aids are puppets," was the basis of the lecturer's next argument. Samples of glove, stick and marionette puppets were shown. Each was explained and demonstrated. Similarly were working models treated.

Question time followed, wherein Mr. Renwick answered a variety of ques-

tions relevant to his subject. It was evident from the type of questions asked that the lecture had served its purpose by being both instructive and provocative.

WALLY.

What—Another Moaner?

I am writing this purely and simply to moan about having to prepare all these various books for various lecturers in order to secure enough marks to pass (perhaps) in the subjects in the exam. I believe 25 marks are to be awarded for the Speech and Drama book, and although I am not sure of the marking scale for the Literature Book and the Historical Poems, they are apparently worth a number of marks in each subject.

While the books make be of some use in our teaching careers, and I have grave doubts about this in the majority of cases, I don't believe it is a fair thing that marks should be awarded in the examination for them.

It is quite possible under this system for some no-hoper to prepare a magnificent specimen and perhaps get a good mark, while a person who knows his work but who has not gone to much trouble over the book will lose by it.

Also some people are naturally more industrious than others, and these people by virtue of this mental peculiarity may even derive great pleasure out of cutting up magazines and books, writing out ridiculous poems and jingles and splat-tering their clothes and bodies with various brands of glue.

The remainder, however, find this particularly tedious, especially as they realise that 90 per cent. of the stuff will be absolutely useless later on. I have looked through a number of books and have come to the conclusion that most of the contents are either hopelessly out of the age group of the primary school or are of such weak standard that it would be an insult to any class in any school if they had to treat them. The only possible reason some of the muck has been put in is to fill up space and make the book more impressive.

Finally, comes the matter of time. If we MUST prepare these books, why couldn't we do them next term, when we will not be so pressed for time.

A person taking no interest in sport and who does not join in other important College activities would find time no handicap. Fortunately this type of swot is in the minority here, but nevertheless is present in small numbers and is able to gain an advantage over the remainder. The majority, what with football training, club work, "Gondolier" practice and the various other activities, as well as psychology assignments, arts and-crafts work, etc., hardly have time to blow their noses.

Well, that is all I have time to moan about now, as I must run off and look

for some historical poems, literary articles, jingles, speech poems, notes on puppetry and some Aspros.

HARRY GIBBS.

We Thank You

The College performance of "The Gondoliers" owed its success in many ways to the "behind scenes" efforts of students, who carried out the unspectacular tasks so willingly.

Our thanks thus go to the stage hands, who sweated amid backstage turmoil; our thanks to the ushering staff, who each night persevered so graciously with the large audiences; our thanks to the students who so nobly withstood the icy gales and acted as guides to the visitors, and to the sturdy band who erected the posts for the festooned lighting; and finally our thanks to the mob who assisted with the preparation of the hall.



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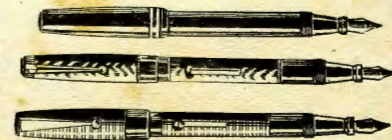
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This week we present the most up-to-date true-to-life and wickedest (quite literally, of course) news ever read.

Why the sudden high flying girls—does the New Look go well with navy blue or are the College boys pulling their wings in?

Jim looks happy once again with no gondoller competition. Incidentally, I believe Ralph burnt a hole in his socks, Kev.

Hot off the press! News of the week. Jack Collins went a-Fishing For to catch a —

Racing News. This week's favourite—Darb and His Dark Horse.

Morton avows there is only one really nice girl in the College. What say you, Maureen—handy for Arts and Crafts, wot!

The saddest tale ever told. The Gym closes at 10 o'clock sharp.

Where do we go from here, boys? Where do we go from here? To lecture rooms or out the gate But never in the Gym.

A-Tanner for your thoughts, Dave. I see Bro has a Woody problem, or is it the man of the West(ley).

A Leap Lear Bounce—a noble effort. "Doreen and me we bin to see a show. A swell two dollar touch."

—which one was it, Keith or Geoff?

Frankie: Dad, what do you call a man who drives a car?

Dad: It all depends on how close he comes to me, my boy.

Once upon a time, a Scotsman dropped a ten-shilling note into a mincing machine—that's how jig-saw puzzles started.

Nota Bene

No copies of "Federation," the official organ of the Teachers' Federation have been available for distribution this year. Some wonder whether the Federation, having secured the princely sum of 1/- per annum from students, thereupon forgets about them. Paging Miss Roberts . . .

Our oracle states: "There would be fewer accidents involving breakage of chinaware in the dining hall if the linoleum, now polished so admirably as to reflect the smiles of pioneers as they satisfy the inner man, were merely scrubbed regularly and left unpolished."

He, cynic, sans pareille, awaits the day when the several slithers down the equally highly polished ramp from the kitchen already witnessed, will achieve their ultimate—a perfectly executed Palais Glide OR serious bodily injury to the unfortunate person performing.

That we here publicly thank Mrs. Whittaker and her kitchen staff for their continued efforts to improve the standard of the food and table service. Chiefly do we wish to record our appreciation of the new system of choice in the bill of fare. To Mr. Blakemore and Miss Wylie in suggesting, and to Mrs. Whittaker and her staff in effecting, we are deeply grateful.

That we give notice of a debate, to be held at a date to be fixed next term, in which a group selected by the Editorial Committee of this paper will assert and protagonists, demagogues and urgers selected by the plebs will deny that "most students of this College are intellectual nonentities, rivalling in their abysmal ignorance the puerile ravings of 'Talkabout' and specifically that any newspaper is only so good as its contributors make it."

To make an inviting topic even lucrative we shall offer a prize of 30/- to the winning team to be divided as their acceptance or rejection of Marxist principles would dictate, but, we would add this caution—that all competing speakers must submit to "Talkabout's" office (if the office is in existence by that time) within two days of the debacle (pardon) debate a synopsis of all points made by them.

A.R.F.

You Gotta Say "Yes" or "No"

A number of students (approximately one-eighth of the College) were asked the following questions:—

1. Do you think the Prices Referendum will become law?
2. Do you think it should become law?

Here is what the men thought about the first question:—

Yes: 10 per cent.
No: 70 per cent.
Not certain: 20 per cent.
And the women:—
Yes: 10 per cent.
No: 70 per cent.
Not certain: 20 per cent.

To the second question these opinions resulted:—

WOMEN

Yes: 40 per cent.
No: 40 per cent.
No opinion: 20 per cent.

MEN

Yes: 60 per cent.
No: 30 per cent.
No opinion: 10 per cent.

Those who had not heard about the Referendum were 30 per cent. of the women and 50 per cent. of the men.

Amongst typical comments were the following:—

"It should go through but it won't."

Norma Neilsen: The Referendum should become law because it would benefit the community. Price control will mean the people will be able to save more.

Maureen Lane: Controls should be reduced, not increased—thus doing away with blackmarketing and overcoming delay in commercial transactions. I would not advocate a sudden termination of price control, but as long as it is to stay, leave it to the State.

Roy Hildebrand: Control is not necessary when supply is greater than demand. The state of the world means therefore that control is necessary.

J. A. ORANGE.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife,

His ass thou shalt not slaughter;
But thank the Lord it isn't a sin

To covet thy neighbour's daughter.

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SPECIAL SERVICE TO ALL STUDENTS

Articles left with Mr. Logan on Tuesday morning, delivered on Friday morning; and parcels left on Friday will be delivered on Tuesday.

Swing Session?

In the publication of "Talkabout" recently appeared a short article entitled "Turn It On," in which a suggestion was made that we should have a better opportunity to listen to radio news sessions. I heartily agree, and it is pleasing to note that at least one individual in a group of one hundred and fifty is interested in the events taking place in "The World We Live In."

Student attitude in general towards the government of their own country is one of apathy. Quoting the well-worn phrase, "government of the people, by the people and for the people"—if this be our desired creed, let us earnestly ask ourselves if it IS of the people, IS it by the people, IS it for the people? If not, why not?

Are you interested in the important issue being fought out in your Parliament now? Or don't you care? Must there be another war to make you care? You are, or will shortly be, eligible to fight (and die) and when it is too late you will wonder why and for what you are fighting and dying!

Recently in your own Parliament a debate was in progress—"Should the Communist Party be declared illegal?" Do not allow anyone to persuade you to bypass such an issue as one not concerning you or me. It does concern us both—the result of any decision made by our own Parliament should, I hope, beneficially affect the people whose own representatives the Government constitute. Surely your representative, either on one side or the other in this debate, is voicing your policy.

There should be organised discussion everywhere, for out of discussion we may sift the truth. Discussion should be encouraged to form an important activity in our lives even if the result were that of a better and more tolerant understanding of the views of others. "Give me a chance to explain my views and your understanding of me will be greatly strengthened. It is not important that you should believe what is said, but rather that you should give it thought, and finally to accept in part or whole, or reject."

Occasionally we hear fragments of a discussion by groups, who are really interested in their own welfare, intelligently placing before each other, as food for thought, the situation as they see it.

WE HEAR VOICES

"Perhaps one reason why this Communist Party should be declared illegal is that its members, as far as I can see, are fermenting widespread stoppages of employment, seeking to weaken the industrial law and inflicting misery and loss upon thousands of citizens."

Another voice states: "If the Communist Party were banned, would such action alter the views and opinions of those concerned?"

Yet another voice: "It appears to me that this party is being backed by some foreign power and is therefore a threat to the security of our country."

The voice continued to reveal the reasons for such an opinion.

RADICAL REMEDY

Later we find the discussion still in progress. "I am thinking of one possible solution," we overhear. "Why not eradicate what I believe to be the cause of Communism, the exploitation of the masses by the few, the greed of combines and monopolies. Improve the conditions, reduce the needs of the people, and Communism would automatically disappear . . . I would like to see each individual producing an amount relative to his ability and receiving according to his needs. However, how this may be achieved, and if it should be an aim, is a topic for later discussion."

Later someone added: "Certainly, if this party has intentions of taking over where Hitler ceased it is a danger and we must take every precaution to see that such a situation does not arise. Its members are found in all walks of life; they may be striving for the betterment of humanity and yet there may be a personal motive of gain."

ULTERIOR MOTIVES

A voice from the back quietly is heard to remark: "But the banning of any party is not democratic. If we may justly ban one policy of governing is there any reason why it should not be just to ban any other?"

We leave the group to put forth ideas, only having heard tiny fragments. Perhaps you could fill in the gaps of such a discussion, thereby gaining many ideas and aspects that before did not exist in your mind.

With reference to this topic taken merely as an example of topical issues, our Prime Minister in one of many remarks in the Parliamentary debate the other night suggested that "a wave of hysteria on Communism which is sweeping the world could lead to war, but could be checked with a little cool-headedness."

There was a suggestion that the propaganda given to this topic is being motivated by the forthcoming State elections. A force to sway the people towards voting for a particular party.

Have you given any thought to such current affairs or are the members of this community contented to sail blissfully on—without a rudder?

M.W.

Curl the Mo

Just a moment. I "moustache" you something.

J.M.: Some speech defects are due to a hare lip. (Watch out, Jack and Ray!)

C.S.: That's funny—my "mo" doesn't seem to grow over the cold weather.

R.P.: Well, you ought to cut it out.

C.S.: Cut what out?

R.P.: Lighting your cigarettes on the radiator.

C.R.S.

Of all the "give me a sentence with the word" jokes we've heard we give the prize to the lad who put effervescent and fiddlesticks in one sentence. He said: "Effervescent enough covers on the bed your fiddlesticks out."

And then there was the man who sowed his wild oats and hoped there would be a crop failure.

P. SWANSBOROUGH

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**Errors and Omissions
Accepted**

The fish that swallowed Jonah cannot compare with the editorial staff of "Talkabout." I gasp at their gullibility—or is it gullet-ability? Heretofore content to "Talkabout" such errors and omissions, now I am compelled to write about them in the hope that the Editor will "right about" and check all information. If all else fails, consult the College cat whose long residence in a certain cat-loving lecturer's office must have taught it much of history and the other facts of life.

The article "1848—1948" in "Talkabout" 19/4/48, had a group of errors in figures. 2,750 schools with but 34,400 pupils, or an average of 12.5 pupils per school, seems like one-teacher schools run riot. Would 344,000 be the figure? Incidentally, 500,000 at Technical Colleges (or ten times the school population) suggests such an extension of technical education as would be beyond Mr. Heffron's wildest dreams or fondest hopes.

"Nationalisation of schools" seems a misleading term in view of current usage of that phrase. To establish State schools in opposition, or supplementary, to private schools, but to permit these other schools to function, is vitally different from nationalisation, as understood to-day, in relation to banking, for example, where private firms are compulsorily superseded by the State monopoly.

The implication that in 1800 ("eighty years before 1800") there was compulsory education in Victoria, suggests a new field of enquiry for Mr. Renwick, who will eagerly await details of this scheme, devised, assuredly, by the sole occupants of Victoria in 1800—the aborigines. May we amend a line of the article to read, "That, briefly, is the mystery of education in N.S.W."

"Kareers or Khaki" calls for krael kastigation (hurrah for some intentional spelling errors in "Talkabout" at last).

Would the gentleman (please let that flattery stand, Mr. Editor) who wrote this article find the difference in meaning between "predilection" and "prediction" before he again rushes into print? And before he hides his head in the wastepaper basket, along with this article, let him apologise for his howler about America's withdrawal from the Faulkland (sic) Islands. Perhaps he meant Argentina's withdrawal from the Falkland Islands' Dependency in Antarctica—no slight difference.

As for the alleged threat of U.S.A. to Australia's political independence, and the reference to Britain's fear of being in the position of America in 1942, I leave these puerilities and non-sequiturs to the Editors blue pencil and turn my head away in delicate respect for the feelings of "J.S."

"THE CARP."

Props and Plays

During the week the Little Theatre Group suffered a devastating disarrangement of affairs. The members of this Group were horrified to learn that a rival company, viz., School of Arts, had already secured the market for their intended production.

Mr. Irvin was heard to remark, "You Can't Take It With You"; upon which we were forced to reply, "I'll Leave To You," and to that end we shall shortly begin casting for this brilliant and shocking Noel Coward comedy.

At a previous meeting we were pleased and proud to welcome to our gifted and Bohemian society, English lecturers Messrs. Ashworth and Holland, who already have offered suggestions of some value. Last week a gratified audience listened with interest and rapture to a lecture on make-up by Miss Moore.

Those wishing to participate in our next Play Night are invited to attend meetings at the beginning of Trinity Term, and even if our President does forget your name, don't be discouraged, there are plenty of parts for both men and women. Please give our Play Night all the publicity you can.

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Drunk (to splendidly uniformed bystander): Shay, call me a cab, will ya?

Splendidly uniformed bystander: My good man, I am not the doorman; I am a naval officer."

Drunk: Awright, then call me a boat. I gotta get home.

"TALKABOUT"

Editor: Alan Fryer.

Sub-Editors:

June Scott, Dave Rummery

Business Manager: Jim O'Ryan.

The Writers' Group Entertained

Margaret Trist, author of two Australian novels and a collection of short stories, who is staying in Wagga with her husband as the guest of literature lecturer Ken Levis and Mrs. Levis, met members of the College Writers' Group on Friday night. At Mr. Levis's kind invitation ten embryo Australian novelists, short-storyists and poets adjourned to the Levis domicile to meet and speak with a real flesh-and-blood literateur. Before a toasting fire in a book-walled room a most entertaining and enjoyable evening was spent.

A variety of topics, of interest to all who read, was discussed. Attention moved from Chris. Brennan to the true test of a ripe watermelon with surprising ease, and in turn did everyone add his comment to such controversial issues as is form or clarity the primary consideration of the modern poet; what is poetry, anyway; and do you think people are silly who are afraid of black moths on their back doors? Admission to such discussion was per manuscript which was required to be (and I quote from the invitation card) "of some literary value."

In turn each of the would-be Muses read his MS. and invited comment. The criticism was lively and valuable. Margaret Trist herself joined in heartily and was ably supported by Mr. Frank Trist, who showed a fine sense of literary value. Mrs. Trist declared that she considered that a successful writer must not be over-conscious of his style, and that sincerity and directness were more valuable than the best of the conventional technical methods. "The beauty of a new building would be marred if the builder left the scaffolding draped indiscriminately about it. So with a literary effort. Think first of what you are attempting to do. Then do it, but not with such machinery that it detracts from the value of the work. The writing that is clearly expressed, that is honest to life, is good writing." . . . Sound advice from an author who has proved her worth in the field of the short story as well as in the novel.

Margaret Trist is exploiting successfully in her work the little-written-about sphere of domestic life. Her work is real and satisfying. It remains to be seen whether this young Australian will concentrate on one or the other literary form. She has succeeded admirably in both.

Manuscripts were read by all members of the Writers' Group and the standard achieved was astonishingly high. Australia need fear no more for her literary future.

Mrs. Levis served a tasty supper, and ten enlightened young authors, June Scott, Mary Comino, Alan Fryer, David Rummery, Shirley Williams, Molly Fealy, Paul Rees, Bette Lonergan, Wyn Walshaw and Betty Sanders, thanked Margaret Trist for her help and Mr. and Mrs. Levis for their hospitality before returning with new vigour to their work on The Great Australian Novel.

D.R.

Talk About 'Talkabout'

On the whole, I find "Talkabout" an interesting and enjoyable magazine. It is a wholesome and quite impersonal (I hope) way of letting the lecturers know the general feeling of the student body about things which concern us all.

It is a pity that the contributions have to come from the same willing few all the time. I'm sure that if everyone made an earnest effort now and again they could lighten the load of these people. Let us hope that the eager freshers will remedy this.

Good work. Keep it up!

B. BROWN.

Despite my short acquaintance with it, I look forward to and enjoy reading your paper. Although impressed by the wit, fluency, critical attitude and general effort shown in most contributions in "Talkabout," there must be things I deplore, namely:—

1. The dearth of contributors and need for constant appeal for same. (This will be remedied in June, no doubt, by the keen freshers.)

2. Lag in production which tends to rob topical items of their interest. (There seems to be no remedy for this.)

My only suggestions, apart from more contributors generally are that a word limit be placed on "Letters to the Editor," and that we hear more from budding poets of the "Pioneer" ranks.

MARJORIE REDMAN.

"Talkabout" is a "publication of the students of Wagga Teachers' College," not an official organ of the College. Being a residential establishment, there will naturally be a decided emphasis on local conditions which interest the majority of its readers.

The airing of discontent through the columns of a student publication is a safety valve. Far better to give healthy publicity to controversial topics through channels where both parties may offer opinions, than to allow of underground restiveness.

The editorial staff, however, should keep in mind, that though adverse criticism initiates reform, the tone of the paper should be tempered with a positive note, i.e., putting forward constructive ideas when a problem is under discussion.

I deplore the lack of interest in international and home affairs—suggest a special column for overseas news of the week.

P. B. WEBB.

Decentralisation

It is regretted that the article on this subject, written by the Area Director, Mr. Evans, which was to have been printed in this issue is not to hand at time of going to press.

Mr. Evans has kindly consented to write a full article on decentralisation, which we expect to publish in some issue of the immediate future.

A.R.F.

Coolamon's Collapse Against College

In true College spirit the Blake Cup football team excelled themselves by overwhelming Coolamon 34-0. An even wider margin in the scores was prevented by a certain laxity in our play against the very weak opposition.

From the first whistle, College displayed their superiority by dominating the play in the forwards and in the backs.

Soon after the kick-off Tom Hodges donated the first two points by steering the ball safely between the uprights with a pendulum-like swing of a mighty leg. However, later attempts by "our hero" showed, lack of discretion (pardon, direction). "Shurley" his thoughts were elsewhere.

Excellent service from the scrum base by Des Bieler gave our galloping backs a chance to demonstrate their prowess.

Credit for many of the backs' tries must go to Graeme Wilson, who initiated movements by cutting through brilliantly and passing the ball out to his supporting three-quarter men. Tries by Smith, Lyons, Wilson and Debenham resulted from well-executed back line movements. At times a rather individualistic spirit, approaching greediness, prevented other moves from bearing the fruits of a score.

Like pillars of strength, the stalwarts of our scrum earned a just part of the success. Those rewarded by tries were Gleeson, Gibbs, Bricknell and, last but not least, O'Sullivan.

A highlight of the game was Harry Gibbs' attempt at goal. After playing the ball with the utmost precision, Harry swung an awkward boot at it. A despairing cry (reminiscent of his delightful expressive power during the Farm match) escaped his lips as the erring ball rebounded infield from the goal post.

Our deputising full-back, Alan Nilon, besides joining in many backline movements, gave a polished exhibition in his position.

Present in the grandstand was ex-inside back Murray Millar who, although temporarily incapacitated, lent a hearty note to the cheering squad. After seeing Smith pass the ball once or twice he assured me that he would revoke his former intention of retiring and rejoin the team for next week's tussle with the Farm, in the vain hope of scoring his "pioneer" try.

A vote of thanks from the team to the ever-willing ladies who have reached a high degree of excellence in laundering.

Bent over a tub,

They scrub and they scrub,

Till fingers are worn

And looks are forlorn.

But at last comes brightness

With that Persil whiteness.

Ah, how sweetly they beam

On our omnipotent team.

D.W.