

ON DIT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION.

Vol. V.

Friday, 1st May, 1936.

No. 6.

Progress --- But Whither?

In a recent edition we had good cause to criticise student inactivity. Now a swift mood of repentance and an instinctive knowledge that there must be two sides to every question have prompted us to look for signs of activity. The seemingly paradoxical conclusion that we have drawn is that we students have bitten off rather more than we can chew.

Our Intervarsity teams did not meet with undue success (in the sporting world) last year, but then it is hard to find enough outstanding or even average players to fill the Eight, the football, rugby and soccer, lacrosse, baseball, cricket and athletic, rifle, tennis, hockey, basketball, swimming and golf teams. The foundation of the soccer club last year and its recent incorporation as a part of the Sports Association, has added yet another distracting attraction to players, and another worry to the secretaries of clubs that existed before. The very latest development is that the cricket team has created a precedent by touring the country during the Easter vac., and the members evidently had such a glorious time that soon all our teams will be making country tours.

There was a time when students revelled in the possession of a financially sound dance club. Its failure last year was due, not to mismanagement, for the treasurer and secretary plus committee were most conscientious, but to the increased number of faculty and other 'Varsity dances. This week we are advertising the Athletic Club's Leap Year Ball which is, according to the secretary, "the first ball held by the club apart from Intervarsity balls, for many years." Just as it happens there have been no Varsity dances yet this term and had the dance club been in a position to put on a show it would probably have been better patronised. But bankrupts have no choice and a few mouldy tablecloths and silver vases would not be enough guaranteed that the Goodaalls would be paid for the supper.

The rather poor attendance at Varsity meetings of late is no doubt due to the same root evil. Last year saw the foundation of the Politics Club, which with Mr. Amos at the helm, has a most promising trip before it—so much so that it has snatched the interest of members of several older societies. The ancient Lit. and Deb. finding its membership list continuing to decrease with monotonous regularity, finished its career with a farewell dinner at the St. Vincent last year and has now become a most respectable body—viz., the Arts Association. The formation of this Asso-

ciation is a real triumph. Until last year the Arts men had an organisation of their own. The first progressive step was taken when they joined forces with the Lit. and Deb., which then assumed the name of the Adelaide University Literary, Dramatic and Debating Club with which is incorporated the Arts Association. 1936 has witnessed a complete union, and an Arts Association for both men and women students is making steady progress (at least as far as membership goes).

Sceptics scoffed at the proposal to establish a University Settlement last year—now the organisation is actually in working condition and has been granted the use of the Mission Hall in Park Street, Hackney, to put its ideas into practical form. It is noticeable that the majority of the helpers are members of the S.C.M., which in turn is one of the most active of our student bodies. But we regret that this new branch of work will probably leave them little time for any other activities.

The University Revue held last December was nothing short of a "roaring" success. Even though it was only at the Tivoli, it ran for four stupendous nights, and the Sports Association profited by even more than usual. So many students were involved in the nightly rehearsals that there was no free night left for a Society such as the Lit. & Deb. to hold its final meeting. We hear that the Footlights Committee have even more ambitious plans for this, Adelaide's Centenary year.

Even the traditional magazine was rudely stowed away last year, and a dashing black cover, bearing a brilliant flame-coloured Phoenix, and concealing a new type of art and literature inside took its place.

This year the Committee in charge are getting down to business in the establishment of an Adelaide Institute of Medical Science. Although not connected directly with the efforts of present students, the Institute is really an extension of our Medical School.

And finally the students, or at least one student, has assumed the responsibility of the Union President. This must, perforce, entail a great deal of extra work, but Mr. Bonnin has already proved himself an extraordinarily capable man.

There is still work to be done. The Men's Union are jealously awaiting the day when they will be able to boast of a building as fine as the Lady Symon; the Board of Social Science are still anxious to institute

their course as a part of University activities, and it remains for someone to devise some new scheme of debating at the 'Varsity (preferably before the next Intervarsity Debates).

But if we progress at this rate, where will we end? Probably, fifty years hence, there will be so many societies and sports and courses that each body will consist of two or three students at the most. Then the business of organising students into groups will have to begin all over again.

MUCH NEEDED BUILDING EXTENSION.

Next Monday the Sports Association will appoint a Sub-Committee to consider the question of extending the pavilion and dressing rooms at the University Oval.

It is suggested that the existing block of showers be removed, and the building be extended southwards to include new showers and further dressing rooms. These latter would enable visiting teams to change at the Pavilion instead of the Rowing Sheds, on Saturdays.

As the Sports Association has funds in hand, it is hoped that work can be commenced as soon as possible.

Coming Events

COMING EVENTS.

Thursday, 30th April—

Meeting of U.W.U. Committee in the Committee Room at 5.
Last day of entry for First Aid Classes.

Friday, 1st May—

S.C.M. are holding an Open Forum on Compulsory Military Training at 1.20 in the Lady Symon Hall.

Saturday, 2nd May—

Matches start.

Wednesday, 6th May—

Women's Union "At Home" for Members of the University Wives' Club in the Lady Symon Hall, at 3 p.m.

ALSO KEEP IN MIND—

Wednesday, May 13th—

Women's Sports Day on the 'Varsity Oval.

Friday, May 15th—

'Varsity Sports.

Saturday, May 16th—

Athletic Club's Leap Year Ball.

Saturday, May 23rd—

Term End.

Beginning of S.C.M. Conference.

Saturday, May 30th—

Tennis Inter-'Varsity Ball.

Varsity Sports.

FRIDAY, MAY 15th,

AT THE OVAL.

LAST DAY FOR MAKING ENTRIES EXTENDED TO NEXT MONDAY, MAY 4th.

Get your entries in immediately to any member of A.U.A.C. Committee. A List of Events appears elsewhere in this issue, and is also posted on all Notice Boards.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE

Athletic Club's Leap Year BALL

To be held in the Refectory on SATURDAY, MAY 16th

(The Night after the 'Varsity Sports).

Tickets, 3/ single, 5/6 double, from A.U.A.C. Committee.

'VARSITY BALL.

At the meeting of Sports Association on Tuesday it was decided that the Annual 'Varsity Ball will be held in the Refectory on Wednesday, July 1st. The following Committee were appointed—

G. Barnfield	} Joint Hon. Secs.
N. E. Wallman	
Mrs. J. C. McKail	} Graduates'
Miss Roxy Sims	

J. Ray	} Representatives
D. C. Cowell	
A. F. Puddy	}
J. R. Magarey	
H. J. Edelman	
W. D. Ackland Horman	
Miss Barbara Winterbottom	
Miss Kay Francis	
Miss Helen Wighton	}
Miss Jean Hewett	

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ON DIT

Editor—H. W. Piper.

Sub-Editors—D. C. Cowell,
Miss H. Wighton.

Friday, 1st May, 1936.

MEN'S UNION BUILDING.

"I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls," and now, if the efforts of the Committee appointed to launch an appeal for funds for the long awaited Men's Union Building are successful, this dream will come true. In the near future the Committee is to meet the Professors, and devise ways and means of raising money.

Such a building is a necessary adjunct to every University, and is still more urgently required in one where the College system is not yet so widespread as in most other Universities in the world. A Men's Union Building affords a meeting ground for men of all faculties, and provides many other advantages too obvious to need enumeration. At present the Refectory but inadequately satisfies these needs. All men students at the 'Varsity will benefit considerably from a Union Building. The Committee's efforts to make this appeal a success will be greatly aided if everybody enters into the spirit of the endeavour and does all in his power to aid this project.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sir,—

I take my pen in hand to protest against this annoying habit of leasing the 'Varsity Oval for school sports and other functions which do not close till well after 5 p.m. Last Wednesday evening, on the University Oval, one could see baseballers, runners and footballers endeavouring to practise when the Oval was already crowded with schoolboys waiting for the prizes to be handed out. This was very

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PREECE'S

annoying for the members of the Sports Association, and was surely quite unnecessary. I hope that the position will be remedied.

Yours, etc.,

FOOTBALLER.

PHOENIX.

Dear Sir,

The intervention of the long vacation usually delivers the University Magazine from the criticism it richly merits. However, the literary vices, which broke loose like diseases amongst our bards last year culminating in the production of "Phoenix," are too significant to escape comment. Few will regretted the discontinuance of the old Magazine. It was plainly moribund, dull beyond hope; little work of merit had appeared in it for years. Its successor, alas, as the Editorial notes, did not rise perfect from the ashes. In fact, it betrayed all too clearly the defects inherent in young, would-be moderns of immature and uncertain taste who have hosen to imitate a literary fashion which, after years of dominating the world of letters to the perversion of all save the most strong-minded artists, is now generally recognised to be the rubbish it always appeared to be. It was unfortunate to choose such a model, and even more so to carry out the imitation in a half-hearted way.

From the Preface we learn that the Magazine in its metamorphosed form exists "to provide an opportunity and an incentive for the publication of significant writings." When a newborn magazine makes this claim (and most of the slim volumes of the intelligentsia do so) experience warns us to prepare for a collection of rigmorole verging on sheer silliness, whose one aim is to depart in form and subject matter as far from recognised tradition as possible. "Phoenix" was not the exception to prove the rule, as the first article showed. Although well written, with specious clarity, the true obscurity of "The Candle Flame betrays an author so far on the way to rival the subtleties of James Joyce, that we are still wondering wherein the work is significant! One finds it difficult to imagine what purpose prompted the author? Nothing is depicted clearly, and no worth while idea is conveyed." Even the more sophisticated, who had dabbled in the mysteries of Freud, could find little beside a pointless debauch in perverted instinct, or perhaps a piquant if symbolic expression of the author's sexual frustration. Such tantalising vagueness is not uncommonly adopted by the literati in an attempt to gain a hearing for their piffle in an age when systemized knowledge en joys great repute.

The same passion for wallowing in abnormal or at least murky psychology inspired "For Art's Sake" and a "Night-mare." The precocious and impressionable pair, Paula and Nath, also seem to have suffered forced nurture at the hands of the "Psychology of Dreams," and to have dallied thereafter over-long with companionable authors like Krafft-Ebing. Their sympathetic study of the galaxy of experimentalists, corrupting the literary world at present, has taught them to appreciate the extreme facility with

duce the semblance of profundity by which even complete morons can prothe simple expedient of describing obscure things obscurely—with the addition, of course, of a dash of smut to convey the true quintessence of modernity. These two articles are sufficient to convince one that some people will go to any lengths in the attempt to be literary.

On a distinctly lower level is the puerile anecdote "A Child is Born." The universal surprise, amusement and pity, which greeted this eloquent expression of sex-crucified prurieny was cheering. Apparently there is a limit to which the leg of the public can be pulled. If the tale has any artistic merit whatsoever it is indiscoverable. If the author is an ardent reformer desiring to moralise on the well-worn theme—should we tell the young the facts of reproductive physiology—then the could have done so in a dozen more effective ways. If he is engaged frankly telling a "dirty yarn," then wit and brevity are essential. But who can can say what was his object? Along with "The Candle Flame," "For Art's Sake," and a "Night-mare," "A Child is Born" finds its natural place in the case book of psycho-pathologist. To find work of this calibre in the University Magazine, sniggering incongruously in a thin camouflage as art, is hardly likely to further a reputation for intelligence.

As is proper in a University production there was a number of articles which were merely silly. "Hell in Heaven," for instance. An idiotic rambling—one can hardly say more. The refinements of spiritual love are altogether remarkable and escape understanding. Undoubtedly the necessity of having printed matter on P. 18 constrained the Editors to include "More Abundantly" and "Fish"; for to offer either as a poem or a sparkling paradox would be a gross attack on our credulity.

The newspapers often tell us of the cynical disillusionment darkening our mental outlook, and naturally we have our representatives of those who have seen through the hollow sham called life. "After Reading Carlyle" would convince anyone that the state of mind described is not the author's. A "Theatre Rhapsody" is a splendid example of the fearless intellectual honesty, which marks the modern man. The poet instinctively recognises the short cut to literary recognition, the emphasis on the nastiness behind the scenes. His courage is admirable. We are reminded of Oscar Wilde's words, "Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault."

There was no article which betrayed any marked genius. However, the first stauza of "Lander and Abelard" was excellent stuff; "Strathaird at Outer Harbour" was written in a vein of cynical humour which made most people smile; and the recurrent themes of the fugue form very successfully conveyed the hurried scene, which was the subject of "A Fugue on Friday Themes." Most of the other contributions made no impression one way or the other.

In the main "Phoenix" was an ill-sustained affectation, an imitation of

worthless literary fashions. The most effective criticism would be an analysis of the absurdities and mistakes of the writers it sought to imitate. This is not possible in so brief an article, and has been done effectively elsewhere, but we may indicate briefly the two main motives behind the modernist movement. It will be noted that neither of these imply a general cultural degeneration such as is commonly thought to exist. Firstly, with the development of psychological science the last happy hunting ground of the irrelevant amateur is threatened, and he seeks to maintain his claim to an intuitive knowledge of things by exploiting the bizarre and extraordinary in mental life,—in language more obscure than the subject described. For a time, since Pure Mathematics and James Joyce were both incomprehensible, James was accorded the respect we justly feel for mathematics. We feared to wrong "beauty in disguise." This has passed. To-day commonsense is convinced, that most of the obscure drivel concocted in the last few decades with the express intention of founding a new school or being significant, is about as silly as it looks and is as useless and profitless as can be.

It would be a stupid mistake to seek the characteristics of our age and country in the works of a number of weaklings, whose sanity has been shaken by the sudden flux of events, and who, by mouthing obscure nonsense hope to be taken seriously at a time when organized and disciplined investigation is overwhelmingly successful. The Editors of "Phoenix" and many of their contributors were not disposed to take this view. If they really believe the authors, whose domestic servants they are proud to be, accurately interpret the contemporary mind, they would do well to look at life and read less. One would need to be blind not to see that the disillusionment cynicism and confusion attributed to youth belongs in fact to youths now 40 or 50 years old! and as far as the present generation goes, can only be regarded as a fiction of clergymen, who lost the touch at the beginning of the century, of journalists, who are under the illusion that it sells well, and literary high-brows like Joyce, Aiken and Eliot, who are still engaged in working out the consequences of a mechanistic philosophy are stone dead. There is no excuse for young writers, especially Australians, slavishly following the decadent tradition. They were untouched by the war, they are far from the confusion of Europe, and are more over in a position (if the intellectual effort is not too terrifying for the arty) to appreciate in full the renaissance in thought, which has followed in the wake of advancing science in the last few years. This way significance lies, the way of new and boundless possibilities. The other way, the adoption of the mannerisms of extremists, can only produce a stale re-hash of those features of recent literature, which have neither immediate nor ultimate value, and which will stand as a monument to the tolerance and stupidity of this century.

Societies

Science Association.

On Monday, April 27th, two papers were read to the Association by student members, this being the first student evening of the year. The first was presented by Mr. C. D. Boomsina, on "Condition Reflexes," which a dazed audience gathered is a science which attempts to establish the nature of the path traced out by an animate object into which a pin has been inserted. He mentioned several long terms which I can't remember, but which established the scientific origin of his data.

The second paper was read by Mr. J. W. Lilywhite and was an excellently compiled historical survey of methods of sound recording. He brought along several gramophones with new and old type recording. The most interesting was an old Edison machine with a cylindrical record.

The evening, while on the lengthy side, passed pleasantly and concluded with a good supper.

The next meeting of the Association is on Monday, May 11.

ARTS ASSOCIATION.

The second meeting for the year was held on Friday evening, 24th April, Geoff. Bridgland being in the chair.

The subject of the Inter-Faculty Debate was "That Our Censorship Laws are detrimental to Art." Mr Nichterlein opened the Debate for the Arts Students (Pro.) by objecting to the control of the censorship being in the hands of an unqualified clerk. He said that, as a matter of fact, all great works of arts were "fruity"—which was one of the chief reasons why they were great works of art. For the Law Students, Mr. Carman declared that people in the West End should be allowed to read the stuff that the Censors banned, because then they could go home and imagine they'd had a night out, even if they hadn't. Mr. Wallace said what a beautiful thing it was in springtime, and quoted Keats; while Mr. Kelly really got to grips with the subject, and pointed out that nothing that was indecent could be great Art. In a learned harangue, Mr. Crisp claimed that this is the age of Politics, saying that pornography was not his sphere; and Mr. Wilson concluded with a good rebuttal speech, although supposed to

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be 'undone.' After several speakers from the House had aired their views, Mr. C. T. Moodie criticised the Arts Students, and Mr. R. W. T. Cowan did likewise with the Law Students. The unanimous verdict of the adjudicators was that the Law Students won the Debate.

The second part of the programme was a short play, "Flight to Egypt," written by Thornton Wilder, and produced by H. W. Piper. Maurice Finnis introduced this, exhorting the imaginations; and this proved to be necessary. Sundry creakings heard during the progress of the debate were now revealed to be caused by the antics of the main character, a donkey, whose hind legs had by now arrived. A colourful scene now ensued, and the clip-clap of the donkey's shoes was heard while pyramids and other portions of Egyptian scenery floated past in the background.

Supper concluded the evening.

ARTS ASSOCIATION,

The next meeting of the Arts Association will probably be held on the last Tuesday of term. The big two attraction programme will include a paper by O. Nichterlein, and a women's debate. Nichterlein's paper will be on Elizabethan rogues and vagabonds, a subject on which he has done great deal of research. The debate will be between women freshers and senior students on the motion, "That an increase in population is desirable." You have heard Mr. Hughes and the indefatigable Mr. Lyons on this subject, so now come along and hear the women's side of the question.

WOMEN'S UNION.

This is a last warning to women students that they are entertaining the members of the Wives' Club (that is the wives of Profs. and Lecturers, etc.) at 3 p.m. on Wednesday next in the Lady Symon Hall. It is up to all Union members to put in an appearance (plus a plate of cake, if possible), for the real purpose of the afternoon is to enable the University wives and women students to meet. So put away your books for a while on Wednesday afternoon and come along to the Lady Symon Hall just before 3. It would be a great help if those intending to come would put their names on the Notice Board as soon as possible.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SCHOOL.

All students of Political Science and anyone interested in a subject of general social importance should make a point of attending the S.A. Centenary Political Science School, to be held by the S.A. Committee of the Australian Institute of Political Science at Victor Harbour from Friday, June 26th to Monday, June 29th. The subject is "What the Census Reveals," and five papers will be given on different aspects of this subject by leading authorities in Australia, each to be followed by general discussion. The first paper will be given on the Friday

evening, and as the following Monday is a public holiday, no interference with work should occur, and a most interesting and instructive week-end is certain to be enjoyed by all who attend. Special accommodation and transport has been arranged, so the cost is very reasonable. Those intending to go should nominate immediately to ensure the best accommodation, and give their names to the Secretary, Mr. G. T. Clarke, Royal Insurance Building, 13 Grenfell Street, together with 8/6, being affiliation fee to cover costs of printing, summaries of papers, etc.

I.R.C.

At a meeting of the International Relations Club, held in the Lady Symon Hall on Tuesday, 28th May, a new constitution was adopted, and the following officers were elected for 1936: President, Prof. Portus; Vice-President, J. Stokes; Hon. Secretary, A. M. Bills; Hon. Treasurer, Nancy Newland; Committee, Nancy Turner, Jean Hewett, L. F. Crisp.

A fuller report of the meeting will appear in the next issue.

NEWS ITEMS.

Beautiful Adelaide.

Recently there has been a discussion in the City Council on the chances of beautifying Frome Road. One member stated that "the land behind the western wrought iron fence, which is overgrown with weeds, is a disgrace to the University authorities." And so say all of us, but then where is the money coming from to turn this overgrown, bumpy bit of ground into a flowering wilderness?

First Aid Class.

Students who wish to attend the class in First Aid during this year should enrol for the subject at University Office not later than April 30th.

Union Notice.

All applications for faculty dances must be made before May 9th.

Varsity Benefits.

Under the will of Miss Margaret Tinline Murray, the income from the residuary estate will go to Miss Murray's brother, the Chief Justice, and Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) during his life, and, subject to that interest, the residuary estate is left to the University of Adelaide.

New Lawyers Admitted to Bar.

On Monday, April 27, six of our new graduates were admitted to the Bar, amidst scenes of great jubilation and celebration. The prophetic words of Mr. Justice Parsons were soon put into effect. His Honor said: "In the course of your adventures you may feel sometimes as if you are going to drown. But you will not. You will come up spluttering to the surface." Those admitted were Gladys Mary Palmer Matthews, Robert Mellis Napier, Richard Smallpiece Whittington, Molly Jean Wilson, Reginald Stanley Dawe and Howard de Pledge Sykes.

COLLEGES' NOTES.

St. Andrew's.—Last Saturday week members of the College were invited to spend the evening with the Master, and Mrs. Barbour. Locarno Bridge was played, and the following were the somewhat ironical results:—Italy concluded with 42 flags, France with 39, Germany 37, and Great Britain 4. Britain, take heed! All present spent an enjoyable evening and greatly appreciated the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Barbour in extending to them this invitation.

Great interest is being taken in the conference of the Australian Institute of Political Science to be held at Victor Harbour in July, and about a quarter of the members of the College Club have enrolled. The Master also is taking a keen and active interest, and it is largely through his efforts that we have been persuaded to attend.

Mr. S.—has taken up the study of possum-taming with even greater success than he anticipated. We trust he will eventually persuade these turbulent beasts of darkness to cease their noisy marauding expeditions.

Stop Press.—We have been advised that Mr. W.—desires to inform all readers of this paper that the fine art collection adorning his room is open to inspection.

St. Mark's.—The first round of the Thomson Cup Tennis Matches for the Singles Championship is almost completed. This means the "sudden-death" elimination of half the competitors.

No word of our Master's doings in the Eastern States has yet come to hand, but we hope no news is good news.

Rumour has it that Alan Campbell returned home late one night last week, after a most unfortunate ride in a car in which he is alleged to have burst a tyre.

Bill Ackland Horman, the College heavy-weight, has transferred his reform campaign, from the texture of College paper to Fritz. He has presented a petition of Right, claiming relief from it, fried, sandwiched, minced, or straight, and we expect that there will be less of this Nazi diet on our menu.

FOR LEISURE MOMENTS !

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