

ON DIT

PUBLISHED FOR THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY S.R.C.

Vol. 15, No. 3.

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1947.

TEXT BOOKS for the STUDENT

Godwin, H.: Plant Biology, 15/6.

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Partington: Textbook of Inorganic Chemistry 36/-

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STUDENT IMMORALITY!

BACCHANALIAN ORGY?

SEX STALKS VARSITY

DISGUSTING STATEMENT

"In these days of sexual equality, of co-ed. colleges, and of tramping clubs, not to mention Student Christian Movement, sex segregation for the purpose of performing simple biological functions like sleeping and washing face must be regarded as intolerable Victorian survivals. I ask you to give your full support to the movement for bi-sexual bedrooms."

So said President of Otago (N.Z.) University Students' Association at their Freshers' Ball, when he advocated freer sex life and ridiculed religion, according to a report in "The News," 27/3/47.

This statement was publicly applauded by the Chancellor, the Very Rev. D. C. Herron, Presbyterian dignitary, and other leading citizens on the platform. The excuse given later was that there was a fault in the amplifying system, and they could not hear.

The S.C.M. received special consideration as those "sincere, misguided people" who thought that the problems of the atom age could be solved by Christianity.

The Otago 72-page Freshers' Handbook contained further illuminating advice on sexual matters.

"Don't hesitate to experiment with caution."

"Adopt an interim code of morality, and analyse the whole sex business from that standpoint."

It was the president's "firm contention that sexual frustration and emotional conflict ruin more careers than it is polite to mention."

"You probably are experiencing a phase of religious interest. Don't worry about it. It is normal and should pass in a few terms."

Such were the disgusting statements emanating from the Otago University. They cannot be allowed to pass without comment. Such anti-social doctrines are a menace to the community and our standard of living, not to mention our finer instincts. Or are we to take bisexual bedrooms lying down?

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE

But it has. For some time there has been a certain turbulent undercurrent of undergraduate immorality. At last, it has surged to the surface in Dunedin.

It is futile to assert that everything is as it should be in Australian Universities. Admittedly, Adelaide may be more discreet and not largely affected; but there is always the danger. It is useless to cloak it with the air of smug complacency, sanctimonious superiority, and hill-billy hypocrisy for which Adelaide is so noted. The position would be that of the bad apple—rosy on the outside, rotten to the core!

"On Dit" conducted a poll to ascertain the opinions of students on the subject. The results were so disappointing and the moral outlook so bleak that we were forced to forgo publishing them.

"WHERE THERE'S SMOKE . . ."

A deputation of 'Varsity glamor girls asked "On Dit" to support this article. One well-known feminine identity even went so far as to pull strings. A self-appointed ex-serviceman "bloc" of one (1) advised "On Dit" to mind its own business, and was scandalised to think that we had never participated in the general "9.30 drag-off to the Torrens," or the liquor speers, at some 'Varsity balls. An interne at the hospital warned "On Dit" not to mention the way he used his room. Others did not want us to expose a well-known pleasure cruise, popular with so many 'Varsity stu-

dents during the vacations. And so it goes on!

To ignore this virus which is attacking our national existence, this lay-by for sex, is to condone it. Social malpractices of 'Varsity students will only lead to maladjustments in later life.

"Experiment with caution" is pregnant with possibility; "interim code of morality" is fraught with impossibility.

MENDER FOR GENDER

Each year, students pour into the University, where they are mixed together for the first time since kindergarten in a peculiar hodge-podge of gender, from colleges and schools where they are segregated from each other. Too often, they have only that unhealthy curiosity of sex which is inspired by our boarding schools and segregated colleges.

With our University as dead as it has been, devoid of energetic student activities and spirit, too many find a stimulus and outlet for their surplus energies in anti-social malpractices.

The remedy is more 'Varsity spirit and more energetic student activities. Students' spare time and necessity for adjustment of gender could be well utilised in peroration, preparation, and participation in a 'Varsity parade and a 'Varsity revue.

Therefore, we need a 'Varsity Parade and Revue and kindred efforts which rouse competitive spirit or combine the energies of all Faculties.



BOOZE WHO? Or the effects of alcohol!—the engineers during and after initiation.

I FOLLOW A BAND

SAYS OUR ANTI-SOCIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Engineers—God bless 'em—decided to hold a procession and I, full of female curiosity, decided to follow them. Leading the outfit was a fresher drawn trolley with "The Southern Jazz Group" on top giving a fillup to the whole proceedings. The fill-up came later.

The march left the University at about 7.30 via Pulteney Street, and startled the unsuspecting inhabitants of Rundle Street who, immediately they saw the placard announcing that it was not a political demonstration, suspected that it was a Communist plot.

In King William Street I ceased running along the footpath as I was knocking too many people over, and joined the parade which was crossing intersections regardless of the color of the lights. The motor cycles and cars in the rear menaced the rickshaw boys in front who were by no means loafing on the job.

Long clutching arms from some of the cars threatened to sweep me off my feet. Was that nice, boys? It sure made me see "Red."

After some queer manoeuvring around Victoria Square, the procession arrived at the Trades Hall where the boys intended to partake of a little liquid refreshment (60 gallons wasn't it) but it had been such a success that they decided to go round the block again.

Unfortunately, the lights at the King William Street intersection changed when the second man-drawn trolley was on the tram-line. The tram-driver was a rather impatient type and seemed a little annoyed at the delay occasioned when the boys tried to turn their rather cumbersome vehicle round the corner. So they booted him along the street to

the immense delight of the passengers.

By the time we arrived back at the Trades Hall, I was breathless and glad to stop chasing those hundreds of grog-hunting Engineers through the astounded and rather amused streets of Adelaide.

In the lane at the side of the Trades Hall, a couple of coy cuties cocked their craniums through the windows to have a look at what was doing. Some of the boys took a hasty guess as to the nature of the room from which they were looking, but the appearance of a male conveniently altered their minds.

The whole idea was crazy fun, but it was the first of April and one must make allowances for Engineering students.

Next day, the Engineering and Science students held a tug-of-war. Contestants were chosen by asking freshers whether or not they drank beer. Those that answered yes were picked—hence the noticeable lack of brawn.

The teams were, roughly, Science (the challengers) 25 and Engineers 12. The first tug ended in a draw when the rope snapped. I was disappointed to discover that there was no sabotage.

Next try, Science dragged the Engineers into the muddy waters of the creek. The Engineers swam across and chucked the Science students in, or at least I presume that that was what the final fracas was all about.

Last week, I noticed that the editor conducted a poll to find out whether blondes prefer gentlemen. He was wasting his time. They prefer them all, just like the rest of us.

On Dit

Published for the Adelaide University Students' Representative Council

VOL. 15. MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1947. No. 3.

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Contributions should be left in the "On Dit" box in the Union Building, or addressed to the Editor, Box 1557 M, G.P.O., Adelaide, on or before the Friday preceding publication.

Sauce for the Propaganda!

TWO comments, both by Victorian visitors, provided the most provoking and illuminating topics of the past fortnight.

The first is a question: "Where can I find the S.R.C.?"

The answer: "I don't know; I don't think we've got one!"

A state of affairs where 95 per cent. of the students are unaware of the S.R.C. by-elections, while shocking, is nevertheless excusable. The publicity given these by-elections was conspicuous by its virtual non-existence. The fault lies with the elections sub-committee. It is for students to see that it does not occur again!

On the other hand, lack of knowledge of the S.R.C. is inexcusable.

This body, which controls your activities, consists of your duly elected representatives.

It is, or should be, guided by your opinions and feeling. If you have no opinion, this will be reflected in your S.R.C. If you have an opinion, make sure the S.R.C. is aware of it!

The second comment, also a question, came from two Melbourne lasses who were passing by the rear of Government House, "Is this your cemetery?"

They were reassured to find that in Adelaide all the dead still walk around, while the deadest inhabit that immense mausoleum, Parliament House.

The humbug that is Adelaide also manifests itself in Varsity life.

We have little groups of interested minorities busily rushing hither and thither condemning this and that because it is not THE thing—whatever THE thing may be.

That they have done their work well is only too evident from the sepulchral state of Varsity life.

Stop taking notice of the busybodies who spend the greater part of their life ignoring the truth; the humbugs who delude themselves by glossing over unsavory atmospheres with a thin veneer of pseudo-respectability.

The only way to examine a fault is to expose it to the harsh light of public criticism.

If we have faults in the Varsity we must discuss them. Discussion is the pre-requisite to correction.

Don't be discouraged by the machinations of the hypocrites about you. Such stuffy pettiness is to be expected and ignored.

It is time we did something about our Varsity life.

There are many suggestions.

Here are some in which all the faculties could co-operate and engender interest: Informal non-faculty and non-propaganda dances in the George Murray; inter-faculty wheelbarrow races; a Varsity revue; a Varsity carnival and parade; and finally, the suggested formation of The "liberal" Club, not affiliated with the political party, but a Right Wing group.

The latter would be of benefit to both Right-Wingers and the Socialist Club and add "zipp" to Varsity thought.

For the benefit of all those people who do not read the editorials properly the editor would not be a member of either of the mentioned political groups.

DON THOMPSON.

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PRESS OR SUPPRESS?

SUB BUSHEL LUMEN

To the Editor,

Sir,—For some time now it would appear that the Universities generally are held by outsiders to be no more than the harbor of infantile notorieties, the Mecca of maniacal practical jokes, and the coddling cot of social satellites.

University students have become notorious as the instigators of all manner of anti-social activities, which are looked upon by others than themselves, as being entirely and solely within the students' conception and ultimate execution.

Read in the "Advertiser" of April 2nd:

"The flow of Adelaide's night traffic was temporarily disturbed (oh! what delightful, satirical understatement!) when a procession of vehicles . . . paraded down King William Street, escorted by strings of motor cycles. (This time glorious satirical overstatement.)

"The cars and carts were crowded with shouting and whistling youths (Youths!—the Dead End Kids, or Hindley Street Terrors?) some of whom carried placards bearing the

in even the most pessimistic and fatalistic mind!)

Sir,—Such fantastically distorted and unsympathetic press notices add immensely to the great misconception referred to in my opening paragraph, and reduce the University student to a mere exhibitionist in the eyes of the easily awed public.

Another statement such as this, published by the same paper, prophesied in tremulous and warning voice that a tug-of-war would take place between Engineering and Science freshers, across the Torrens. It would appear that this momentous and unprecedented action would involve enormous loss of life, as we are assured, the river is 12 feet deep at the spot chosen for the contest "which would continue until the losing team found itself dragged into the river"—(note the dramatic inference of that word "dragged").

Also it appeared likely that the entire rope manufacturing industry would be totally disintegrated, as about 150 feet of rope would be required. 150 feet!!!

We do not know who is responsible for the propaganda that is



One of the fresher-drawn trolleys passing Bonython Hall at the start of Engineers' initiation ceremonies, which included a street parade thro' the city led by the Southern Jazz Group who dispensed typical New Orleans' street parade music to the edification of the populace!

inscription, "Wot, no meat?—This is the end! (What dread political group can this be?)

"One of the carts provided a moving platform for youths (again an allusion to the city's riff-raff and hooligans) playing trumpets, whistles, guitars and all kinds of musical instruments independently of each other. (Save us! Can this refer to the martial airs of some new and fearful anti-social group?)

(Now comes the master stroke of the writer of this stirring account of how our city's night vigil was shattered. Whilst his awed readers are trembling in their shoes, and consternation, in one masterful flourish of the pen, the writer gives a ringing note of reassurance—a throbbing message of hope. "It is all right," he cries to the now fear-stricken and panicky newspaper readers—"It is all right! We are safe! . . . the parade which was made up of Engineering students (Oh! Salvation!—Oh, miraculous deliveration! Praise and glory be. . . The sighs of relief go forth as a great wind. . .) . . . of Engineering students from the University (Just to make sure you get the full significance of this) ended at the Trades Hall in Grote Street where an initiation of fresher students took place." (As if that could possibly leave a shadow of doubt

being fed out of this University to the local press, but what is, is degrading and entirely misinformative, touching on only the most insignificant side of University activities, and, conjures up maliciously distorted and highly inaccurate pictures of the University student in the eyes of the public.

Hardly a line is devoted to University activities beyond the few harmless pranks and stunts that we bring to light now and again.

The University is the training ground of this country's—and the world's—future generation, and as such alone, should be presented in a more sympathetic and complete light than is being done. There are a host of "news items" (not the startling sensationalism our papers delight in, perhaps) that could be gleaned from the normal activities of the University and which, being products of an institution largely supported by tax-payers' money, demands a certain right to be presented to the public that pays for them!

Until such information is published, then who can blame the public for its rather sneering—barely tolerable—view of the University student?

I am, etc.
BRIAN CLARIDGE.

RAZZLE DAZZLE

"GIFTS TO B.B.C. MAN LISTED IN REPORT"—NEWS ITEM.

Snooper-Drooper Fishlight ("I got a Clue") Fraser sprang briskly into the room. Picking himself up, he flung himself into a chair, threw his hat at one hook, his false beard at another, and his lower set at a third, missing all three.

"I got a clue, boss," he announced cheerfully, producing 2 oz. of tobacco and stuffing it into his mouth.

"What on? — the new Taxation scheme."

"Nerts," he said, spitting the word at me. As I wiped the tobacco juice off my face, he continued—"I've got the low-down on this guy Thompson. He's a cinch for a pinch, he's as crooked as the cracks in the new Maths. building. I'll give youse the works on him, boss."

"Not Don E. Thomspen, the famous editor, columnist and commentator?" (Ra! Ra! Ra!)

"That's him—the rag and bull merchant." He produced half a dozen tattered tote tickets and a magnifying glass from his pocket, then proceeded to examine with the glass some obscure writing on the tickets. "Wrong case," he muttered in a garlic breath, and pulled a laundry ticket from another pocket.

"Here we are, boss. After grafting the election staff, he got on the S.R.C. and got appointed editor of 'On Dit.' After this, the goods roll in to him like loaded dice in a crap game—all from blokes and dames trying to muscle in on this paper racket. Open your big ears, boss—six bottles each of Cascade Red, Green, Lager and Stout; one set of golf clubs, two years' subscription to a U.S. jazz magazine, five pairs of nylons, one set of French post-cards, two hundred cigarettes, three tooth-picks, one set of hair curlers, two combs, one nailfile, two tickets in Tatts, a noose, five razor blades and ten anonymous letters. How's that, boss, for some dassy investigation."

He sat there drooling tobacco juice over the carpet.

"With a bit more work, I'll clear up who sent what."

I glowered at him.

"You continue this investigation, and I'll fire you. You're wrong anyway, I sent him three hundred cigarettes. Now clear out, Fishlight, and make it fast."

With one movement, he gathered his teeth, beard and hat, spat the last of his juice at the cuspidor, missed it, and flew out of the room connecting with the glass panelled door—which was shut.

"I'm sorry about the door, boss," he said, picking the glass out of his face.

"Get out."

He did.

Watch for Fishlight. He will be back! (if he gets published the first time.

"BASIL THE RAZZLE."

(No comment; but I'm contemplating an auction sale.—Editor.)

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ROSEMARY FITCH REPORTS N.U.A.U.S. COUNCIL MEETING

The 11th Annual Council Meeting was held in Hobart from January 13 to 23, 1947, thus overlapping by a period of five days the N.U.A.U.S. Congress. The Council numbered 29 members, and was made up of an Executive of five, comprising President, Vice-President, Senior Secretary, Honorary Secretary, and Treasurer. [During the meeting, a resolution was passed, adding to the Executive a Public Relations Officer.]

C.R.T.S. CONTROVERSY

MINUTES

During the proceedings, a motion was passed to the effect that the secretary should take a broad outline of the debate and not a verbatim report. It was held that while, in most cases, a verbatim report was unnecessary, a broad outline of debate would be beneficial to S.R.C.s and also to future N.U.A.U.S. delegates. The definition given to "minutes" included (1) text of resolutions; (2) treasurer's report; (3) any other reports as it should be seen fit.

ANNUAL REPORT

Discussion took place as to whether the annual report, not published between 1938-1946, should be printed in booklet form in 1947, as in the previous year, or revert to the larger, clumsier, roneoed form. Last year, the cost for 1,000 copies was £110, but this year it is estimated that the cost for similar copies can be cut to £80, which amount has been budgeted for. In spite of the fact that the cost of printed reports will be approx. double that of the roneoed, it was felt that the extra expense would be well justified, as the booklets could be sold, and there would be far more likelihood of students reading the annual report, were it published in a compact and attractive form.

CONGRESS

It was decided that a Congress should be held annually, if possible, in each State in rotation, and in 1948 that it should be held at a convenient spot in Victoria. The latter was chosen in the hope that, being in a more central position, Congress expenses all round would be less heavy.

COUNCIL

The 1948 Council meeting is to be held in Western Australia, immediately preceding the Congress. It was decided that the overlapping of Council and Congress was not satisfactory.

C.R.T.S.

The relation of N.U.A.U.S. to C.R.T.S. and the Universities' Commission is briefly this—that Universities were asked to draw up a survey. Broadly speaking, the position of C.R.T.S. trainees is this. A living allowance is granted them throughout the year, including vacations, and the ban on vacation earnings has now been lifted altogether. The full allowance is paid for a period of three years, after which University fees are paid till the completion of the course. £3/3/- a week is then paid in the form of a loan. The first £50 is free of interest, the remainder, at a rate of 2 per cent., being repaid at about

£1 a month beginning 6 months after graduation. It was stated by some councillors that the allowance was not sufficient, and Melbourne delegates quoted cases where ex-servicemen were forced to give up their course before completion.

It was felt that the point to be decided was whether the allowance should be regarded as a living or a training allowance. In the case of the former, the amount should be raised to the basic wage, and the increase not obtained by such back-door methods as the lifting of restrictions on vacation earnings. It was pointed out that the permitting of vacation earnings did not aid all C.R.T.S. students, as some courses required practical work to be done

in vacations. At the Universities' Commission meeting in September it was emphatically stated that a living allowance, as such, should be paid, thus enabling students to use vacations either for rest or further study. Taking figures from the Melbourne survey, which is purported to be correct, it is shown that while the basic wage in Victoria is £4/16/-, plus 7/- increase for cost of living, the average amount quoted by students was £4/6/-. On these grounds, the justification for asking for the basic wage, was questioned. Motions were passed stating that the living allowance should be paid as a living allowance, and not by way of lifting limitations on vacation earnings.

RED HERRING OR ... ?

I.U.S.

The International Union of Students was recently formed in Prague, and arises from the International Federation of Students which operated until the war. W.F.D.Y., with whom we are actually affiliated, sprang up after the war, and appears to be wholly political in its activities. Our position with regard to I.U.S. seems doubtful. There was mixed opinion among councillors as to whether we were either morally or legally affiliated with I.U.S.

On the recommendation of N.U.A.U.S. Brisbane meeting, an observer, Mr. Arcus, was sent over as an observer. Whether he actually held the position of an observer or a delegate, is not certain. Mr. Arcus' report, which he wished to be treated as confidential, is to be circulated to constituents on the understanding that it is not for publication. The council, though accepting the report, considered it to be generally unsatisfactory, as Mr. Arcus, whether consciously or unconsciously, undoubtedly had a strong political conservative bias. However, it seems that the I.P.C. was conducted in a most disorderly and generally undemocratic way, very little apparently being accomplished. On the strength of this report, and because nothing concerning the I.U.S. constitution was known at the time, a motion of disaffiliation was put, and carried by a majority of two. It was decided to send another observer to the I.P.C. in August, and to correlate reports from other organisations' representatives. Towards the end of the meetings, the constitution came to hand, and a motion for rescinding the previous motion of disaffiliation was put before the chair. However, the constitution appeared to throw very little extra light on the subject, and after another strongly contested debate, the motion was lost 11-12. In all the controversy re I.U.S., no motion, as far as I know, for the disaffiliation with W.F.D.Y., about which members seemed more or less agreed, was ever actually put.

N.U.A.U.S.

Motions were passed that invitations be sent to governing bodies of

all tertiary institutions to send delegates and visitors to the 1948 Student Congress, and that during the Congress a one-day convention be held to discuss common student problems and the formation of an N.U.A.S., and also that constituent organisations be requested to proceed with State Unions or Councils of students with a view to the formation of an N.U.A.S. The desirability of the formation of such a body, or of a Federation of Australian Students, as the proposed organisation was re-named for convenience sake, was strongly debated. It was felt, in some cases, that the binding together of all students of a tertiary level, would be of tremendous mutual value. In others, it was felt that N.U.A.S. would finally swamp N.U.A.U.S., and that there was not sufficient common ground to warrant the formation of an N.U.A.S. The formation of State Unions of Students was even more strongly opposed from some quarters, but it was pointed out that they were only to be the means for gathering together students at the tertiary level, and were in no way to act as a hindrance to the formation of an N.U.A.S.

EXECUTIVES

President, Doug. Murphy; Gen. Sec., Alan Barcan; Vice-Pres., John Redrup; P.R.O., Ian Turner; Treasurer, Ruth Searle; Hon. Sec., Valerie Wadsworth; Assistant Gen. Sec., Richard Klugman; Director of Art Exchange, Peter Hamilton; Rep. on W.S.R., Gwen Watson; Debates Gen. Sec., Nanette Piggis; Travel Director, Alan Dure; Rep. to New Zealand—to be chosen by a member of executive.

In writing a report of the Council meetings, I have by no means covered all the ground, and in order to keep the report within reasonable length, I have had to omit many subjects altogether. In making the selection, I have tried to pick out those about which discussion at the conference was longest and most controversial.

ROSEMARY L. FITCH,
Local Sec.-Treas., N.U.A.U.S.,
1947.

Health Service

Bookings of appointments can be made on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Afternoons, between the hours of 2 and 4 o'clock, at the Health Service Office, in the Entrance Hall to the Refectory. Enquiries can also be made at the Union Office.

Athletics BALL

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

ON DIT

ON SALE
W.E.A. BOOKROOM
- FRONT OFFICE
SCHOOL VET. SCIENCE

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR

"SIC TRANSIT

SPLIT INFINITIVES . . .
AND SPLIT HAIRS

To the Editor,

Sir,—On reading the first issue of "On Dit" for 1947 I was delighted to find an article written by yourself and entitled "Australia, Land of Grope and Glory." Let me say that with the general sentiments expressed therein, I wholeheartedly agree, so much so that far be it from me to cavil at a mere split infinitive in an article advocating better education. (Mr. Dunstan misses the point! The article advocated better social education, not literary education.—Ed.) But there was one paragraph in it that is one of the best examples I have come across of the "long-winded jargon of clumsy circumlocutions and tired, tired clichés" against which you yourself most vehemently inveighed. Your use of the phrase "Red Fascist" left me (in consideration of the laudably liberal sentiments set forth elsewhere in the article), justifiably bewildered.

But now it appears that the reason displayed in your first article was but the whim of the moment. For when I glanced at the editorial of the second issue of "On Dit" I discovered to my amazement that you were assuring the University that I am an insidious pressure group! So rife was your effusion with clap-trap and misrepresentation, that in fairness to the University, not to mention myself, I feel it incumbent on me to take you to task.

First of all, I shall be interested to hear where you found the word "disinterest." It's new to me, and I presume you mean "lack of interest," though the nearest I could get to it was "disinterested," which is an adjective meaning "unbiased," and surely a Conservative can hardly be that in matters where his politics are concerned? I did come across "disinter," but I am unable to conceive that you are referring to the exhumation of Conservatives, for despite my political views, I cannot see that they have as yet been duly buried! I fear, moreover, that "stationary stagnation" is hardly in the best tradition, since it reeks of tautology, and as a Conservative, Mr. Thompsen, are you not bound to respect tradition?

As to the substance of your editorial—I must point out that my nomination for the S.R.C. was only known to about five other members of St. Mark's College, and that no other member of the Socialist Club or of the Student Theatre Group was aware that I was being nominated. (But quite a few, including Miss Fitch, knew you HAD BEEN nominated.—Ed.) It is true that some of the members of each of those organisations would quite probably have voted for me if there had been a poll, but that would not have been as part of an organised plot to foist me on the University against its will, but purely and simply because I have been an active member of both the Socialist Club and the Theatre Group and in consequence am well-known to their members. Your allegation that there were "insidious workings" is without any foundation whatsoever.

Mr. Scott, like myself, was nominated on the day on which nominations closed. The following day, for reasons best known to himself and not, I think, unknown to you Mr. Thompson, he withdrew his nomina-

tion. I was the only other member of the Socialist Club who was aware of either his nomination or withdrawal, so that it can hardly be said that this was part of the policy of a "Socialist bloc"—it had nothing to do with the Socialists within the University qua Socialists.

You have gone out of your way, I notice, to castigate the students of the University for failing to nominate anyone against me. You, as a member of the S.R.C., must have been aware that the elections were being held, and yet it appears that you did not nominate anyone. I suggest that your distaste at the result of the elections was aroused only when you realised that a member of the Socialist Club had been elected, and that your fury was increased by the futility of your own efforts to get the date for the closing of nominations put forward so that you might see that someone of political beliefs more akin to your own was nominated against me.

I commiserate with you, and if, from the depths of my sympathetic

feeling I may be permitted to offer a little advice, I should suggest that in future you keep your paper, as far as within you lies, as least blatantly partisan as possible.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. DUNSTAN.

(In a vain effort to find an argument against me, Mr. Dunstan is reduced to the level of attacking my syntax.

His attitude and antics are not, it is to be hoped, typical of the Socialist Club in general.

It would be advisable for all embryo Socialists to adopt the policy "read and rate before you slate."

In a frantic flurry of revelation, ill-befitting a newly-elected member of the S.R.C., Mr. Dunstan prates that—

(a) I am a Conservative.
(b) I assure the University that he is an "insidious pressure group."
(c) The substance of my editorial was "Dunstan and the Socialist Club."

(d) That, grammatically speaking, I am dramatically speaking.
Sorry, Mr. Dunstan, but—

(a) I am not a Conservative, though it grieves me to sacrilegiously shatter your holy regard for your own powers of psycho-analysis.

(b) Nowhere did I give the assurance that you were an insidious pressure group (??)—the idea is entirely your own.

(c) Don't be an egotist, the substance of the editorial was S.R.C. elections and student apathy.

(d) Perhaps so. However, it would appear on the evidence of your letter that you are scarcely qualified for syntactic quibbling, especially on the subject of those bad, bad split infinitives.

You should know that the English language is continually changing and

that common usage annually adds fresh words to our vocabulary. Common usage and the precedent of the entire world press justifies my use of the word "disinterest."

Strangely enough, Mr. Dunstan, Communists were the only people I had expected to be disturbed by my use of the phrase "Red Fascist."

Thanks, Mr. Dunstan, for your concluding advice, but I would be obliged if you could interpret the precise meaning of the high order abstraction that constitutes your final phrase—or is it a Socialist slogan?—EDITOR.)

BROWN—ED OFF!

To the Editor,

Sir,—The public criticism by Dr. Swan of the research facilities in this University is long overdue. The University as it is at present constituted is a degree shop and no more. It is prepared to train the student to a lower degree stage, and most departments seem to take the attitude that any further training is a concession on their part. Indica-

Preservative for Conservative

We wish to apologise for a slight ambiguity in our last editorial. John Roder wishes it to be known that he is in no way connected with the Socialist Club. As a matter of fact, John Roder says he is not a member of any nefarious organisation whatsoever.

tive of this state of affairs is the absence of long-term research projects under the guidance of experienced research workers.

Possibly Dr. Swan was unjust in that his criticism does not recognise those professors who do achieve some success in their research field. They deserve credit because this is done in spite of their being saddled with administrative work by University authorities who appear to be more concerned with conserving the University's money rather than its brains. Dr. Swan was no doubt generalising from his own experience in the departments concerned with human biology, and here, Sir, I would like to supplement his criticism.

1.—It is a disgrace that in such a key subject in biology as biochemistry, no undergraduate is allowed to study for more than one year, unless he goes on to do Honors in this subject.

2.—It is a disgrace to the State that this department depends largely for its existence upon the personal generosity of its professor. It is therefore not surprising that research facilities are not a prominent feature here, and that students in this field (as in others) cannot but look elsewhere for guidance in their advanced work.

3.—So long as the University refuses to recognise any generous division of labor in the research, administration, lecturing, etc., aspects of departmental organisation, those who should be guiding and assisting the student research worker will either remain as jacks of all trades and masters of none or will continue to leave their Adelaide positions in the hands of people who are prepared to compromise themselves with these conditions. This criticism is, in general, apparently true for the University as a whole.

It is significant that the National Government is paying for the new University buildings. Australian Universities do not receive the large private donations that assist in maintaining some admirably equipped overseas laboratories for medicine

and academic science. It is apparent that if this nation is to conserve its scientific personnel, then the people as a whole must give them the incentive to remain. To put it another way, unless the nation pays for the services of its Universities it will not receive this sort of service. As Dr. Swan put it, so long as the new graduate who desires to work in some field of academic research has his services valued in terms of money less than those of the cleaner, there will be little material incentive for him to enter into academic research here. This is certainly not to say that an energetic Varsity council could not make better use of the funds that the University has, or could have, access to at present.

The pay envelope is not the only incentive needed. The genuine research worker usually finds in his work, the interest and satisfaction that people at large find in their hobbies and their sporting activities. This aspect of science can be easily dampened by those unsympathetic departments which regard teaching as a bugbear and research as a nuisance. The problems immediately involved in this aspect of scientific training are those of personalities. This sort of problem points to the need for close and sympathetic student-teacher-University-administrator relationship. This aspect of University life, if that University life is to render maximum service to itself and the people, makes it necessary for the University to be directed by people who understand student problems and who are not isolated from them in the mysterious front office of the Ivory tower.

In this connection, Dr. Swan's remark to the effect that a disservice is being done to the country when hundreds of thousands of pounds are spent on buildings, when their staffing and administration will not stop the migration of academic scientists away from Australia, needs repetition. In my opinion, the University will continue to be a degree shop and will continue to lose its Floreys and Oliphants until such time as, firstly, the nation owns its Universities and therefore provides the funds, and secondly, the responsibility for University administration rests predominantly in the hands of graduates who are actively associated with the student at all levels of his development.

This criticism has not been made lightly.

I am, Sir, etc.,
W. D. BROWN.

DOGMA QUAGMIRE

To the Editor,

Sir,—There recently appeared in the press a letter which referred to "the prospect of Christianising the University." Such a suggestion is in contrast to the efforts of our founders who endeavoured by statutory provisions to avoid the errors of the ancient European Universities where the detrimental effects of religious domination were a common occurrence.

The fundamental purpose of a University is the impartial and disinterested pursuit of truth, but no University can fulfil this purpose whilst it is stuck in the rut of religious or secular orthodoxy.

No true scholar can suffer an intrusion upon the liberty of the mind. No religion can refrain from such intrusion.

However wise the ethical teachings of Jesus may be, the Christian religion still remains a form of spiritual fascism with its cry, "Believe and be saved," its curse, "Believe or be damned."

Let all men worship their gods. Let tolerance prevail, but beware

Just Arrived!

Macbeth: Organic Chemistry

Gray: Textbook of Anatomy, 1946. Lemon & Ference: Physics

BROWN & PEARCE, 227 North Terrace

GLORIA MUNDI" FURTHER RESEARCH REVELATION

the ministrations of members of the University Council who seek to "Christianise the University."

The voices of Galileo, Bruno and Shelley grow faint, but we may still hear the clanking of their chains.

Yours, etc.,
"BO."

TWO FEATHERS?

To the Editor,

Sir,—Seeing that Mr. Throgmorton has given notice of his impending if not profane motion of censure upon you and "On Dit" in general, I feel it only fair to provide some sort of counterblast.

Obviously, both he and Ann Onnimus are suffering a captious Katzenjammer after reading the report of the Hobart goings-on. But whatever the animus of Onnimus, I do not feel that this report was as putrid as she would have us believe. Vague alcoholic fumes did indeed arise from the foaming draught which Mine Host Claridge brewed in the cool cellars of his mind; in vino veritas.

Mine Host Claridge says, in his mortified rejoinder, that his head is bloody, and I am afraid that K. R. Throgmorton, Esq., may go even further than that, but by way of counterblast and counterdamn, may I say that I don't think that "On Dit" is any worse than usual and may even be improving?

I cannot pretend that never has a word of criticism passed my lips about "On Dit"; on the contrary, generally I find much to condemn in that most of the material gives the impression of having been hastily written and cursorily edited. But after the flat-soda-water of the Society Notes, Mine Host Claridge drew for us a beaker full of the warm south.

And again, Miss Onnimus seems to require entertainment. From her highfalutin manner, it is difficult for one as young and innocent as I to imagine just what would amuse her. But perhaps the editor could make available with each copy of "On Dit," at small extra cost, two feathers and a quantity of treacle. Combined with the stickiness of Miss Onnimus's prose, and the tatters of her syntax, these would prove most diverting.

I am, Sir,
M. GLEESON TAYLOR.

ATOMIC CHALK!

To the Editor,

Sir,—Mr. Brian Claridge, in his report on research conditions within the University, presents some grossly misleading ideas on "developmental" and "fundamental" research work. His statement, "the more fundamental the research, the less equipment is needed—it becomes headwork with possible testing of conclusions," cannot be condemned too strongly. Atomic research is surely fundamental research, but perhaps he does not consider the cyclotron and the complex apparatus used in atom-splitting as important enough to be ranked as equipment.

The latter part of his sentence is the antithesis of the scientific attitude as opposed to the philosophy of the Greeks. Einstein, it is admitted, used only a blackboard and chalk but the premises of his relativity theory was based upon experiment and his conclusions were proved by experiment. All science is based upon experiment, and all conclusions must be proved by experiment. This requires equipment.

The fact is that pure research has in the past been pushed into the poor house like an unwanted

child. When, as happens now and again, one of the outstanding discoveries of Science is made, "developmental research" seizes on and develops the new knowledge, and the unappreciated "pure scientist" goes back to the poor-house.

That finance for pure research is still far below what is needed provides much food for thought on the "progress" of our democracy. This is particularly so when finance for scientific research in Russia appears so much better than in the British Empire.

We agree, however, with Mr. Claridge (and the vast majority of scientists) that the Universities are the rightful places for fundamental research. That this research must be adequately financed is beyond question, and must be faced forthrightly by Governments and University authorities alike.

Mr. Bampton indicates that there is a shortage of money. The State has recently granted £210,000 to the University for buildings. In addition to this there is needed a sub-

stantial increase in the State and Federal grants for research.

It has been pointed out many times in the past that the reputation of any University in the scientific field stands or falls on the quality of the research work carried out there, not on the number of students passing through degree courses. That sound teaching and the inspiration that fires the undergraduate to give of his best is in most cases a corollary of high-class research work was stressed by Sir Howard Florey in his address to the University in 1945. This is firmly established in the great English and American Universities, but apparently cannot be repeated too often in Australia.

Yours, etc.,
H. B. S. WOMERSLEY,
Dept. of Botany.
D. F. SANGSTER,
Dept. of Chemistry.

VARSAITY SPARSITY

To the Editor,

Sir,—The report of Brian Claridge on the pros. and cons. of Dr. Charles Swan's public statement on research conditions and salaries at the University calls for certain comments, containing as it does several incorrect and highly misleading statements.

We have little doubt that those research workers who have, during the past few years, held Commonwealth Research Grants, with the magnificent remuneration of £150 per annum (and often carried out limited teaching duties as well) will be most interested in Mr. Bampton's statement that "If a young qualified man were appointed to a full-time research position, his salary would be in the vicinity of £400 a year, and in some cases much more." Of course, perhaps a first-class Honors graduate is not "qualified," or perhaps minimum hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., plus an average of at least a couple of hours in the evening is

not a "full-time position." Many other research workers on £250 are in almost as unsatisfactory a position, but far worse in proportion for the services required are the salaries of younger lecturers.

In the C.S. & I.R., a B.Sc. graduate now starts at a salary of £458, then rising by £25 yearly increments. We hear also that at the Waite Institute a sharp line of demarcation exists between C.S. & I.R. and University research workers. C.S. & I.R. salaries are £50-£100 higher for University people, while provisions and finance for obtaining apparatus are said to be markedly better for the former.

Yet a good deal of first-class research is carried out by people on these niggardly salaries. However, if research grants were increased to £400-£600 per year, the University might retain more of its first-class graduates to carry out the research so badly needed. Dr. Swan himself pointed out that it is not a case of no research being carried out here,

SEARCH

Throughout the long warm Twilight had I walked,
Searching and calling, everywhere, for her.
Now softly walked we in the deepening dusk
Through scented wattle, recalling incense, myrrh
That wafted years ago through Bethlehem.
Then slowly climbed we up the turfe'd hill
And saw the bier with lantern shine aglow
I said to her, "Come, for the night is dark
I'd like to kick your ribs, you darned old cow
I won't be over milking until Ten."

—"PABLO."

Is a capable research graduate worth no more than £150 per year? Why, the basic wage is now £250 a year for cracking stones or keeping the University lawns tidy!

The fact that recently advertised lectureships at the University received no suitable applicants can be ascribed to only one cause—grossly inadequate salaries. When will the University learn that it has to compete with industrial firms, the C.S. & I.R., and give other Australian Universities, let alone overseas institutions, all of which provide for better salaries and conditions, in its quest for lecturing-research men.

Some may say, "The good researcher does not worry about money." Keep him from eating, sleeping, marrying, etc., and he'll produce more work than if he lives a normal social life. But a sense of security is by far the best stimulus to original work, and how many of the University staff and research men feel secure in their positions.

Mr. Bampton, in his comments on the position of "part-time" research workers, confuses the main point of the matter. Such "part-time" people have had to spend at least the normal working hours in the laboratory, and pursue reading studies in "their own time" at night. The significant fact is that the research work carried out by "part-time" demonstrators (or whatever they may be classed as) is almost invariably published under the names of the Professor and research worker; i.e., the University, through the Professor of the Department concerned, is claiming the research work as its own; in spite of its having been done by a person (to take Mr. Bampton's own words) "devoting the rest of their time (from teaching) to pursuing their own studies towards a higher degree." The University has provided facilities, but

paid the research worker no salary while doing the work.

It may be said here that there is (or certainly should be) no University research worker, demonstrator or lecturer who is not pursuing his studies towards a higher degree, in so far as this means the gaining of new knowledge.

Lastly, may we suggest that Dr. Swan obtained his information from personal experience and contact with young (but qualified) research people at the Medical Institute and in several University Departments.

We remain, etc.,
"THREE HOPEFULS."

WHO ELECTED DUNSTAN?

To the Editor,

Sir,—'It was loosely stated that the Socialist Club, St. Mark's College and the Student Theatre Group were behind Donald Dunstan' and that no one else stood a chance, anyway."

The above appeared in "On Dit" in an issue dated Friday, March 28, 1947.

The committee of the Student Theatre Group wishes to disclaim any responsibility for Mr. Dunstan's success in being elected men's general representative on the S.R.C.; nor is it the function of the Student Theatre Group as a body to become in any way involved in student politics, nor in student affairs not in some way connected with dramatic activities.

Furthermore, if the Editor wishes to juggle with names, it might be advisable for him to ascertain his facts before he wastes time and space printing material entirely without foundation.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY L. FITCH,
President, Student Theatre Group.

(Re last paragraph: I do not think Miss Fitch has taken the trouble to understand the passage she quotes from my editorial.—Editor.)

VARSAITY PARADE?

To the Editor,

Sir,—The war is now over, yet it appears that student life will once more settle down to its hackneyed routine of lectures and the occasional faculty ball.

Surely, this is an austere life for a student.

If asked what were his criticism in the way of entertainment provided at the Adelaide University (this, by the way, excludes politicians and physics lectures), a student would reply, after a somewhat lengthy pause, that the ball staged by his respective faculty certainly took 1st prize as far as that event, and then he would probably wander off in an overwrought sort of way to have a quiet game of poker or something just to keep his morale up.

Yet before the war a student had much more to look forward to, viz., the Varsity procession and the Varsity revue.

The revue was an evening show and was always heralded by the traditional procession during the day through the Adelaide streets, to the amusement and interest of students and spectators alike.

Nowadays, when one sees and reads of the Sydney Uni. processions one feels that a great deal is being missed, and especially after the successful one which was staged here in 1945, we wonder why no step has been taken to permanently revive these functions.

I am, etc.,
L. J. PERKINS.

SPORTS SHEET

WOMENS SPORTS

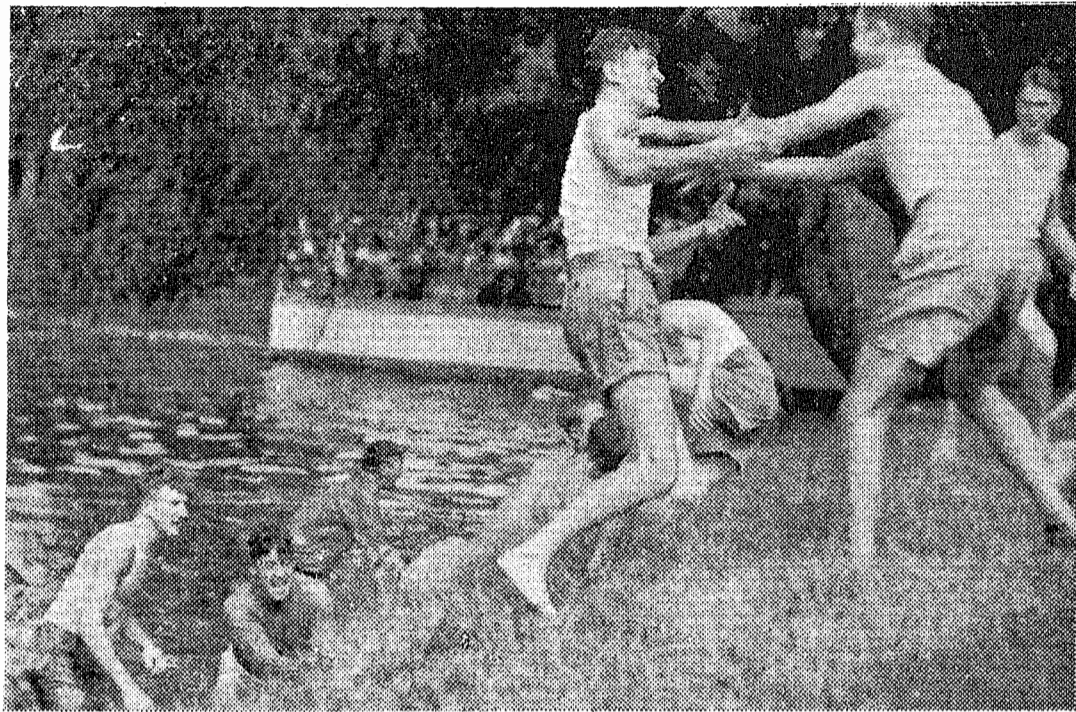
SOFTBALLERS LICK MEN

Once again woman has mastered man! The struggle between the sexes is not over, but the so-called "weaker" sex has struck yet another blow for complete equality.

Facing ten of the toughest brutes in the Varsity, ten fragile and beautiful girls bashed them to all corners of the field, in a soft-ball match held last week.

The girls, champions in their own sphere, but modest and unassuming, were in two minds whether to take up the gauntlet flung down by the men's rugby leader, pugnacious Mick Hone. But take it up they did, and flung it back to the uncouth louts who comprised their already exultant opponents.

The battle was fought over seven vicious innings. The girls, who looked like pieces of Dresden china in their soft-ball uniforms, fielded first. The rugby players, whose only resemblance to china lay in the



Edited by

KEN TREGONNING

thickness of their heads, started immediately to abuse the umpire, Mr. Hamilton, and the fielders, even resorting to physical violence at times. Margy Wall at first base will carry the bruises she collected for months, and Gill Mead, who received a fiercely hit ball on the shoulder, had to be replaced as pitcher. Pam Hicks was hit several times on the —er—, anyway was hit several times, and still limps.

The girls never complained at any of the questionable tactics of the men, not even when the rugby players, in a last desperate effort, flung in their president, who slipped on to the field and tried to divert the attention of several of the outfielders.

One of the highlights was the ineffectual baton waving of buxom Kerr-Grant, who after about fifteen snacks at the ball and never connecting, confided in me that "now I know what frustration really means."

Amongst the most powerful batters for the girls was Helen Murrell, whose lusty walloping was at variance with her demure appearance and delicate figure. She had Hone, whose uninspired pitching caused loud cries of "take the bum off," from someone amongst the spectators, reduced to the state of abusive bellowings at members of his team who could not hold the fiercely hit ball.

The rugby players' one chance of winning came when Gillian Neald was nearly laid out (the brutes), and a shy little thing was given the ball. Four home runs were knocked off her before they were out. It was just one short of the girls' score, who ran out the winners, 17-16.

With darkness approaching, the girls fled for safety. Their team was—Gillian Neald, Marg Wall, Pam Hicks, Meg Hamilton, Helen Murrell, Kay Wall, Pat Hill, Monica Williams, Pat Hughes and Kay Tregonning.

The men's team, who have tried to remain anonymous, comprised "husky" Hone, "basher" Botham, "slugger" Mellon, "pug" Haines, "sloppy" Kerr-Grant, "bull" Burton, "missing link" Birdseye and "bone head" Kneebone.

—:—:—

RUGBY—A FEW POINTS TO MAKE WATCHING A PLEASURE

I think it very desirable that everyone should have a rudimentary

idea of the game of rugby. Most men do, but many women tend to confuse it with lacrosse or baseball and other hybrid games, and many a romance has been split by a woman's blank look when taken to a game.

It is very different from Australian rules you know. There the backs stay back and the forwards forward, and never the twain do meet. In rugby both forwards and backs merge and mingle and really don't worry about keeping any position. There again, it is almost unforgivable in Australian football to kick the ball out of bounds, while in rugby one of your happiest moments occurs when you can boot it good and hard into the stand. And loud the cheers!

The game is played by two teams, each of which commences with fifteen players. It is believed that there does exist a small coterie of morons who actually enjoy playing rugby. Others play for many reasons—to raise an almost unquenchable thirst, or the sybaritic delight of the shower afterwards, or to enlarge their pornographic repertoire, and some, even, because of the beneficial effect of mud to the complexion.

These remarks should not lead you into thinking that rugby is anything but a well-bred game. A certain amount of robust animalism is admitted, but even the dirt is dished out with an air, and sometimes an apology. No such common displays are permitted, as for example, that habit in Australian rules when the gentleman who has kicked a goal flings exultant arms to heaven, and is immediately engulfed in a back slapping orgy. The nearest you get to that in rugby is each team politely cheering its opponents at the conclusion of the game; and even that has its good points, for it tells you who won, which is the team that cheers first—unless it is a draw, and then you are sunk!

Each team can be divided roughly into two groups. The backs are the glamor boys who, when not careering around at speed, try to look like greyhounds straining at the leash, and watch the forwards who plod continuously around the countryside performing the function of an "I" tank.

Occasionally, the forwards congeal into a heavy mass of odiferous humanity known as a scrum. There are two kinds; one after a stoppage of play is the "tight," and the other, that just happens when everyone is tired and wants someone to lean on, is the "loose," because any of the combatants can cut out fast and loose.

At the end of the season each club is bluffed or dragooned into an austerity form of rigger known as "seven-a-side," that is vastly entertaining to watch. This particu-

TUG-OF-WAR ACROSS TORRENS.—On Wednesday, 2nd, Science freshers were victorious (?) and dragged the vastly outnumbered Engineering freshers, who were feeling the after effects of the previous night's initiation, into the river. The wet Engineers then engineered the downfall of Science.

lar form of sadism is a knockout competition; each game lasts seven minutes each way, and the side which has the misfortune to win is expected to repeat the hara-kiri in an hour's time.

Players of experience are habitually crippled in the first round and so permitted to depart with a semblance of honor and a free ticket for the finals. But it's drawing close to the first match, so if you will excuse me, I'll go sharpen the nails in my boots.

—:—:— ROWING

BOAT CLUB BRIDGE EVENING

On December 4 last year, months of careful planning and preparation culminated in a riot of colorful gaiety, excitement and splendour when nearly 800 rich guests thronged the Refectory and Lady Symon Hall around the neat baize tops of 200 bridge tables—a small part of the total apparatus supplied by the hard working members of the Ladies' Committee. To those responsible for this momentous effort to make the Boat Club solvent, Mesdames Hardy, Moncrieff, Hamilton and Muirhead, the president and joint secretaries respectively, and the other fifty-odd members of the senior and junior ladies' committees, our heartfelt thanks go out. Theirs was sterling work, and to them it was due that at the closing meeting held on December 13 we were able to announce a net taking of £151/19/6, to which must be added the subsequently received sum of £3/2/—a record achievement in the annals of Boat Club bridge evenings. (The other one, held by the club in 1933 to raise funds to buy a coach's launch, as this one was to raise funds to repair it, brought just over £100, though it is fair to point out that money is cheaper now.) Supper, drinks and lucky prizes were donated by committee members, and the latter two sold at high prices to our guests, who left poorer and wiser, but on the whole, we think, well contented. They bought nobly of our wares, and we thank them in the same breath with those who made their buying possible.

Rowing

The main third term event still unreported is the winning of the senior eights race at the opening regatta, from Torrens, by about half a canvas. This was a disappointing race for us, a lead of over a length at the willows being dropped by the Adelaide shed; our rating is unknown, but as the captain of the boats remarked in his cynical way,

"Whatever it was, it was on the slides."

The end of last year found the club with enough members to fill three eights, a pair and a scull. Of these, about twenty were already training for trial eights. Notable amongst the enthusiasts who applied pressure to the saner members to row through the whole four months of the vac. were those who were themselves tied to office stools for the greater part of that period. Others, however, intended to make some money in stand-up jobs farther from the madding crowd, and rowing lapsed from late December to early February. Then the gathering began again, at first in fours and pairs, and later in trial eights, from which the following inter-Varsity crew was tentatively picked by the end of the first week of this term: Jim Muirhead (bow), John Heitmann (2), Jack Hill (3), Kevin Magarcy (4), Joe Whitehouse (5), Tony Abbott (captain of boats, 6), Bob Couter (7), Ian Furler (stroke); cox as yet undecided; Alan Curry, emergency. Five of these oarsmen rowed in last year's crew, one rowed in last year's King's Cup, one was one of Mr. Qurban's lights in the Torrens Club, and one rowed for Saints before he joined the army, so we have high hopes. We are to be honored with another year of Dr. Lansell Bonnin's invaluable services as coach, for which we are duly and sincerely grateful. He was assisted in the work of selection by Messrs. Stan Facy and Fru Bonnin. John Lindon has been elected practice captain to organise practice crews from the remainder of the club. This is a notable advance on previous first term procedure, which has usually been to let all rowing other than the eight organise itself; we are extremely lucky to have got the services of this well-known oarsman as a coach, and we recommend freshmen and others with ambitions in this sport to make use of the opportunity and contact one of the club officials as posted on the Refectory notice board without delay.

As is the custom of the club, further and more intimate details of the eight will be published later when the necessary information has been gleaned.

—:—:— HOCKEY

It has been arranged that each grade will have one main night for training, when everyone in the team is expected to turn out.

A and B grades, Tuesday, 5.5 p.m.
B and D grades, Wednesday, 5.5 p.m.

(Continued on Page 8)

RANDOM HARVEST

—Winnowed by "Sport."

Hugh Douglas, who topped the A grade batting aggregate this season with 568 runs, is one of several 'Varsity players who many thought should have been in the Sheffield Shield team. Jack Tregonning, Don Beard and Ben Goode are others, but there seems to be a deep-rooted dislike against students amongst the State selectors. Lord knows there is plenty of room for fresh faces in the State side. Let's hope the 'Varsity will be represented next year, as it should have been this season.

* * *

The rowers, preparing for the Inter-'varsity in May, are just a little worried about their precious shell, for Westralians Brien Vivian and Bob Paton doing Med. here, have brother Harley and Jim respectively, in their home-State eight, and sabotage is feared. But as one of them said, "I'm far too busy in other directions to worry about such a silly sport. Besides, if they can't dodge a row-boat in the harbor, they won't trouble the Westralian eight. They will probably sink before the finish, anyway."

* * *

The first rugger enthusiasts were out before Easter. Watched a little band of them jogging round the University Oval, with a perspiring and portly gentleman bringing up the rear (and what a rear!) He momentarily blotted out the old horse leaning over the fence, who followed him round with incredulous eyes. You could almost hear him saying, "and on only two feet, too." As he swung into side view I recognised him as Alan Kerr-Grant, who was the main support of the forwards last year, now putting in some early training for the Inter-'varsity in May.

* * *

Pity more clubs cannot run their A.G.M. with the speed and lack of bull that characterised the football club's. Their ex-president, Dr. Gunning, snatched it out of the doldrums and had its officials elected and all business conducted in twenty-four minutes flat. In contrast, the Athletic Club dithered around for ten minutes or so to elect one vice-president. Dr. Gunning's example of speed inspired Don Robinson to whip through his lengthy report in something like sixty seconds. The main point was that last year they won most matches except the most important—the grand final.

* * *

Tennis followers are a bit sore over the selection of the Inter-'varsity team that played recently in Sydney. Plenty of club players, yet the powers-that-be chose one who played for a different club. Personally, I say that if a person plays sport but not with his University club, he should not be a member of the Union, and definitely should not be picked for an Inter-'varsity with the chance of a "blue" at the expense of some enthusiast who has played for the University all the season.

* * *

Club Plug.—This is your chance, club secretaries, of airing all your wibes, personal dislikes, snappy cracks, all the low down—anything short of downright libel (and we might get some of that past when Don Thompson's not looking). Send your efforts in to the "On Dit" box in the Ref. or make sure I hear about it.

S.R.C. News

FILMS

At the last S.R.C. meeting, Miss Elizabeth Robin reported that films could be borrowed and hired for screening during the lunch-hour. The meeting then decided to appoint a sub-committee who would be responsible for all the details in connection with the screening of films. Miss Robin was elected convener, and in addition, the following—Miss Prest, Mr. Robertson and Mr. G. Smith.

The first film to be screened has been borrowed from the Educ. Dept. and is called "Toscanini." As one might expect, it depicts the life of the composer, Toscanini, and apparently it does this rather well in the eyes of Dr. Malcolm Sargent.

It has been decided to charge 6d. admission to enable the committee to hire films when they are available in the future. The Toscanini film will be screened on Monday, April 14, at 1.20 p.m. in the Physics Lecture Theatre, and will take approx. 35 mins. to run through.

FACULTY SURVEYS

Mr. G. F. Smith, from Social Science, was appointed as Faculty Survey convener at the last S.R.C. meeting. In this capacity it is his job to encourage and assist student reps. from Degree and Diploma Courses to carry out Faculty surveys during this year. Association secretaries should obtain further information from Mr. Smith.

The value of a complete survey of student opinion throughout our University can readily be seen, and further, the value of a complete survey in all Universities in Australia, is apparent. It will enable Faculty Associations, S.R.C. and the N.U.A.U.S. to know in as complete a manner as possible what students think of their courses, the various University clubs, student representation, sports fees, eating accommodation, and other such matters.



TOOTH CHATTER

(By "Cuspid")

On Thursday, March 27, at 8 p.m., Dr. M. W. Evans welcomed the lady and gentlemen members of the Dental Students' Society to the A.G.M. for 1947, held in the lecture theatre at the Dental Hospital, Frome Road.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Evans stated that he had never before seen so many students in the lecture theatre, but since the main entertainment for the evening was in the form of a conjurer who had to leave early, he (Dr. Evans) would postpone his annual remarks re "blacksmiths, commercial travellers, pre-examination blackouts and the only incurable tissue in the human body," until later in the evening.

The next half-hour or so was taken over by Mr. Jack Stevens. The secretary was completely fooled by cards disappearing and reappearing through the soles of his own shoes, and everyone present was "stung" twice.

The officers of the society for 1947 were elected as follows: Patron—Dr. Maddern; President—Dr. Evans; Vice-Presidents—Mr. L. R. Boyle and Mr. J. B. Leach; Secretary—Mr. G. J. Pfeiffer; Treasurer—Mr. Napier; "On Dit" Rep.—"Cuspid."

In his presidential address, Dr. Evans explained the place of the dentist in the community. He pointed out that our friends in the medical profession only make conditions favorable for Nature to heal, whereas the dental surgeon has to deal with the only tissue in the body which does not heal, and when

DID YOU KNOW?

Believe it or not, other people's opinions are sometimes worth considering; and that's one reason why the S.C.M. runs a series of lunch-time study circles.

Between 1.20 and 2 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, you have an unequalled opportunity to throw mud at almost anything, and even a chance to piece together the fragments of what was once your system of thoughts about living. "You may feel that Christianity to-day means to the bulk of the people what beer means to others; that it is something imbibed on Sundays, not on Saturdays, giving a satisfaction as vague, but a great deal more smug." Or, once the novelty of purely destructive criticism has worn a bit, you may feel that a way of thinking that has changed the lives of so many people over 2,000 years, is worth some study.

And if you're just "not interested," whatever you do, don't come along, because you might be!

Study circles running now, are:
Monday.—"What Christians Believe," led by Miss Nina Morrison.

Tuesday.—The Oslo Conference Study—"One World For One God"; leader, Rev. G. R. Stirling; in the committee room, George Murray Building. A series of tutorials on "The Background of the Bible," by Rev. J. Bryant, in room 1 of Maths. building.

Thursday.—Two circles, especially for freshers, led by Rev. Potts and Rev. D. H. Pike, on "Practical Christianity"; upstairs, George Murray. "Christian Experience of the Holy Spirit," Ken Newman, room 1, Maths. building.

Friday.—"Advance Australia, Where?" led by Bruce Cheek, on the balcony of the George Murray.

AQUINAS SOCIETY

On Tuesday, March 11, a large number of members were present in the George Murray Hall to welcome almost as large a number of new members. His Grace the Archbishop of Adelaide was present, and in welcoming the freshers impressed upon them the need for an active and apostolic faith in their new sphere of life.

The occasion was a memorable one for freshers, as each was presented by the president, Mr. Hannan, C.M.G., K.C., to His Grace. Students from the C.R.T.S. Ex-servicemen's School were conspicuous among them.

Mr. Hannan welcomed the freshers and spoke so eloquently of the need for a College at the University that Kevin Ward spontaneously suggested a practical contribution from members of the society. He was seconded by Ted McHugh, and the outcome was that the meeting unanimously agreed that each member should contribute ten shillings to the Aquinas College fund, before the end of next month. That this need not be taken as a maximum may be appreciated when it is borne in mind that Mr. Hannan estimated that £25,000 would be necessary to endow the College, of which sum a little over £4,000 is in hand.

After a couple of games organised

he might not achieve perfect results (through no fault of his own), there are always some patients who are not satisfied. It is necessary to approach Dentistry from the professional rather than the commercial aspect.

(Incidentally, if there are any readers who would volunteer to sacrifice their teeth for the advancement of the science of Dentistry, he or she should communicate with the Dental Hospital.)

by Marj. Crook, which shattered the ice, there was a little singing and considerable dancing to the music of John Smerdon's Correct Rhythm Band, in which the piano pre-dominated.

HIKE

On the first Sunday of term, the Aquinas committee organised a most enjoyable and friendly hike in the hills. John Smerdon, who has been doing Aquinas hikes for some five years now, claims that it was the best yet, even better than the memorable "Hike to the Gorge" in '45.

There is some talk of the next hike being held on Anzac Day, so my advice is "start training right now." These hikes are worth enduring.

APATHY IN ARTS

The A.G.M. of the Arts Association was held in the Lady Symon Hall on Monday, March 31. Attendance was not good, but we hope that those who were staunch and interested enough to come found it worth their while. At this meeting, a new constitution was submitted, based on the two other incoherent documents which were in the possession of the association. After some lively discussion of certain clauses, this new constitution was adopted by a unanimous vote. After the business of elections had been dealt with, Mr. R. L. Bray gave an interesting talk on U.N.R.R.A. in Germany, describing his activities there, and giving us an idea of the tremendous amount of organising, disposing, persuading and even bluffing that had to be done before matters started to tidy themselves a little. Discussion continued during supper. The association is most grateful to Mr. Bray for consenting to address members.

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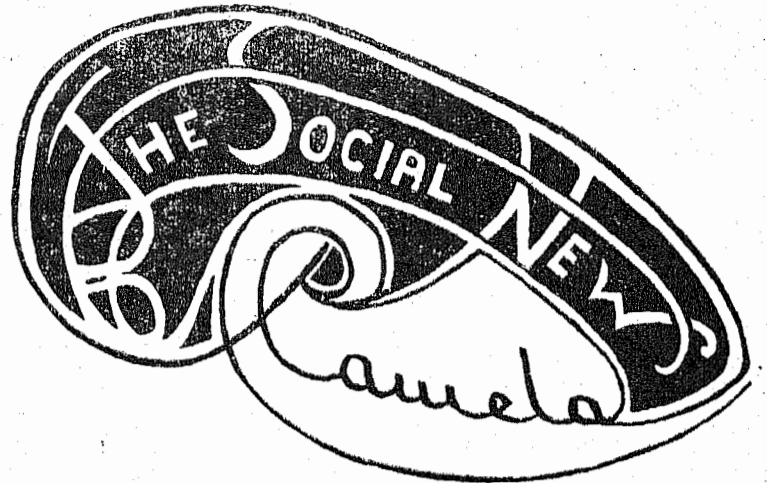
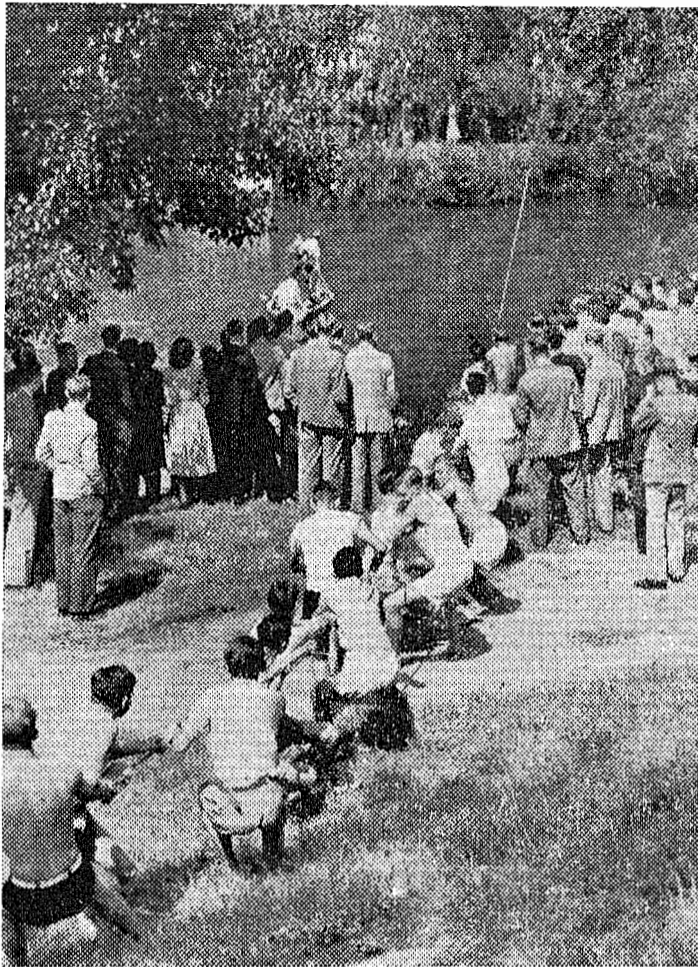
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SPORTS DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

On UNIVERSITY OVAL

Entries close April 14



INTER-VARSITY TENNIS

Seven of our most prominent tennis players left last Friday week for Sydney to play in the inter- varsity tennis matches. John Diggle captained the team; he was at one time schoolboy champion of Victoria, and played inter-varsity tennis for Melbourne; at the end of last year he came to Adelaide to finish his medical course and played A grade, captaining the University team at the Memorial Drive. He is a Varsity Blue, and a very accurate left-hander.

Gavin Battye, the vice-captain, is a married ex-serviceman taking an engineering course. He played tennis for P.A.C. and the Varsity before the war; he is a Varsity Blue and has played A grade tennis for University at the Drive.

Jack Haun is also an ex-serviceman, doing commerce, who, during last season, played for the East Torrens A team. He was in the final of the district tennis.

Malcolm Bills, known to many as a pianist, played tennis for University A during last season at the Drive. He was a prominent hard-court player before he played for the Varsity.

Michael Astley is a second year law student. He captained St. Peter's tennis team in 1945, and won the schoolboys' open championship in that year; he also played for the University A during last season.

Captaining the B team at the Drive last season was Graham Brookman. He is also a married ex-serviceman. In the B grade team at the Drive last season was Howard Welch, a medical student. He played for P.A.C. in 1944-45 in the inter-college team.

EASTER VACATION

Professor Mark Mitchell had planned to spend part of the holiday on his farm.

Sir Stanton Hicks had decided to spend Easter in his garden, and Dr. Graham Andrew added, "It is quite a garden," since there are six acres. Gardening and reading were the choice of Professor McKellar Stewart and Professor FitzHerbert who would spend part of the time working and preparing lectures. Professor Campbell had decided to intersperse a great deal of work with gardening and tennis.

Gardening would not be undertaken by Professor Wood, professor of botany, who assured me he believed in having "a great deal of concrete in any garden" and that is understandable; but Sir Douglas Mawson, professor of geology, had planned to spend part of Easter in geological field work with students.

Professor Portus wished to work on the chance "of not being interrupted in his study," and Professor Cornell said he must spend some of the time catching up work, the rest he would devote to his family.

Working both at the University and at home, Professor Abbie said there was a great deal of tidying up he must undertake, both in the anatomy school and in the garden. Professor Macbeth hoped to spend a quiet holiday at home, and Professor Robin also had planned a rest at home.

The other two engineering pro-

fessors had made exhaustive plans. Professor Willoughby said he was in desperation for a house so that most of his Easter would have to be spent house-hunting. He hoped there would be a little time to spend with his children or driving in the hills. Professor Davis also wished to drive in the hills as well as picnicking, hiking and gardening at his home at Brighton. No specific plans had been arranged by Professor Lew and Professor Sanders.

In a lighter vein Professor Jury said there was work to be done, but that he hoped to visit the Zoo, while Joan Cleland told me that Professor Cleland would collect specimens which he would try out on the family! Professor Sir Kerr-Grant had decided not to be idle; he said there was much work to be done if he chose, but that he was not a man of "virtues" which he defined as "golf, horse-racing and the cinema," but he said he thought he would go to a film.

ART INTEREST

Attractive Rosemary Fitch has a busy, but interesting year before her; in the third year of her arts course, Rosemary is taking English III, History, French and Political Science, and she has many outside interests in the Varsity. She had been elected the chairman and president of the newly organised "Students' Theatre Group" formed to encourage interest in theatrical art amongst students. From Sydney she has brought another new and interesting plan for the development of art in the Adelaide University. The suggestion is that we have an art exhibition of water-colors, oils, etchings, ink and pencil sketches, lino cuts and any form of art, classical, romantic or modern, done by Adelaide students. Later, if the work is prolific enough, inter- varsity art tours may be arranged. Peter Hamilton, from Sydney University, will send us information about this, as art exhibitions are customary there. Anyone who is artistically inclined, either as an original artist or a patron, please give your name to Rosemary or to me, and then we can gauge the practicability of an art exhibition in the Adelaide University.

SPORTS BALL

The first general University ball for 1947 will be held on Saturday, April 26. It is the Athletics Sports Dance which has been organised by the Athletics committee, represented by John Harbison, president; John Stevens and Don Selth, vice-presidents; Bill Proudman, secretary; George Morris, assistant secretary; Peter Dalwood, Colin Millard, Brian Coulls and Peter Harbison.

The dance will be held in the Refectory which will be very gay with its colored lights and floral decorations in autumn tonings. A committee of girls has been chosen to organise the decorations. They are Geraldine Coats, Helen Foster, Gwen Robertson, Joan and Betty Weller and Val Smith.

There will be a very good five-piece orchestra, and the supper has been undertaken by "Wanslea." Every provision has been made for a very pleasant and successful evening.

—PAMELA.

(Continued from page 6)

E, F and G grades, Thursday, 5.5
No excuses accepted!

The Inter- varsity carnival will be held in Melbourne during the second vacation.

New players are encouraged to ask any of the more experienced players for advice when out at training. There will be A and B grade players out on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, so don't forget to ask them—they will be delighted to help you.

Practice matches—keep your eye on the notice-board for arrangements for Saturday afternoon practice matches.

A GRADE CRICKET

BEST AVERAGES FOR 1946-47 SEASON

	Batting		H/S	T'tl	Av.
	In-nings	Not Out			
Smart	3	—	125	199	66.33
Douglas	12	—	104	568	47.33
Bennett	13	1	81*	405	33.75
Tregoning	14	1	69	403	31
Goode	14	2	79	349	29.08

Bowling

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av.
Whittle	19.1	4	53	5	10.60
Beard	119.5	15	410	19	21.57
Hone	110	4	528	24	22
Bennett	141.6	20	482	20	24.10
Tregoning	91	10	404	16	25.25

SHOOTING

Despite the counter attraction of the freshers' tug-of-war, the Rifle Club was reformed last Tuesday week. Mr. Starling, a former member and blue, was in the chair, and carried through a most successful meeting, and at its conclusion was elected president.

He gave a brief outline of how

the club functioned in the past. (It was disbanded in 1940.)

He assured us that it will be just the same now. The army are supplying each club two rifles per every five members, but the best shot is to buy your own. This costs £4, which you can spread over three years. A quid down and a quid a year.

The club hopes to start shooting in a week to a fortnight's time. It has its own shed on the range, ammo is supplied, and there is a Varsity team to be chosen for the inter-Varsity shoot in the second holidays.

Mr. J. H. Michael, a cove from Port Augusta, doing first year Science, was elected secretary, P. S. Toop, treasurer, and a committee consisting of W. C. Brooke, A. E. Wellborn, J. Morris and B. T. Oakie.

Dr. Dinning, an old "blue," was elected captain, and he suggests that all who wish to shoot this winter should see the secretary or himself for further particulars, and should secure enrolment forms from Mr. K. Hamilton without delay. Mr. Hamilton also is well genned up, and eager to help.

"COMING EVENTS CAST . . ."

Monday, 14th.—G. Meeting of A.E.U. Gliding Club.

Wednesday, 16th.—Special G.M. of S.C.M., Lady Symon, 1.15 p.m.

Thursday, 17th.—Jazz Appreciation, Lady Symon, 1.15 p.m.

Friday, 18th.—S.C.M. Social, Lady Symon, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 22nd.—Arts Association Meeting.

Wednesday, 23rd.—Hon. R. S. Richards, Lady Symon, 1.15 p.m.

Thursday, 24th.—Jazz Society, Lady Symon, 1.15 p.m.

Saturday, 26th.—Athletics Ball, 5-piece band.

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