

5p. e.d.
THE LUCKY (VERY LUCKY) LAST ISSUE!

ON DIT

PUBLISHED FOR THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY S.R.C.

Vol. 15, No. 11.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1947.

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THE WANDERIN' WOMEN BLUES

DURING the last vacation our 'Varsity women again proved their superiority by winning both the hockey and basketball inter-Varsity contests. There is no foundation in the rumor that the theme tune of the other Universities is "Baby, Won't You Please Go Home".

No Hicks with the Sticks

Women's hockey matches were competed in Melbourne on September 25-29. The Adelaide University was represented by B. Wall (capt.), H. Jenkins (vice-capt.), Jo Kelly, M. Fricker, M. Williams, J. Hazelgrove, P. Thyer, J. Wood, V. Pittfield, M. McTaggart, R. Dow, with C. Holder and S. Morris as reserves.

Teams representing 'Varsities were Vic., W.A., Tas., N.S.W., and S.A.

First day's play saw a victory for S.A. over the Tas. team by 3 goals to 2. Score at half time was 2-0 in our favor, then the Tassy team rallied and equalled, 2 goals all. Then it was a bitter struggle for both teams, S.A. just managing to

score the final goal a few minutes before the whistle.

Next on the S.A. list of conquests was Victoria. Up till half time only 1 goal had been scored, and this one by S.A., but after the half time rest S.A. had a fairly easy run and rattled on 4 more goals, while Victoria was held scoreless, and S.A. run out easy winners at 5 goals to nil.

The match against Queensland on Wednesday appears to have been really tough going (for Queensland). The Adelaide team scored a mere 22 goals while Queensland, like Victoria, couldn't push the ball through our net once.

One of the highlights of the women's Inter-varsity hockey matches was on Thursday, when a battle royal between W.A. and S.A. was played. After seventy minutes of struggling neither team had scored. It was in this match that Jo Kelly acquired a beautiful green finger—squashing it between two sticks—and Mary McTaggart collected a "sock on the jaw." They bring 'em up tough in the West!

The match against N.S.W. was again a grim struggle, and again a drawn match at nil all.

Because W.A. had been defeated by Tas., and N.S.W. defeated by W.A., South Australia, who did not lose a match, won the shield.

Good combination by all members was the main cause for our victories,

APPLICATIONS FOR EDITORS

Due to the established precedent of harassed "On Dit" and Phoenix editors giving the game away and/or breaking down at the end of each year, applications are now being received for the position of editors for both publications.

Previous experience does not necessarily debar, but the applicant should have either a cast iron constitution, well developed sense of humor, and be impervious to the student mind, or an excellent doctor with considerable patience but few patients.

and every member pulled her weight, and we all congratulate them on their win.

On September 30 a combined University team played the Victorian State team, and the State team won 4 goals to 2. South Australia was represented by B. Wall (left half-back), Val. Pittfield (goalie), while M. Fricker was reserve.

An interesting note about the Inter-varsity hockey is that while S.A. scored 30 goals, we had only 2 goals scored against us.

The "Net" Result

For the second time in succession and the third time altogether, we have managed to keep the Inter-varsity Cup within our grasp. Our team consisted of Alison Day (captain), Margaret Wall, Diana Wauchope, Patricia Hill, Diana Eldridge, Edith Kirkman, Kay Wall, Pam Lewis, Pat Anderson and Margaret Brookes. Probably the best match of the carnival was played on a Thursday morning in brilliant sunshine, when Adelaide played Melbourne. Both teams had not lost a match, easily defeating all their opponents, and this match was the deciding factor of the winners of the carnival. Play was bad at first due to tension on both sides, and early in the game the Victorians were very unlucky to lose their captain, Dorothy June Turner, who had to retire due to a knee injury. However, the game was very close — 20-18 — in Adelaide's favor, Alison Day and Margaret Wall playing outstandingly. Other results were:

W.A. d. Queensland, 30-20.
 Melbourne d. Sydney, 31-14.

Adelaide d. W.A., 37-7.
 Melbourne d. Queensland, 56-10.
 Melbourne d. Perth, 53-3.
 Adelaide d. Tasmania, 53-14.
 Sydney d. Queensland, 32-11.
 Melbourne d. Tasmania, 47-7.
 Sydney d. W.A., 37-24.
 Tasmania d. W.A., 22-20.
 Adelaide d. Queensland, 49-9.
 Sydney d. Tasmania, 39-21.
 Queensland d. Tasmania, 29-28.
 Adelaide d. Sydney, 30-20.

In the combined team, Melbourne was well represented by Diana Rogerson, Minerva Conyers, Nancy Watson, Peggy Hannan, and Eleanor Mary Wood; also Alison Day and Margaret Wall were chosen from Adelaide. This team was easily defeated by the S.A. State team by 35 goals to 8.

Entertainments for the visiting teams included an afternoon tea at St. Ann's College, dinner at John Martin's followed by an evening at the pictures, a picnic in the hills, and a dance at the home of the club president, Mrs. Ray Hone.

CONFER, REFER AND DEFER!!

VAC BRIC-A-BRAC

Student Congress (N.U.A.U.S.)—Jan. 19-29, Somers, Victoria.
 Catholic Federation—Jan. 20-26, Brisbane, Queensland.
 Student Christian Movement—Jan. 7-15, Armidale, N.S.W.
 Inter-varsity Fellowship—Jan. 14-22, Thornleigh, N.S.W.
 I.V.F. Theological Students' Conference—Jan. 22-27, Strathfield, N.S.W.
 Student Labor Federation Conference—Jan. 8-15, Yarra Junction, Victoria.
 Aquinas Conference—Holiday House, Mt. Lofty, Dec. 5.

There are probably S.C.M., E.U. and Socialist Club local conferences, but "On Dit" has not been notified, so check on your notice-boards in the Refectory.

W.E.A. BOOKROOM

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EDITORIAL

ERRATIC
ERRATA

● S.R.C.

Many who suspect that I now view the S.R.C. with somewhat jaundiced eyes have entertained the fancy that I would derogate and castigate the S.R.C. in this issue. They are wrong. The task of defining S.R.C. to so many is too overwhelming.

While advertng fully to the excellence of Mr. Hetzel as president of the S.R.C. before his unfortunate resignation, and while acknowledging the good fortune of the 1947 S.R.C. in having a redeeming feature in his efficient executive, I nonetheless consider that his action in questioning my opponent in the S.R.C. elections on a point in my election policy, was unfair and ill-considered.

I refer to the question of politics in the S.R.C. The answer to the question contributed to the prevalent heresy of the political nature of "On Dit."

The political aspect of S.R.C. can be adduced from the S.R.C. telegram to the N.S.W. Minister of Justice attacking the accepted protectors of law and order in a democracy—the police force.

Then came the S.R.C. sponsored general meeting to raise aid for an appeal against the considered judgment of the legally constituted authority of the court, and to protest against the action of the police in preventing a throng from entering a building to protest on an emotional and political issue. We have seen during the past week what damage can happen to a building such as the Trades Hall when only a few people clash on a similar issue.

The police are to be congratulated for prompt action, and it is high time the public decided to co-operate with them rather than both actively and passively hindering the forces that continually work with scant recognition of their services for public welfare and protection.

The attack on the stalwarts of law and order follows the well trodden slide of extreme Leftist policy.

● POLITICAL ILLUSION.

Despite certain sotto voce comments, "On Dit" represents no line of political thought. In reflecting the internal political wrangling of this University, it has presented every side contributed by students. If the Socialists have not presented their arguments for publication in "On Dit," or have not answered attacks made by other students through "On Dit," then they have no one to blame but themselves, and should not winge for redress.

EVERY letter and article from students defending the Socialist cause or attacking the editor, received prior to the last issue of "On Dit" before suspension, has been published. The SOLE exception was a letter from our old comrade, Mr. Dunstan, which far exceeded the frequently stated limit, and which not only did not defend Socialism, but in contradiction of ethics threw a slur on the character of a contributor who signed himself "Student Socialist."

Any statement contrary to the above claims can be dismissed as nothing but a prevarication of the most contemptible dimensions.

It is easy for the Socialists to refrain from defending themselves and then to seek sympathy on the score that "On Dit" did not give them an opportunity; but it is a mean and despicable stratagem.

Socialist Mr. Jeff Scott and some fellow Socialists commenced this year with an attempt to intimidate the editor. The limits of Socialist power and significance within this University were inferred as being between Hell and high water, and that, therefore, the editor would be most unwise if he protested against the extraordinary S.R.C. by-elections.

"On Dit" refused to be intimidated, and the Socialists vented their spleen in the childish though typically totalitarian act of burning "On Dit."

So much for Socialist Club claims.

● I WAS WRONG

I am quite resigned to the fact that this admission will be avidly seized upon by the detractors who are inevitably present among such a non-homogeneous assortment of old women as graces the student Union. However, I would be little short of dishonest if I failed to admit to the students that I was in error regarding student autonomy.

During the last S.R.C. elections, when the TEN PER CENT. of students in the Union who did vote had to be coerced into so doing, it was patently obvious that students were not interested in representation, or much else!

Since I have been on the Union Council, I have had an opportunity to compare the rapid, efficient, fair and responsible conduct of its meetings, the capable, mature and responsible manner which it deals with complex administration, domestic finance and the intricacies of finance, with the conduct of S.R.C. meetings, administration and finance. The S.R.C. is sincere in its attempt, but there is no comparison.

Then there is the scarcely responsible move of the S.R.C. to eject the graduates from the Union!

These considerations have forced me to the conclusion that the students are in no measure prepared to receive the added responsibilities of greater representation and autonomy.

In the light of the above conclusions and the fact that the present system of administration is as efficient and adequate as could be desired, I feel that any further representation is unnecessary, and that majority representation on the Union Council would be most foolhardy and inopportune.

● IN CONCLUSION.

I thank the "On Dit" staff and those who have co-operated with "On Dit" during the period for which I have been editor.

DON THOMPSON.

MY DAZE

In the Dog House with
Eleanor Bruisefelt

WELL, dears, since the editor evidently has been so pressed for material that he should finally break down and ask me to contribute another article, I may as well take advantage and bite the hand that feeds me, as it were; and, unless these little stories that have been circulating about the one-sidedness of "On Dit" are true, this column will be printed in toto, which my dears, means the "whole works," cellophane wrapping and all.

A song a day keeps the editor at bay, especially when it is dedicated to him, so call in the Southern Jazz Group, and as my compatriot and great American diplomat, Bob Dyer, would say—let it flicker. Believe me, he does!

"Smarty,
Though I'm not quite as smart as you,
I can teach you a thing or two.
Fools may come and fools may go,
But you're the biggest I'll ever know.
Can't you see if you weren't so smart,
You would learn to be twice as smart?
Smarty!"

While I am in the poetical strain—you've said it, dearie, "suppress that stress"—here is a sonnet conglomerate, an ode a la mode, pallid ballad, a verse to curse, a rhyme crime dedicated to a rabbit with a habit—Read on, MacDuff, I know it's tough, but the sap is on tap and the editor said keep it clean so I have to be mean. Let not the inspiration end in expiration. Hallelujah! The next bit is in verse, Mr. Compositor. Thank you!

With clumsy mien
you vent your spleen
upon the erring Socialist.
In so doing
you are not only not wooing
Fame or Success,
but with your comments so
reckless
will surely end on the black list
in this citadel of pervisity
at the Adelaide University,
where the suddenly religious
can be verily prodigious,
and wily the spate
of thought in the heads
that slyly gestate
the Spiritual Reds.

This Christian movement
gains no improvement
from these Christ swayers
from these Christ deniers
and Godless hi-flyers,
for there's a great deal of piance
in that unholy alliance,
when Christian society
forgets all propriety
and embraces in bed,
far worse than old Ned,
material philosophy
which denies all theosophy.

Such a move to the Left
with materialist haste,
though certainly bereft
of more than spiritual taste,
will surely ostracise
the fools who criticise
both the larrison Red
and his fellow well bred.
Soft disparagement here,

Confident scorn and calumny there;
aye, petty
Repartee
will bring your failure near
and scorned you will be every-
where.

[Next part rapidentment, tout de suite,
etc., but hurry]—

Remember, when the lies
begin to organise
it's just as wise
to vaporise!

So, bear in mind Mister Editor,
be prepared to forgo credit or
you will have to crawl
to riff raff and all.
But now, believe me, dear Sir,
I'd be an absolute cur
if I did not admit
that, 'twixt morous so fickle
and the hammer and sickle
the sad task of "On Dit"
is up only the alley
of a Mister O'Malley!

Noticed an article "I Follow a
Band" by a rival columnist in an
early "On Dit," 1947, seepage that
is, I remember that at the time
having seen the correspondent in
action I would have been more in-
clined to say that the band followed
her. I bet their music was hot!

Heard Comrade Tomsin, ex-comic
artist of "De-pravda World"—hear!
hear! — snorting contemptuously
about Reds and parlor pinks infil-
trating in S.R.C. and split votes
among the Rights and Centres. I
cannot say that I'm much interested
in these things. Personally, I can-
not see why if a group are pro-
gressive and interested they should
be decied if they want to take upon
their shoulders the work attached
to running the Students' Representa-
tive Council.

What matters if they are a min-
ority, they are at least interested,
which is more than most students,
and a survey of this and next year's
S.R.C. executive shows that they are
to be commended for their energy.

1947: Peter Hetzel (Socialist Club,
S.C.M.), president; Barbara Kidman
(Socialist Club, S.C.M.), vice-presi-
dent; Ren Potts (Socialist Club,
S.C.M.) treasurer; V. Pulford (sec-
retary). The above executive re-
signed during the year, and G.
Smith (Socialist Club) and D. Dun-
stan (Socialist Club) became presi-
dent and secretary resp.

1948: K. Magarey (president),
Elizabeth Robin (Socialist Club),
vice-president; John Roder (Socialist
Club, S.C.M.), secretary; T. Gawne
(Socialist Club, S.C.M.), treasurer.

Mr. Dunstan (president, Socialist
Club) was narrowly defeated by Mr.
Magarey for S.R.C. president. How-
ever, he is a student representative
on the Union Council. G. Smith (So-
cialist Club) is secretary-treasurer
N.U.A.U.S., J. F. Scott (Socialist
Club) is debates secretary.

With an imposing record of energy
like this, the Socialist Club deserve
to be congratulated. It is a pity
more students were not as ener-
getic.

The S.C.M. does not stand for
Socialist Club Movement, but is
merely the Student Christian Move-
ment.

ELEANOR.

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BELIEF in international co-operation appears to be at a discount at the moment. Mention it in a casual conversation, and in nine cases out of ten one elicits a shrug, snort or sneer. Nevertheless, international actions in many branches of human endeavor are meeting with singular success. One of the more recent examples is the monthly "Excerpta Medica," which was established a few months ago in Amsterdam, Holland.

Every month this periodical appears in fifteen volumes, each volume dealing with a special branch of medicine and each giving a complete review—in English—of what has been published in its special domain.

Every day 400 editors and 3,000 correspondents send in their contributions which have been culled from 6,000 periodicals. Specialists in Berlin, Buenos Aires, San Francisco, Tokio, London and Glasgow, Moscow

and Odessa, Amsterdam and The Hague, in short wherever medical publications appear, are watching for new developments.

Nobody of course could read and digest the entire 15 volumes each

month. Take for instance the first volume of the first series, dealing with Dermatology and Venereology. This volume alone consists of 96 large pages, and the total number of pages of the complete series is estimated to average 14,000 annually. Before the war, somewhat similar publications appeared in Germany, which was then the central point of scientific publishing; Springer's "Central Blatter and Berichte," but long before Holland was liberated, Dutch publishers made plans to shift this centre to Holland. They were convinced that Germany would be defeated in the end, and would be made to pay up. The Netherlands Government, exiled to London, was advised of these plans through underground channels. It gave its

blessing and the signal to go ahead. Three publishing firms: Meulenhoff, Querido and the A.B.C. Scientific Publishing Company are co-operating in this particular venture. Already five Dutch printing works are employed to keep up with the demand.

Unesco circles are elated with the efforts of the Dutch publishers. Something like the "Excerpta Medica" must be established for every science, they say. And not only in English, but also in French and Spanish. For the time being, however, the Dutch publishers will content themselves with English which is more and more becoming the international language. Other languages will be considered later, if found necessary.

SYNTHETIC PRODUCTION OF VITAMIN A ACHIEVED BY DUTCH SCIENTISTS

ALTHOUGH the chemical structure of Vitamin A was the first to be elucidated, nobody has succeeded so far in synthesizing this substance, i.e. in preparing it chemically.

It is true, that in 1937 Kuhn & Morris published a statement that they were able to prepare a concentrate synthetically, but the low yield made it appear impossible a priori to apply this method in practice. Apart from that, even the most eminent chemists have never succeeded in confirming this find, and since Kuhn & Morris themselves never returned to this subject either, it was doubted whether they had really succeeded in synthesising vitamin A. Nevertheless, attempts to approach a synthesis of vitamin A were continued in many laboratories all over the world, because it is estimated that the present output of fish liver concentrates, from which vitamin A was hitherto derived, supplies only 1/3rd of the world's need.

In 1943 the problem of synthesising vitamin A was taken in hand by two Dutch scientists, Dr. J. F. Arens and Dr. A van Dorp, who are employed in the laboratories of the "Organon" Chemical Works at Oss, Holland. They succeeded in obtaining a substance which differed only very little from vitamin A, in 1944. This was the so-called vitamin A acid, whereas vitamin A itself is an alcohol. Starting with beta-ionone and coupling this with γ -bromocrotonic ester, it was possible to obtain a substance containing 17 carbon atoms in the same position as the first 17 carbon atoms of the vitamin A molecule. This substance was converted into a C_{18} ketone by using a modified method of Gilman with Lithium-methyl.

Reformatsky synthesis with esters of bromoacetic acid yielded a substance which only differed from vitamin A in this respect, that the last group is a COOH-group instead of the CH₂OH-group in vitamin A. This

substance was isolated in a crystalline form and called vitamin A-acid. It exerts the same qualitative activity in vitamin A-depleted rats, although it is not converted into vitamin A in the organism. It was not possible to reduce vitamin A-acid to vitamin A.

To synthesise the vitamin A itself, it was necessary to start again with the C_{18} ketone with ethoxyacetylenemagnesium-bromide, and subsequent

partial hydrogenation and rearrangement yielded the vitamin A aldehyde. In different stages of the process, chromatographic purification was applied. The conversion of vitamin A-aldehyde into vitamin A had already been described in literature, i.e., by Hunter and Hawkins in 1944. Their vitamin A-aldehyde had been prepared by Oppenauer oxidation of the natural vitamin A. The first vitamin A-aldehyde was synthesised by Dr. Arens and Dr. van Dorp this year, and shortly after the first totally synthetic vitamin A was prepared.

EXCLUSIVE NEWS ITEM TO "ON DIT"

T.B. Sanatorium for Dutch Students

THE social position of university students appears to be from the outside much more favorable than it is in reality in most countries. Allowances may be in most cases liberal enough to permit the student to pay his way, to be reasonably well dressed, to buy his three meals a day, but the margin allotted to "unessentials" is generally fairly narrow.

Probably the vexed dispute over what is and what is not essential between parents or other disbursers of allowances and the students, will always exist. Up till now the result has been that students economise on the "essentials." Food is invariably the first item to be saved upon. One warm meal a day instead of two or three is no exception. A disturbing consequence is the relatively high incidence of ill-health amongst students. In Holland, for instance, the susceptibility to tuberculosis is greater amongst university

students than amongst any other section of the community.

DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT

Sanatoria exist in Holland where T.B. patients can receive treatment regardless of their means or social standing. From the point of view of fostering a democratic spirit in the community, much can be said for obliging students suffering from T.B. to share wards in these institutions with people from all walks of life. The fact cannot be denied, however, that to force them to take part for months on end in conversations with grocers, wharfies and bricklayers, the tone and content of which is on a different level than the students are used to and—what is worse—from which they cannot escape, has an unfavorable effect on the progress of their cure. In addition the undergraduate is apt to worry about his future. His work stands still—he hates being left behind by his mates—he feels out of it.

DUTCH WEST INDIES GIFT

These are the reasons why a sanatorium exclusively for university students and where they can continue their studies in as far as their illness allows, has been established in

Laren, near Amsterdam. Thanks to the gift of a sum of money by the population of the Dutch West Indies to commemorate the resistance of Dutch students against the Nazis, it has been possible to buy a large country property which is suitable to be developed as a sanatorium. Up till now only 15 beds are available in the existing country house, but a number of pavilions will be built in the grounds eventually providing accommodation for the library, tutorial theatres.

Study will be considered as occupational therapy. The idea that T.B. patients may only think of their cure, must only be allowed to work during the later stadia of convalescence, has been rejected in favor of the conviction that occupation under medical supervision does not hinder the cure, but on the contrary speeds its progress. Tuition is given voluntarily by university professors and lecturers, and is mostly individual.

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EAST WITH SCOTT FUNCK GOES WEST!?

HOW ADELAIDE WON THE INTER-VARSITY DEBATE

ALL through the second term, inter-faculty debates were held during the Tuesday dinner-hour, and were finally won by an Arts team comprising Miss Heather Gubbins and Messrs. Rowen Osborn and Roger Opie. From all the debates heard during the series, four—Miss Lean Forrest (Social Science), Miss Heather Gubbins (Arts), Mr. Jeff Scott (Law), and Mr. Roger Opie (Arts) as leader—were chosen to represent Adelaide in the Inter-Varsity held in Canberra from August 18 to 22.

The team left on Wednesday, August 13 — most prophetic — and on Thursday debated against a team from Brighton Grammar School, when we took the side and subject which were to be ours in the first round. Our win here not only gave us some badly-needed confidence, but also enabled us to brush up our subject-matter.

We arrived in Canberra on Saturday morning, and settled in until Monday when all the other teams arrived. Queensland sent a team including 2 M.A.s, Sydney sent three of last year's winning team, and Melbourne, according to "Farrago," was to send a team which included a Dr. Magdalen Funck, from Breslau University, who had written two books on ascetics and philosophy. Unfortunately, this mysterious entity was mislaid on Albury railway station, and has not been seen since.

The first debate was held on Monday evening, when Canberra beat

Queensland decisively, taking the pro side of "That the strike is a justifiable weapon."

On Tuesday afternoon Sydney beat New England, when they denied "That the savage is happier than the civilised man," and in the evening Adelaide beat Melbourne on the negative side of "That rebellion is the right of the artist." This was probably our toughest fight, and even though the adjudicators were unanimous in their verdict, they agreed the struggle had been very close. Our team for that debate, in order of speaking, was Mr. Opie, Miss Gubbins and Miss Forrest, with Miss Gubbins summing up.

On Wednesday, Canberra beat Sydney in affirming "That this House has confidence in the rising generation," and in the evening, Adelaide beat Western Australia, denying "That women are more important than politics." This time our team was Mr. Opie, Miss Gubbins and

1948 "SONG" BOOK?

Facetious, fractious or fractured articles, stories and verse for the University nonsense book are wanted.

Write them during your re-lapse after the exams.

Mark contributions "Song Book," and leave them in the "On Dit" box or the Union Office.

Contributions should be bright but not trite.

Mr. Scott, with Miss Gubbins again replying. Just as the reply had clinched the first debate for us, so did the third speech win this one.

In the final on Thursday night, Adelaide had to meet Canberra, taking the negative of "That cultural relationships between nations are more important for maintaining the peace than economic relationships." Our team was the same as in the second round, with Mr. Opie replying this time. Though we had won the semi-final on a majority verdict, the judges were unanimous in awarding Adelaide the final, but again it had been very close.

At the conclusion of this debate, Oscar — the Philippines Cup — was handed over to the Adelaide team, filled with two bottles of sparkling burgundy, and drained very smartly. Adelaide now ties with Melbourne in being the only teams to have won Oscar twice in the six contests which have been held.

In conclusion, all the team wishes to thank Mr. V. A. Edgeloe for all the help and encouragement which he so willingly gave us during the whole of the second term, and Miss Nan Figgis, of Canberra, for the very successful inter-varsity.

LETTERS FROM OUR BETTERS

BO-PEEP OR NOT TO PEEP?

c/o 135 Duke Street,
Northam, W.A.,
23/9/47.

To the Editor,
Sir,—Re enclosed from "On Dit," 21/7/47. Why not name of author of Bo-a-constrictor? because I should say he is a coward.

"I believe that to Christianise the University is to destroy the University as such" could only be written by a person who does not believe in God. I would like to know his name and what profession he is taking up.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) EULALIA McDERMOTT.

(How about it "Bo"—or would it embarrass you in your S.C.M. circle, "On Dit" does not divulge identity of contributors without their permission.—EDITOR.)

* * *

ANSWER?

Sir,—May I, thro' your respected columns, reply to the above correspondence from Miss E. McDermott?

Dear Eulalia,—In reply to your letter (), may I say:

(a) To live in the past is sometimes vitally necessary. As somebody once said, "As the past is the pledge of the future, so . . . something or other . . ."

It is folly to close one's eyes to the lessons the past holds for us. Even tho' the catastrophe of Kjyloppe in 1526, as faithfully recorded by X'po, seems remote from this day and place, its lesson is vital, and demanding of all our attention. Just come and have a look at West Terrace Cemetery if you don't believe me. It's terrific. As far as you can see . . . in any direction, it stretches—and it is spreading . . . spreading . . . !

(b) I am not a medical student. And I know of lots of people who aren't who have little glass jars containing ashes; ashes, mark you, not bodies. It is cremation I am advocating, not pickling.

(c) If the Catholic Church is at all humanitarian, then, in view of the disaster of Kjyloppe it ought to revise its ideas on this subject before it is too late. "Ashes to ashes" as well as "Dust to dust," y'know.

My love to Auntie—

ERN.

I thank you, Sir, for granting that space in your most esteemed journal — put to the Cause of Humanity.

Yours, etc.,
ERN POTTS.

* * *

REPLY?

c/o 135 Duke Street,
Northam, W.A.,
23/9/47.

Mr. Ern Potts,
c/o The University of Adelaide,
Adelaide.

Dear Sir,—I read your letter in "On Dit" of 21/7/47, "Adelaide Dead."

As you say, Kjyloppe is in Lithuania and you refer to the year 1526.

You must be living in the past. I suppose some University students, particularly medical students, would like human remains in glass jars, but the Catholic Church believes in burying the dead.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) E. McDERMOTT.

FIFTY-FIFTY

Sir,—You should insist upon your correspondents limiting their letters to fifty words only, to economise on space.

If they cannot say what they want to in fifty words, then better they do not say it at all.

Yours,

BRIAN CLARIDGE.

Postscript: This letter contains fifty-one words—now.

Some Swearing — Tut! Tut!

[THE other day the new S.R.C. swore itself in.

At a dignified ceremony, as 100% attendance of new Councillors elected Magarey to Presidency, Roder to Secretaryship, and Gawne to the Treasury. These, with Elizabeth Robin, form the Executive of the 1948 S.R.C. Your representatives are listed elsewhere in this issue. (No waste space—sorry.—Ed.)

STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

Now that policy speeches and elections are over it would be interesting to see what is expected of this body of students. After all they are your representative councillors, tho' what they represent is very doubtful. They would probably say that they represent "student opinion." But you and we all know that, ultimately, there is no such thing. There are "students' opinions," but seldom do those opinions ever fuse together to form "student opinion." Not in this place, anyway.

Right from the outset, then, we have a division. Representation of student opinion, except for Salvador Dali or Hans Arp, is impossible. There is no such thing in reality.

Certainly, the Council does come to decisions and passes motions on this, that and the other—but generally in matters upon which the usual student has no knowledge whatever, and in which he has no interest. To wit, N.U.A.U.S. affairs. There are as many people who know what those letters stand for as there are who know what S.R.C. means.

This passing of motions is known as student autonomy. It is also known as humbug, and it is not long before the initially keen councillors themselves either realise the folly of the whole thing, or become so generally bored and disinterested, that they forget to come to the meetings anyway. A glance at the minutes book will show you that.

Recently the S.R.C. attempted an aid for Klugman campaign. Fortunately, this proved to be one of the rare occasions when student opinion did momentarily escape from the realms of unreality, and a few (comparatively) students fortunately thwarted the intentions of the Council—or rather part of the Council. It couldn't be said that the idea was backed by the entire Council. This is the sort of thing that happens, tho'. While "On Dit" is struggling in financial mire, the S.R.C. plans to help pay legal expenses for Sydney students who get themselves in trouble. It was a matter of principle, they said.

While students in no way connected with the S.R.C. sweat their blood out reviving, organising and running a Varsity procession, the S.R.C. debates on sending funds

to send a Sydney student to Prague for an International Congress.

While students in no way connected with the S.R.C. work their insides out organising and running a Students' Art Exhibition at the suggestion of the N.U.A.U.S., the S.R.C. sits back and discusses.

On that occasion, the president of the S.R.C. didn't know that the exhibition was meant to be an S.R.C. affair at all—he thought the Arts Assn. was running it. Such interest!

The prime movers on affairs such as Sports Assn. grants and aid to travelling teams, the 3 gn. "affair"—Refectory have invariably been other than S.R.C. members. Surely that should not be the case?

Charity and reform begin at home.

Let this new S.R.C. realise this, and let them concentrate in putting their own camp in order first; let them run next year's procession—and the Art Exhibition and the rest.

(WHAT ABOUT A REVUE?—EDITOR.)

Either they do that, or they pack up now.

JOE SOAP.

PRESIDENT'S POINT

Space will not permit me to give in detail the work which has been performed this year by the S.R.C. or any of its members. For a full account of this I would suggest that our critic and students generally should attend the Annual General Meeting early next year or when the S.R.C. considers the Secretary's Report at the end of this year.

The decision to call a general meeting regarding the launching of an appeal for arrested Sydney students seems quite a democratic procedure. It was certainly better than opening a fund without reference to the students, as could have been done. I would also like to point out that it is usual in democratic bodies for the minority to abide by the decision of the majority.

As the Art Exhibition occurred while I was President, I wish to assure "Joe Soap" that I and other S.R.C. members were quite aware that the Art Exhibition was an N.U.A.U.S. and an S.R.C. affair.

It is indeed regrettable that so many, including our critic, are not aware of the work S.R.C. members perform. We certainly appreciate the work performed by non S.R.C. members for the S.R.C., and hope that next year "On Dit" will be a more effective medium for reporting work done by the S.R.C.

G. F. SMITH, President S.R.C.

THIRD PARTY RISK

Since the Rt. Hon. the President has seen fit to commit to print the surreptitious detraction that he and his Socialist comrades have been subdolosely whispering, together with other aspersions equally as crafty, in a campaign of backstairs influence against "On Dit," it may be just as well to discuss the point he has raised, namely, that "On Dit" has not been an effective medium for reporting the S.R.C. and, when it has emanated, the work done by the S.R.C.

The average student is a little above being caught by the chaff of such "comradely" infences as this. Nevertheless, it is as well to nail such matters before they assume volcanic proportions.

Categorically then:

■ Where "the work done by the S.R.C." has eventuated it has been reported in "On Dit" (up to "On Dit's" suspension by the S.R.C.).

■ Dispassionate perusal of the 1947 "On Dit" yields evidence that no more could be done for the publicity of the S.R.C. without resorting to the baby's bottle.

■ Publicity for student autonomy compares favorably with that in the newspapers of other Universities.

■ The editor of "On Dit" incautiously stuck his neck out for student autonomy and/or(?) the S.R.C., and was left holding the bag when "the rains came."

■ S.R.C. consistently failed to afford practical co-operation to "On Dit."

■ Despite the fact that it was their own failure to supply an essential report on the Refectory to "On Dit" (not, let it be known, through any fault or remissions on the part of the editor) which precipitated the not altogether unwarranted fire and brimstone of Union authorities, the S.R.C. indulged in extreme vilification of the editor.

■ Finally, "On Dit" was suspended by the S.R.C. itself for lack of finance which resulted when the S.R.C. donated £50 (of the money it had raised on the students' behalf) to sending John Redrum to Prague. This £50 would have kept "On Dit" in existence. A suspended member is not in a position to publicise an S.R.C. Hence the absence of information appertaining to S.R.C. manoeuvring for the latter part of the year.

If Mr. Smith had his finger on S.R.C. activities he would know that the Art Exhibition to which "Joe Soap" referred, was that held in the first term, which occasion was celebrated with a special art edition of "On Dit." This special edition was off the editor's own bat without any glimmer of a suggestion from the S.R.C. The exhibition mentioned by Mr. Smith was the travelling curiosity of the N.U.A.U.S.

—D. B. THOMPSON.

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