



DEAR VICE CHANCELLOR,
ON THURSDAY OF LAST WEEK PROFESSOR
ANDREWARTHA INFORMED ME HE HAD ASKED
THE VICE CHANCELLOR TO FIRE ME.....

YOURS SINCERELY
(PROF.) CLYDE MANWELL.

For almost two months now a number of rumors have been circulating around Adelaide University. These rumors relate to complaints made to the vice-chancellor by the head of the Zoology Department, Professor Herbert Andrewartha about Zoology Professor Clyde Manwell. It is difficult to encompass accurately the nature of the charges made against Professor Manwell, but they involve "flouting the scholarly precept that one should teach within one's area of professional competence", "lacking judgement and perspective in teaching", "flouting the scholarly precepts of scientific method", inaccuracies in a book published with his wife, C. M. A. Baker, and other matters relating to departmental administration and collaboration with colleagues. Professor Manwell in a number of letters to the vice-chancellor and to Professor Andrewartha has replied to these charges.

● The charges include introducing into human biology lectures "sociological, political and technological aspects of contraception and also on the psychological and sociological consequences of crowding" and introducing the honours students polemical to pics "broadly described as being in the realms of sociology, politics, population explosions, pollution, scientific administration"

These letters are now in the hands of the Staff Association and ON DIT has read copies of them.

Because of the serious nature of these charges relating to the sacking of a senior academic member of this University and because of the wider implications relating to the individual intellectual freedoms usually associated with a University, ON DIT has decided to bring into the open a matter of the greatest concern for all students and staff members.

ON DIT is prepared to publish these letters, but is not doing so at this stage. We will take such action depending on the steps taken by the vice-chancellor and will do so knowing full well that there could be criticism for breaching a custom of confidentiality. It is felt that a matter of such importance should be made public.

The least important reason for publication is that at least one person in the daily mass media has been aware of the allegations for some time and is obviously interested in featuring the "story" as soon as possible. It seems desirable to have a much fuller coverage of the details printed in a context that shows familiarity with and concern for the activities of this University.

It is important that all the details be freely discussed in an open atmosphere rather than remain at the level of rumor, and that a number of related questions be posed examining the nature of the University.

The charges made against Professor Manwell involve problems of defining the exact nature of intellectual enquiry and expression and the core principle of academic freedom.

And once again the nature of the scientific method and the social responsibility of scientists is raised.

From the correspondence it can be seen that the initial controversy related to Professor Manwell's public criticism of the Department of Agriculture's fruit fly spraying program. (See The Advertiser, the Australian, and the article in ON DIT, 17th March of this year.) This in itself could be seen as somewhat controversial and Professor Manwell replies to the criticisms. But the fruit fly debate should be seen in the context of Professor Andrewartha's connection with the Waite Institute which does research for and receives finance from the Department of Agriculture. It is also believed that Professor Andrewartha was engaged some years ago in helping to design the present fruit fly program.

The point to be always kept in mind is even given some existing disagreements, should these be regarded as sufficient grounds for sacking a professor for "grossly or persistently neglecting his duties."

The whole controversy should be also seen in the context of the power structure of this University. ON DIT on a number of occasions has posed questions about the power that resides in the Heads of Departments and thus particularly in this University's Education Committee. The nature of this power again needs to be closely scrutinised.

There are however a number of additional questions that need to be asked and these relate specifically to the vice-chancellor, Professor Geoffrey Badger. The vice-chancellor obviously has a great amount of influence and always plays a key role in the important decisions of this University. ON DIT maintains the principle that such office holders as the vice-chancellor should always be held accountable.

The inference here is not that the vice-chancellor has not been accountable to the University Council in the past, but that there should always exist in any institution a healthy environment for expressing criticism. ON DIT has taken this attitude a number of times this year, e.g. over the W.R.E. use of the computer and over outside grants for scientific research. A number of points can now be made.

The University Statutes very clearly and extensively set out the procedures to be adopted by the vice-chancellor upon receiving notice of a complaint such as this. (The relevant sections are fully set out on page 118 vol. 1 of the Calendar.) The statutes instruct the vice-chancellor to bring any complaint to the attention of the University Council "after such consultations as he deems expedient." After bringing the matter before Council there are provisions for the Council to appoint a Commission to enquire into the charges. These provisions give adequate legal protection to the academic being charged. However, although the vice-chancellor was aware of the charges against Manwell in April, he has not notified the Council of his actions, and in fact it is believed he refused to do so when asked by a member at last Friday's meeting to comment on the rumors.

The vice-chancellor to date appears to be behaving in an unusually secretive manner, although of course not improperly.

That is he has for two months been making "consultations as he deems expedient." And Professor Manwell has still not been formally informed of the steps that will be taken.

It is not until these steps are looked at that Professor Badger's actions or inactions become subject to much comment.

In making his consultations he stated he would appoint a number of academics to an investigation committee, i.e. not the Council's Commission but a prior investigation. He recommended Professors Martin (Botany), Rogers (Entomology), Elliott (Bio-Chemistry), and Bennett (Genetics), with Justice Roma Mitchell as chairwoman. Professor Martin has worked with and published a research paper with Professor Andrewartha. Professor Rogers is at the Waite, and would have known Professor Andrewartha when he was at the Waite, and Professor Rogers was formally in the Zoology department. Despite this personal connection it is difficult to understand why anyone at the Waite should investigate the charges simply because of the connection financially and otherwise

between the Waite and the Department of Agriculture. (See the relevant sections in the University Act.) And both professors Bennett and Elliott, as quoted by Professor Andrewartha are sympathetic towards Andrewartha in his criticisms of the Manwell's textbook.

In effect it would appear the "investigation" committee of the vice-chancellor's was undoubtedly not the most objective committee to be established. Especially when it relates to the whole livelihood of the Manwell's. Professor Andrewartha, being a Head of Department and on the Education Committee, would have had over the years many contacts with the vice-chancellor. Professor Manwell has not.

Professor Manwell then took the attitude that he would not accept the legitimacy of the membership of this committee. And rightly so. In fact it could be pointed out that Professor Badger's committee, whatever the membership is, could involve Professor Manwell in a double jeopardy position. That is he would be subject virtually to two forms of "investigation". The vice-chancellor's committee in passing judgement on the charges would probably be influential in affecting the Council Commission especially with Justice Mitchell as chairwoman. This type of procedure adopted by the vice-chancellor may even be seen to be flouting fundamental principles of natural justice. It seems difficult to understand why the vice-chancellor did not recognise this and adopt the procedures of going to the University Council.

The Staff Association, which is now in possession of the full correspondence, would be well advised to look into the whole matter.

Meanwhile, Professor Manwell continues to wait.

In considering the vice-chancellor's actions, it is difficult to really understand why he has delayed for so long. Obviously he may be concerned to keep up his and the University's image in the community and thus it may seem that the best method to deal with the situation would be to keep things quiet and not to give grounds for suggesting that there are strong disagreements within a department. This would also not involve airing the criticisms by Professor Manwell of the Department of Agriculture. But there are obviously such disagreements existing and in not acting more speedily it could be said that the vice-chancellor has worsened the relations. This would definitely be the case if the charges are dismissed.

Already with the delay Professor Manwell's teaching must have suffered.

And if the charges are found to be substantiated then a number of questions can be raised. Firstly it is a direct reflection on the particular appointments committee. If Professor Manwell is guilty of the charges why was he appointed in the first place? But perhaps more importantly is the whole problem of defining the rights of academic freedom. It would be hoped that one of the standards applied would be the one that the vice-chancellor has himself used. "For the individual teacher academic freedom means the absence of discriminatory treatment on the grounds of race, sex, religion, and politics; and the right to teach according to his own conception of fact and truth, rather than according to any pre-determined orthodoxy." (Professor Badger quoting the Robbins Report in England on June 9th 1969.)

Aside from considering the actions of the vice-chancellor, the immediate charges against Professor Manwell should be considered by all students and staff. And if he is sacked or forced to leave does this mean that other members of the academic community would be likely to be charged by their head of department for a gross dereliction of duty?

THE EDITORS

STOP PRESS:

On Wednesday 6th there was an extraordinary University Council meeting. This meeting was, so ON DIT was told, closed and confidential. The vice-chancellor was unable to comment on the substance of the meeting because of the confidential matter being discussed.

It is believed however, that the vice-chancellor formally informed the Council of the charges made by Professor Andrewartha against Professor Manwell. Further it is believed that the vice-chancellor is not going to proceed with his originally planned investigation committee. That is at its next meeting the Council will probably appoint a special Commission to investigate the whole matter.

Even though the vice-chancellor has acted, we believe that the questions raised above are still valid. It is hoped that the vice-chancellor will make a full public statement in the next issue of ON DIT.

PROF. CLYDE
MANWELL



THE FRUIT FLY PAPERS

PART I

A Letter to the Vice-Chancellor.

Dear Professor Badger,

I've Heard a lot of nasty stories about you but I don't want to believe them.

I've Heard that you've been criticised for your sympathy towards Student Power demands. You always set up Committees to investigate them. And you've never called the cops on campus. Gee that was clever thinking. You'll never have the situation that you saw in America when Nixon invaded Cambodia, 4 people were killed at Kent State and all those other universities burnt down. We won't have the Computing Centre burnt down will we?

I've seen you talking to the SRC people on the lawns during meetings. I read your letter in ON DIT. I saw you eating in the Refectory once. So you don't always stay in your office.

I suppose you're really happy that the University's good name is still safe because no one is screwing in the Boys only - Girls only university housing. And I'm quite sure that you've got nothing to do with that Gay Liberation Front!

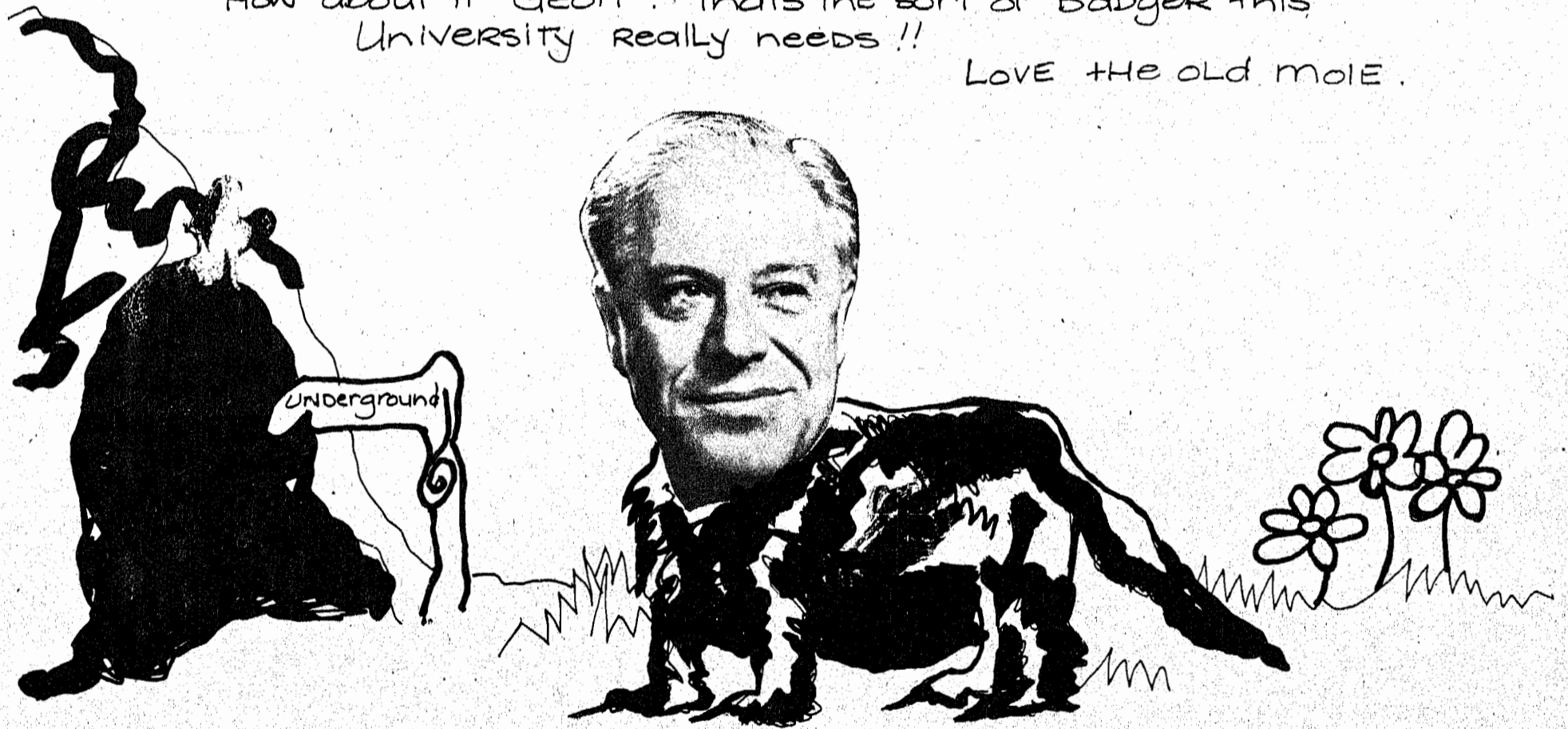
That brings me to the point. The stresses and strains of being Vice Chancellor must be enormous. All those committees and budgets and meetings and press conferences and guest lectures and policy making. Why it's almost like Power Politics!

Why don't you resign? At least don't stand for re-election next year. Take the advice of a Real Badger....

...."up and out of doors is good enough to roam about and get ones living in; But underground to come back to at last - that's my idea of Home!" (Wind in the Willows)

How about it Geoff? That's the sort of Badger this University really needs!!

LOVE THE OLD MOLE.



IMPORTANT

All witnesses of arrests during the Moratorium or Rugby tour please come to Lady Symon Hall next Monday, 1.00 p.m. or see Michael Chapman, C/- S.R.C. Office.

The Military-Industrial Complex In Australia.

by Mike Duigan and Greg O'Leary, introduction by Humphrey McQueen.

Available Politics Dept. Office. \$1.00
4th Floor, Napier Building.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SEMINAR

This Sunday afternoon, 1.15 p.m. Lady Symon Hall.

Information and planning seminar to initiate an integrated approach to Community Development in the South East corner of the city.

Through community participation in pragmatic successful projects which challenge the basic assumptions of our society, to see a community we hope arise where power is in the hands of the ordinary people.

ON DIT SPECIAL BROADSHEET NO. 6.

Residents of this area include pensioners, aborigines, migrants, youth and students. Problems to be faced include poor housing, lack of permanency and communication and malnutrition amongst others.

Agenda:

- Description of area
- Description of techniques
- Coffee
- Small group discussions
- Large group discussions
- Planning interest groups

We urge all interested to attend. POWER TO THE PEOPLE - RIGHT ON!
Social Action Abschol

REMEMBER THE ALAMO

Your eyes will boggle at the environment your hair will tangle in it your cow will jump over the moon while the free films surround you, the mind-blowing, brain-buzzing soul-searing ear-splitting heart-rendering music will evolve and involve you in a turbulence never before felt total participating all powerful manifestation of the beginning of the real education thinking loving dancing running jumping creating making quiet sitting

listening standing still joining funning playing musicing watching enjoying giving joy DOING. when you find that you're leaving the old ideas of getting pissed and snatching sex behind you you'll know that FREE PROSH has started... and it's only the beginning... the end! FREE PROSH IS YOU we look forward (and regret that is has been backward) to Free films, free balls, free drinks, eats and life, mass costuming, face-painting, workshops, drama, dancing, sculpturing, making music, pottery and people. Also the start of meeting co-operating knowing liking loving learning educating new awareness. And maybe breakfasting under the branches of a Kellogg's cornflakes free. And when you look FREE PROSH WILL BE YOU

BIRTHDAY PARTY

A THEATRE BY HAROLD PINTER.

Wednesday 14th July - 7.30. Thursday 15th - 7.30. Friday, 16th - 7.30. NAPIER THEATRE 5, Adelaide University. Students - 50 cents

an AUDS production

REGULAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Every Friday lunchtime 1-2 p.m. Anna Menz Room.

Visiting speakers on Com. org., social change, revolution through com.

Starting this Friday, 9th July (1 pm Anna Menz)

Hugh Stretton to speak on 'Urban Development'

Noted Australian authority on Urban development. Written book 'Ideas for Australian Cities.'

Social Action Abschol.

Matriculation Maths

1S tutor required for city college.

Apply Principal, Muirden College, 368 King William Street, Adelaide.

Phone: 8-4342.

Adelaide University Film Society magazine of film criticism and film reviews now available.

Copy deadline for next ON DIT, Monday, 12th July, 5.00 p.m.