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Supplement of On Dit, produced by S.A.U.A.,
October 1977

NON DIT



Inside the
S.A.U.A.

Editorial

'On Dit' is the official organ of the Students' Association of the University of Adelaide. It is paid for by your Union Fee to the tune of 25¢ per copy - the same price as a 'Time' for students. Being apparently free and directed at students, it has a captive readership. It is therefore an important ideological vehicle for those in the propaganda business. And so the factions wage war, long and hard, to gain control of its fortnightly pages. For the same reason, it is vital that those who have the best interests of the Association (rather than the interests of their faction) paramount, must strive to ensure that the paper is not used against the Association and its members.

The recent fiasco of 'On Dit' being spirited away at midnight shows the extraordinary lengths that some persons will go in order to maintain their control over the paper. Cries of "Editorial Freedom" and "Censorship" were raised to conceal the fundamental question of who the publication should serve. If an official publication is to serve its membership, it has, for example, a responsibility to publish relevant official material for the information of members. In a Referendum situation, both sides of a case should be put so that members can reach a fair and considered opinion. To put only one side is an unacceptable attempt to bias opinion. For the recent Dismissal Referendum, material supporting both sides was available to the Editor and it was his responsibility to include both sides (or neither) in 'On Dit' No. 18. By allowing only his side to appear,

Editor Nick Xenophou denied his responsibility to the Association. In addition, he did not submit the material printed to the Returning Officer (President - elect Kerry Hinton) in deliberate contravention of the relevant regulations because he knew that the misleading statements and false allegations (i.e. of censorship) would be subject to the written comment of the Returning Officer on the document. (Comments of the Returning Officer were included on propaganda produced by both sides.) For these acts and abuse of position, Nick Xenophou must be condemned. His election promise to "Stop the Bias" now seems hollow and hypocritical.

But even if it was conceded that Nick Xenophou was responding to extraordinary circumstances, the fact that he has since refused to print an official reply to the Pirate 'On Dit' editorial in the subsequent edition shows that he has chosen to use the paper as his own. An editor has no right to exclude official material on a matter of general interest or concern to the membership: the fact that he included several pages of articles in support of his own position shows the contempt in which he holds the Association's members and the concept of open media. In doing this, Nick Xenophou has set a very dangerous precedent whereby editors could, in the future, reject all official material and print only narrow sectional propaganda without reference to the broad interests of the vast majority of those who read and pay for the paper. If an editor is not obliged to print relevant official material, he or she can deny the

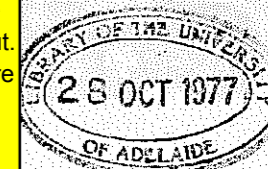
very basis of the paper, namely the official organ and publication of the Association. Such a state of affairs is totally unacceptable and will only encourage factions to seek control of 'On Dit'. If we wish to prevent 'On Dit' from becoming merely the organ of the relevant editor's faction, we must reject the Xenophou precedent. This is not another Liberal/Labor infight to be written off as petty politicking; nor is it a question of political alignment: it is the very fundamental question of who the paper and its editor should serve.

The above discussion and principles do not, however, destroy or detract from an editor's mandate to exercise his or her own style. Nor does it mean that the editor is subject to the arbitrary censorship of the Publisher (the Association's President). The only conceivable reasons for censorship involve the legal liability of the Association and its officebearers (i.e. material that is libellous or in contempt of Court). This standard has been used for at least the last two years. The right to delay material for one edition where the material in question has a potential bearing on a forthcoming issue for members and where no opportunity to officially reply can be given in that edition must also reside with the Publisher to ensure fair play. But this should be and is the extent of the Publisher's powers over content. Nothing more has been asserted over the past two years!

A final matter of great concern is the scorn which Nick Xenophou has shown for student decisions. In the

Rodent

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EDITORIAL (CONT.)

most recent 'On Dit', he describes the Referendum on his dismissal as "Mickey Mouse" politics. However, the decision to hold a Referendum on this issue was taken by a well-attended General Student Meeting after serious debate on both sides. Recently, he stated that, because only a small percentage of the membership voted in elections, no-one could claim a mandate from the students. The logical extension of this argument is that Nick is free to pursue whatever editorial policy he wishes without reference to his electoral undertakings. This would be a great breach of faith in view of the fact that he accepted office on such a small percentage vote. If the membership makes a decision, the officebearers including the 'On Dit' editor should accept them. If an officebearer is not prepared to do so, he or she should resign!

Non Dit has been produced to show the side of the coin that Nick Xenophou has sought to delay and conceal. Few issues are simply black and white and the one canvassed in this is probably not one of them. However, a duty rests on the recently elected officebearers to put the other side to Xenophou's so that you can judge. And hopefully you will also be entertained by this publication!



'ON DIT' PROFILES

'On Dit' has been assisted by some notable characters this year and particularly this Term. Kym Jacobs is one example. Former Liberal Club President, Kym was forced to resign and also withdraw from the S.A.U.A. Elections when caught attempting to rig the ballot. Nick was horrified but still used him for 'On Dit'.

Gordon Laverick is another example. He's the sub-editor. A full-time student. Gordon withdrew

He believes that the Yanks should have bombed Tokyo instead of smaller towns like Hiroshima because the latter was too small. Nuclear weapons should also have been used on North Korea and North Vietnam to show the commies that we mean to get peace. Finally, Gordon thinks that castration is the fitting penalty (no pun intended) for rape. Keep 'em coming, Gordon! Julian Glynn cannot go unmentioned. One time 'On Dit' photographer, he has moved to greener pastures but still spends much of his time in the office using the 'phone. Julian's friends (how does he do it?) call him "The Fuhrer". Other acquaintances call him "Gollum" after a character in Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings".

Julian also refused to return his key to the Student Activities Office b



NICK TO BE BEATEN?

After Nick Xenophou served his writs on the University, Union, Students' Association and A. U. S., his mother telephoned Vice-Chancellor Don Stranks and told him that he was free to take a broom handle to her son. Maybe the President should be approached to write to Don asking that it be done on the Barr Smith Lawns!



CREDITS AND FAILURES.

Non Dit is dedicated to Nick ('ON DIT' is my paper!) Xenophou and his few supporters who made the situation impossible and therefore possible, if not necessary. Edited and published by Geoff Adam on behalf of the Executive Committee and the Students' Association of the University of Adelaide. Printed on the press of the Adelaide University Union by Big Frank under the watchful eyes of Slim Glen. Typing and assistance from Lovely Linda and Romantic Rose-marie. Special thanks to Terry Connolly, John Ruwoldt, Steven Macdonald and Vaia Proios. And anyone else that I have forgotten. Special credit to Allan Coop for his excellent layout design.

Send all contributions urgently to Nick for the last 'On Dit', due on campus well into swat-vac on latest information: he may print some.

Campus News

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Solicitor's letter re Pirate On Dit

The following extract is from the legal opinion of Finlayson & Co., the University's Barristers and Solicitors, concerning the Pirate 'On Dit'.

"A. Subject to the limitations discussed above (Ed. Note: contractual limitations only), the President can direct the editor to include or not include certain material in 'On Dit'.

"B. There is nothing to suggest that the publisher's power to give directions to the editor is limited to illegal or obscene matter.

"C. The removal of the paper from the Association's premises without the authority of either the President or the Association itself could be both a breach of the editor's contract of employment and if the removal was contrary to an express or implied direction not to do so could also amount to an offence.

"D. The circulation and production of Vol. 45 No. 18 of 'On Dit' without the authority of the publisher would appear to be a breach of the editor's contract of employment.

The fact that the President, to whom the editor is directly responsible by reason of clause 14(d) had expressly prohibited the distribution, should establish that circulation of the paper was in breach of the editor's contract of employment.

"E. Similarly, the editor's refusal to surrender copies of 'On Dit' to the President amounts to a breach of the contract of employment.

"F. Printing of a cover, editorial and other material on pages purporting to be 'On Dit' would appear to be both in breach of Mr. Xenophou's contract of employment and also in breach of section 5 of the Imprint Act. It is clear that at least parts of the cover were printed by yourself and accordingly the name of the person who did print the paper would have been placed on the paper for it to comply with section 5 of the Imprint Act.

"G. Mr. Xenophou's non attendance at the Association's offices during the period from the 3rd until the 7th October would appear to involve a breach of clause 5 of his terms of office namely :-

'The editor shall be present and available for readers during the working week as appropriate.'

The opinion also stated that the publication of the Pirate 'On Dit' could have been restrained by injunction. And finally, the opinion referred to Halsbury's Laws of England, which says in part ;

"The mere fact that a person is appointed editor of a newspaper does not give him control of the conduct of the paper or of the matter to be inserted therein, and, in the absence of special stipulations in the contract giving him control, he is subject to the directions of the proprietor."

In other words, folks, Nick was more than just a naughty boy.

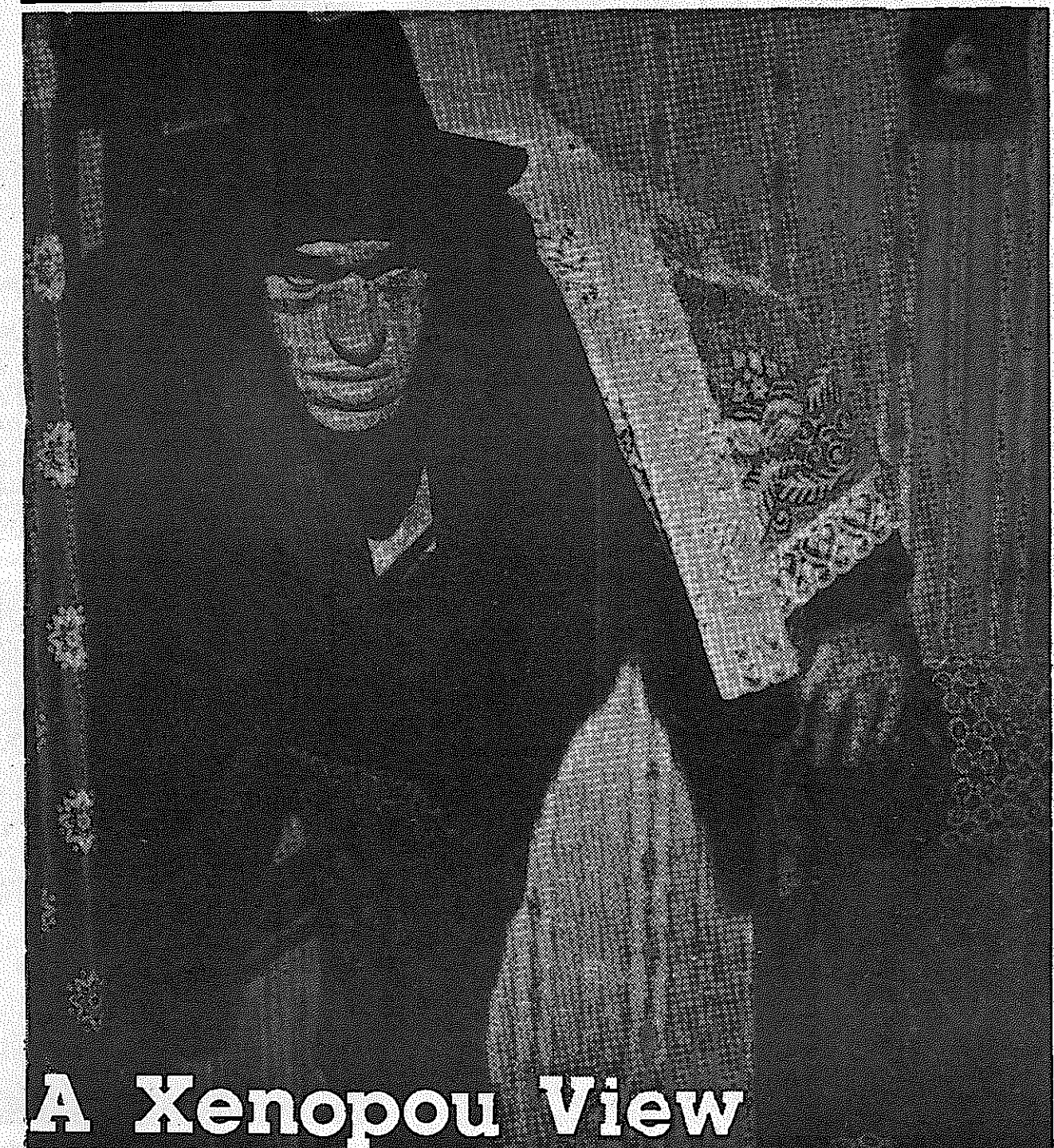
Democracy at Work!

When contesting the position of A.U.S. Regional Delegate, ol' Nick pledged himself to wresting the power from the humatic fringes. He also promised to work for the democratization of the A.U.S. on a regional basis. His methods must be subtle because he has not attended one Regional Meeting since then. Nor has Peter Andersen, the former mild-mannered Assistant Editor for 'On Dit' who promised to make the Region represent you and not the presently ruling insane political cliques. One wonders whether or not they meant what they wrote.

Only 5 On Dits

Despite the fact that the contract of employment for the On Dit Editor requires the production of at least 6 editions per term, Editor Nick Xenophou plans to produce only 5 this term. The Publisher informed him that 6 were expected but obviously this doesn't matter.

Inside the S.A.U.A.



A Xenopou View

Non Dit camera's Campus Views



"I don't agree with Nick but I'd die for his right to print what he thinks!"



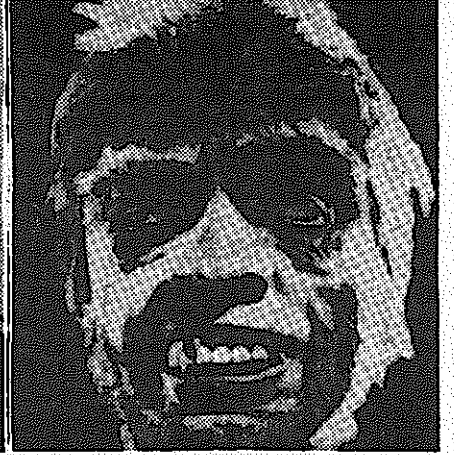
President Geoff Adam, "Have a Happy Day!"



The Vice-President, Jolly Terry Comolly.



S.A.U.A. depraves? President - Elect Kerry Hinton before and after election.



The President often works late.



Some were distraught over the Referendum result.



Nick and friends coming to vote in the Referendum.

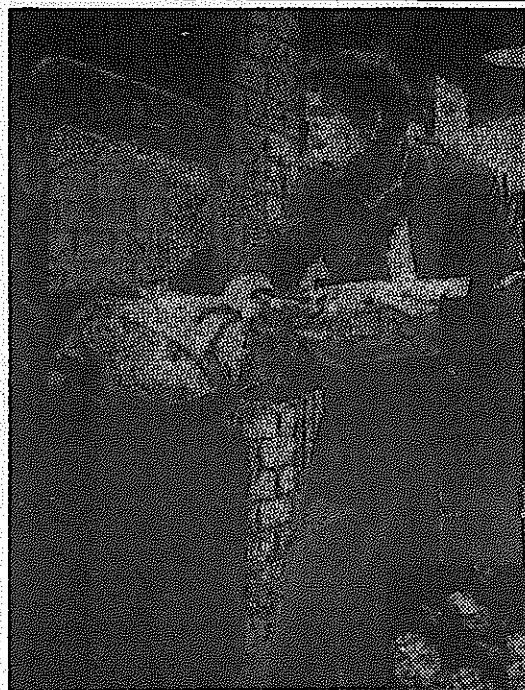


The Executive visiting the aging President. Just a normal bunch of kids!



President Geoff Adam and friends prepare to visit 'On Dit'.

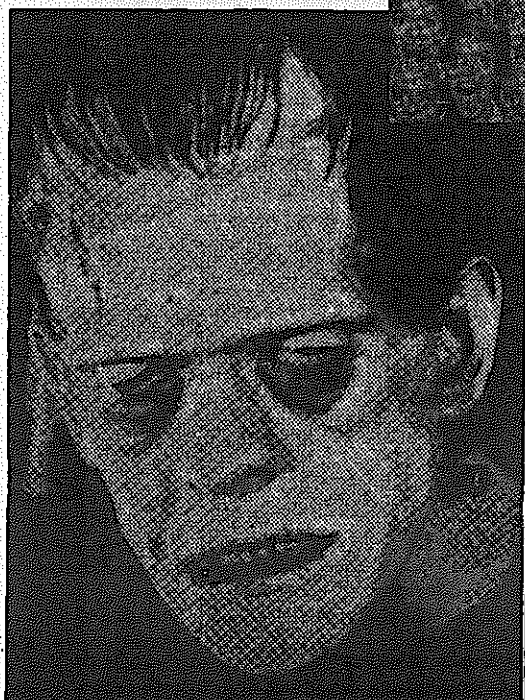
More S.A.U.A. Pics



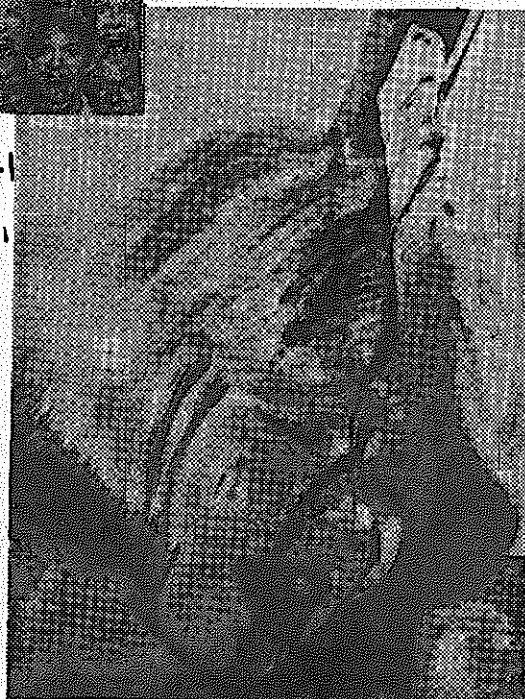
There is no dissent!



The Women's Officer is always there.



The S.A.U.A. is a scream.



The factions are always fighting.

Stalin's lessons were well learnt.

On Dit Exposé: Pres. tells truth!

The length and direction of this article was given to On Dit Editor Nick Xenophou on the first working day after the Referendum. The actual article was presented to him four days later on the following Saturday. Three days later on Tuesday 18th October, Nick informed me that he did not intend to print the article despite the notice of the article and several pages of other articles supporting his position in the paper. I believe this was an attempt to prevent or forestall any official reply to his Pirate 'On Dit' editorial, and as such, his action constituted a grave abuse of his position as Editor because it involved a denial to print important official material of pressing interest and concern.

No doubt Nick will assert that he intended to print the article in a subsequent 'On Dit'. But because the forthcoming 'On Dit' is not due on campus until probably the third week of 'swat vac' when students have shown in the past a reluctance to read 'On Dit' (let alone sizeable articles within it), the true reason is obvious.

Below is the text of the Article which Nick refused to print. The reasons for Nick's refusal are clear when you have read it. See also the Editorial and Campus News for further information.

"The Editorial of the Pirate 'On Dit' was a slanderous, scandalous and demonstrably untrue concoction. Its perversity and falsehoods are outlined in the following article.

1. CENSORSHIP

In the two years that I have been Publisher of "On Dit", there has not been a single case of censorship. Two parts of articles have been deleted this year, however; both with the express agreement of the Editor. One involved a blatantly libellous statement re the St. Mark College scandal. (Remember the blacked out piece?). The second was featured in the Pirate "On Dit" article on the dismissal G.S.M. and was based on a letter from the Editor's own solicitor. Complaints of censorship and blank pages stamped "CENSORED" are false and misleading. Not one of these pages was presented for scrutiny and, in any case, were allocated to book reviews, records, letters, etc. Check with John Sande man (On Dit Editor, 1978) who was involved in its layout.

2. EFFECT OF THE WRITS

The unambiguous advice of the University's solicitors is that Nick's Writ does seek to disallow the imposition of the Union Fee by the University. In the opinion of all relevant persons in the Union, most of the Union facilities and the Union Welfare services (including Work Action and Contact) will close, plus the Sports Association, Clubs and Societies Council, Students' Association and similar bodies will become defunct if Xenophou's suit is successful unless there is some

legislative action soon. His intention may be different but the terms of the Writs are clear! Check with the Registrar of the University (Mr A.E. Shields) or the Chief Executive Officer of the Union (David Muir).

3. TEXT OF DISMISSAL MOTION

The text of the dismissal motion was in the accord with the speeches delivered at the General Student Meeting which decided in favour of Xenophou's dismissal. The style is that used in United Nations motions.

4. BUREAUCRATIC OBSTRUCTIONS AND UNNECESSARY TASKS.

The office staff, printer and publisher have bent over backwards to assist Nick this year. Countless times the typists and printer have re-organized their schedules, worked late, etcetera, to get "On Dit" out on time. Nick has run late virtually every edition. This is why it has not been proof-read despite countless sincere offers. If Nick had to perform tasks others are paid for, it is solely because of his own disorganization and resulting lateness. Check with the Office Manager (Mrs Osman), Printer (Frank), Office Staff, Publisher, etcetera. National U Editor Jefferson Lee cried bureaucratic obstructionism, too.

5. DISCONNECTION OF 'PHONE'

The 'On Dit' phone was removed in view of the fact that
(a) it was not STD barred and the cost of calls was running at \$150 per month (Telecom figures). (In 1977, the half-yearly rent & calls equalled \$150 for the previous 18 months.)

The story that Nick wouldn't print

(cont.)

(b) an STD barred phone had been ordered with Nick's agreement and was due for installation within the week

(c) Nick had agreed that \$200 of the \$343 July (half year) Account was for Liberal Club/Australian Liberal Students Federation business.

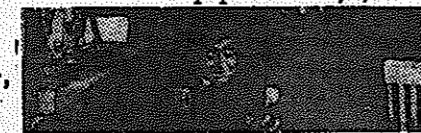
Should students pay for this? Check with the Office Manager. Of course Nick omitted to mention that he had access to several phones including one only ten feet from his desk. The 'On Dit' phone has now been barred and restored.

6. NICK'S FRUGALITY AND 'ON DIT' SURPLUS, 1977.

It is absurd and misleading to suggest that Nick has saved \$3,000 in the On Dit Budget. Firstly, an item of \$2,000 was included to pay printer's wages. The Union subsequently hired the printer part-time but the \$2,000 allocation remained. Further, the projected large increase in paper costs did not eventuate, leaving more money unspent. Nick has not listed one example of his cost-saving methods. One eludes me. He has, however, adopted a policy in Third Term which for aesthetic reasons requires 0.5 cm per page to be trimmed (and causing greater typing time) plus blanket colour runs because he did not want to use coloured paper. (Did you notice?) This policy costs money and was adopted when Nick found out he was under budget. Check with the Office Manager or the Printer.

But that's not the end of it. For third term, Nick has adopted the

services of an experienced design and layout person. This has cost the paper almost one third more per edition for layout because of higher rates paid. Nick argued at the time that the use of this layout person would free him for more editorial and article work and to close up advertising. I agreed to the request. I have not changed my mind but believe that if Nick was sincerely intent on saving money, he would not have done this. (It should also be noted that in the ten weeks since the last edition of Second Term, Nick has written only 2½ pages, lifted two thirds of the three editions from other newspapers and not increased advertising significantly. However, he has managed to edit "Ad Lib", the Australian Liberal Students' Federation newspaper. Funny!)



7. DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED TO SPEAK.

Xenophou suggests that a delegate to a conference must speak if the Association is to get its money's worth. How absurd! Delegates should be chosen for their soundness in decision-making, not their ability to spout flowery rhetoric. And the decisions must have been correct otherwise he would have mentioned it. Or did we waste money on Nick when he failed to say anything at the AUS Annual Council, 1977?

8. PURCHASE OF THE HEADLINER

The Headliner was purchased with Nick's consent because its funding

was coming from the 'On Dit' surplus. He favoured the purchase of a typesetter but agreed to go along with the decision (at that time undetermined) of the Office Manager, President and incoming 'On Dit' Editor on the basis that he would have little use for either piece of equipment. Because the typesetter could only be used for magazines, was more time-consuming and required a trained operator, it was decided to select the more versatile headliner which could be used by many people and which would mean savings by reducing the amount of letaset used. Check with the Office Manager on 'On Dit' Editor for 1978, John Sandeman.

9. REASONS FOR REJECTING REFERENDUM PETITION.

The petition for a Referendum to amend the S.A.U.A. Constitution to allow optional membership of AUS was rejected by the Executive Committee (not the President under an arbitrary (abuse of power) on two grounds. Firstly, it was considered outside the power of the Association to unilaterally create optional membership of AUS for its members. (Like any club member, the Association has no right to repudiate constitutional rules and it would be an act of bad faith to consciously do so). Secondly, the badly drafted petition motion was not in a form which could amend the Association's Constitution. Legal advice has confirmed the correctness of this decision!

But it doesn't end there! Nick failed to mention that the Executive Committee unanimously passed a Motion calling on Kim Bills (who had presented the petition and who was present for the discussion) to redraft

the petition in a form which could and would be put to the vote with the Dismissal Referendum. Check the (confirmed) Executive Committee Minutes of 23rd September, 1977, pages 5-6.

10. THE BILL'S ARTICLE

After the rejection of the Bills petition, and 5-6 days after the deadline for 'On Dit', Kym Bills submitted an article for the paper concerning the Executive's decision. This article sought to tie the rejection with the Referendum to dismiss Xenophou. It stated that the newly elected Executive "...will stop at nothing to remove an 'On Dit' Editor or in fact any organised opinion at variance with their own." The office staff drew this surprising article to my attention, and at my next opportunity, I told Nick that the article misrepresented the decision and that the rejection was totally unrelated to the Referendum. My only objection was that it might unfairly affect or bias the voters re: the Referendum and I had no objection to the article itself appearing later or with a reply. This was made clear to Nick. I was also disappointed that Nick had failed to seek the other side of the story. Fourteen pages had not been printed at this point in time and the printer was waiting for more material. It was clear, therefore, that the detailed layout of these pages had not been done. (Check with the printer). After initially suggesting that there was insufficient space, Nick agreed to either edit Bill's two column article (with Bill's assisting - at my suggestion!) to allow space for my reply or

find another two columns for me. (Nick appeared to reject the third possibility of holding Bill's article and any reply to the subsequent edition). There was never any suggestion of censorship because Nick was not told at any stage that some or all of Bill's article should never be printed!

As President and in lieu of a Returning Officer for the Referendum, I and the Executive believe that I was obliged to ensure that such unfair or misleading information should not reach voters immediately prior to the Referendum without an official explanation. The very reason for the Referendum and Election Requirement that all relevant material be scrutinized and perhaps commented upon by the Returning Officer, is to prevent unfair or misleading information. Ask the Returning Officer. On must ask why Xenophou didn't want a reply to Bill's article in that edition of "On Dit"!



11. THE 'STOP THE BIAS' PROMISE.

The hollowness of Nick's "stop the Bias" promise can be seen in the Pirate 'On Dit'. He failed to print

(or even solicit) a case in favour of his dismissal. He also failed to solicit a reply to Bill's article although it was (incorrectly) related to the Dismissal Referendum. Further, he removed the paper from the control of the publisher to ensure that this intentions were not known.

12. MAOIST'S ALLEGED REMARKS ABOUT NICK.

The remarks of David Callahan are irrelevant. It may be true that he said Nick should be "rubbed out". Several of Nick's friends have said the same about me. So what?!? It's when they try that one should start to worry!

13. MICHAEL DANBY RETRACTS

Michael Dan by officially withdrew his support of Nick during the campaign. He said Nick had misled him about the nature of the Referendum. Yet Danby material still circulated after the deceit was made known.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL, FOLKS! -"DIRTY TRICKS!"

Because some of Nick's supporters were among those involved in the attempted ballot-rigging, it was never in doubt that their campaign would be dirty. Apart from the slanderous and demonstrably untrue material in "on Dit", the campaign featured other highlights: (a) Nick deliberately delayed the production of "On Dit" for one week so it would appear during the Referendum.

(b) Nick obtained access to the printing room where the partially printed paper was stored by deceit

(OVER)

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and removed it without lawful cause or purpose.

(c) Nick or (a) supporter(s) tampered with the Association printing press worth several thousand dollars.

(d) Nick went "underground" to avoid the service of an injunction or directions from the publisher restraining him from producing or distributing any unauthorized pages. (This shows N. Xenophou's absolute contempt for the law. He used it via the writs, the injunction to stop payments to AUS and threatened Contempt of Court proceedings yet hid to prevent its operation upon himself.)

(e) The deliberate driving of a car into the publisher by Xenophou supporter Andy Hughes when the Publisher refused to move until copies of the illegitimate "On Dit" within the car were surrendered to him. (He was legally entitled to demand the copies). The live-in Bill and Barbara Prior, were witnesses to this incident.

(f) Nick's complaints to the media that his car had been damaged by a Maoist and covered by anti-Xenophou stickers. Nick failed to mention that the stickers had been removed immediately by the person responsible and that the car had been damaged when it pushed over a post that the publisher had leapt behind and when it had swerved towards a student who kicked it as he leapt aside.

(g) Nick Xenophou's material was not with a minor exception, submitted to the Returning Officer for scrutiny as required by Referendum regulations. Nick knew of this requirement.

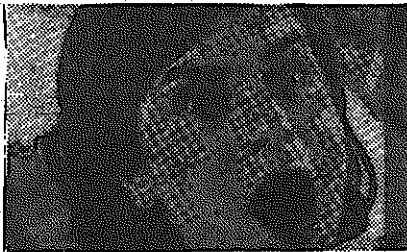
(h) After the Referendum was carried

a supporter of Nick queried whether the Association would pay for the pages Nick had printed off campus and after Nick had claimed that he was paying for this printing in his "editorial".

THE RESULT

The result cannot be seen as an endorsement of Nick, his supporters, his writs or his tactics. Based on the deliberately misleading information given by Xenophou to the voters, it's not surprising that it was narrowly lost. Defeated but not beaten!

And if you have read this far, show Nick the contempt that he deserves for the contempt he has shown you in this Referendum! Write into "On Dit". "



Lost?

One wonders how many of these publications will 'disappear'. A very large number of the Ballot-rigging edition of that subversive magazine, PINK, were found in the Liberal Clubroom. Not only that, but 500 broadsheets and a poster layout was 'removed' from the Student Activities Office during the recent Referendum to dismiss Nick, too. Is it any co-incidence that the relevant material favoured the Dismissal?

Violence

The same old people including Comrade Nick Xenophou) keep crying out in the Media about violence and intimidation. The cry is hollow if not hypocritical in view of their own actions (e.g. the deliberate assault on the President and others by driving a car at and into them). Apart from using the allegations to gain sympathy, they use it to excuse their non-performance of certain responsibilities. (Nick may well claim that he has not attended Regional Conferences because he was afraid. Yet he was not afraid to attend the A.U.S. Special Council in Sydney where all factions massed.) But when you have little else to complain about apart from the (false) domination of the Communists, it's better than nothing.

Denial

Local Senator Tony Messner accused the Students' Association and some of its officials of abuse of position and fund position in the Senate last week. Union Secretary David Muir has written to Messner informing him of the truth of the matter, namely that there was no impropriety. But where will it end?

Where to now?