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# On dit

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
JUN 1981

*Library Note* : Users are advised that this issue of On Dit may contain names and photographs of Aboriginal people who have since died. This may cause distress to their relatives and discretion should be used when viewing them.

Library Note : On Dit, Vol. 49, No. 12, June 1981



# ONE THIRD OF UNDERGRADUATES CUT?



# EDITORIAL

What makes a good university? This is the question that we have been asking ourselves this week in an attempt to evaluate the whispers from above - that over 2000 undergraduate students could be cut from the university and replaced by 1000 post graduates.

Basically the answer depends on whether your view of the uni. is from the top or from the bottom. Ours is from the bottom. It seems clear that one of the perpetrators of these cuts, Harry Medlin, sees the uni. community from the top. On his scale, which we presume depends on academic status, undergraduates rest at the bottom - a dregs of 7000. Perhaps they are joined by the "1%" of bad academics (i.e. five). Both, under his recommendation, would get the chop.

At the top of Harry's scale are the real academics - the post graduates and the good lecturers. While there will be no more lecturers (in fact a few less when the bad or unnecessary ones have been given the boot) there will be another 1000 post graduates all involved in research and other useful work.

Well this may be paradise on earth for Harry - a university where real research is carried out, where there is a good healthy academic atmosphere. And yes, it is attractive.

However overall, it doesn't appeal to us. Basically when you're looking from the bottom of the university up you see people as people rather than as little academics good and bad.

University, as some have said, is "a good place to get your head together". Seven thousand people at the moment are at various stages in the system and at various stages in development. Comparing people in uni. and out, students are often less developed than those in the workforce or on the dole of the same age. However on an average, we believe better rounded people come out of unis in the end.

It is those people who we spend most of our time with and most of our time worrying about. Some of them are exceptional, some are screwed up, but none of them can be judged on academic standards alone.

Of course it all depends on your point of view. The government wants vocationally trained graduates. In fact we suppose worrying about students as people is considered foolish or, at least, financially unsound.

However, as far as we're concerned Harry, university means far more than vocational training or academia. Heaven on earth isn't a world populated by great academics; it is a world populated by the wise. Wise people are those who have got their heads together.

More undergraduates mean more people getting their heads together better. A cut of a third of the university undergraduate population would cripple discussion - not just by a third. People who scrape in to uni. are often a lot different from those who breeze in with high matric marks. If we cut out this lower 30%, then the uni. will be an even more cloistered place than it is. In effect, in these proposals, we are giving away the key to the door of our ivory tower.

University is a potentially disillusioning place. Your friends not your work will make you a wiser person. The wider the circle of friends, the quicker the process will be. Of course you can go off campus for other friends but we always have had more deep and meaningful conversations over refectory pies than we've ever had elsewhere. Perhaps it is the university's atmosphere. So Harry, when you think of taking your proposals to University Council, remember that, as we all know, it's who you know not what you know.

James Williamson  
Paul Hunt

# Letters

## Stop Thought Control!

Dear Editors,

Having spent the last four years at this institution (and having now left for the safety of the SAIT) I feel that I am in a position to offer some (hopefully constructive) criticism of the system. My comments spring mainly from my experiences at the Law School, but I believe that they are applicable to most faculties.

The recent *Trogodyte* awards have highlighted a serious problem in the University. Many lecturers and administrators see students as an unfortunate complication in the smooth running of their lives and departments. There is a definite feeling amongst staff that society owes them a job merely because they have attained academic qualifications. Such lecturers are interested only in abstract academic thought and the improvement of their own reputations - they don't give a damn about the students. In the Law School there may possibly be ten lecturers and tutors who are vitally interested in the progress of every student in the faculty. Another twelve couldn't care less about any student anywhere. The remainder have some abstract interest in "their" students, those who are enrolled in the subjects which they teach, but not to the extent that they will go out of their way to help them.

The prevailing attitude in tutorials is "let's get on and answer the problem, never mind discussing why the answer is what it is". Some tutors go berserk when they find a student who hasn't prepared the question (most haven't even read it). Result? Many students don't go to tutes, either because of this pressure or the fact that merely being given the answer to a preset problem doesn't assist them in their basic understanding of the topic.

Non-academic staff also, with a few exceptions, go out of their way not to help students.

This attitude on the part of most of the members of both types of staff fails to take into consideration the reason why tertiary institutions (and their jobs) exist - to teach students the professional skills they will need to make a contribution to society. THE UNIVERSITY IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF.

Students are no longer being taught all the skills they will need to be able to do their jobs properly after graduation. Mediocre lecturers are content to churn out mediocre graduates who are capable merely of reciting facts parrot-fashion. Students aren't being taught to think for themselves - on the contrary, original thought (if it conflicts with the examiner's beliefs) is discouraged. It is easier to agree with the lecturers, and you tend to get better marks than if you disagree - no matter how well reasoned and well supported your argument may be.

This problem isn't confined to Uni. The other week (while in a lift at the Institute) I overheard an academic saying "Several of my Social Work students are a bit rebellious at the moment" - as if it was a terrible thing that a student would dare to question the validity of an academic's ideas and methods.

Recently the South Australian Supreme Court criticised the University of Adelaide for a fall in the quality of students graduating from the Law School. I do not believe that this fall in standard has been due to a decrease in the quality of the student intake - historically the quality of students

remains fairly stable - but to a fall in the quality of the teaching staff and their methods. The University administrators have allowed this Uni. to become second-rate by employing lecturers and tutors, many of whom are interested, or capable, only of presenting masses of "facts" to their students.

This may be due in part to the quality of the lecturers themselves (most I have seen aren't interested in the discussion and presentation of a student's ideas) and partly from the need to present too great a body of information in too short a period of time - which doesn't allow adequate time for discussion.

The effect of this situation is that students graduate with a good technical knowledge of present ideas and methods, but lack the flexibility and capacity of original thought which will be necessary to cope with changes in society, and to assist in the development of those changes. Ideas must be encouraged, not crushed by academics who are too hidebound or egotistic to see the validity of another point of view.

Of course, not all of the academic staff fall into this category. Without the few who encourage, students' life at the Uni. would be impossible, and the drop out rate would be even higher. But these few aren't enough to correct the situation. Indeed these "good" academics make life difficult for themselves - their approachability results in them being swamped by students in need of help.

There is a saying that "those who can, do, those who can't, teach" - and by doing so reduce the ability of the next generation to act. Teachers, we need your help, not your "thought control".

Ian Brown

## EU where are you?

Hey guys,

Wow. I mean is there really an Evangelical Union, and do they really believe in Jesus and all that stuff? I knew a dude like that who always used to talk to someone who wasn't there. I mean when they put him away he just laughed. He told them his invisible friend would bust him out. He's still there but.

I mean like normal people who believe in something that's not there. How come they don't get busted too? 'Specially since they're trying to get everyone else to believe it too.

I got real stored once and read a bit of the Bible for a buzz. Like it's unreal stuff man, better than Henleirs or Dune even. I can't wait for the movie - like Lord of the Rings or 2001 or something.

Someone told me they do all these far-out rituals, I mean like really weird man. Singing and chanting and drinking blood and stuff like that. I could really get into that; you know, getting off my face and raging out to some heavy vibes and that. They're right into free-love too.

I mean like wow, they must have some heavy friends to keep them out of loony bins. It'd be real cool to get in with a scene like that. I mean no one would touch you and you could hang out together and, you know, all those free love chicks and that. You'd have lots of friends and you wouldn't have to hassle about nothing. Better than my old rocker gang even.

I'll catch you later guys; I gotta go and see a man about a deal. Keep on raging.

David ('The big, bad bony') Mussared P.S. Tell us where these weirdos hang out man; I want to get right into it.

The Evangelical Union meets on Tuesday at 1.00 in the North Dining Rooms and on Thursday at 7.30 a.m. for breakfast in the same place. Various small groups loosely based on faculties meet at different locations at different times in the week also - Eds.

### THE CURRENT CRISIS

Monday 29th June 7 p.m. History/Politics Room, 4th Floor, Napier.  
Speakers: Andrew Mack: Politics Dept. Flinders Uni.  
Bob Catley: Politics Dept. Adelaide Uni.

The Adelaide University Politics Students' Society is presenting a forum on the current situation of world tension and its relationship to the Middle East crisis, Afghanistan and the arms build up.

Australia's position in the context of the world crisis will also be discussed.

## Editorial Objection

To the Editors,

I would like to object to a number of alterations made to the article I wrote about Stonewall Day which appeared in *On dit* last week (June 22). The alteration I object to most is the deletion of a line in which I explained that I did not know whether gay women prisoners in Nazi Germany also wore pink triangles and that I did not have any information about gay women in that period. That point was not only a point of information (or lack of) but was also a political point. In other words it is not enough to talk about gay men - even if there is more information about them, even if they are more visible and even if there are more of them (if there are). Although the word 'homosexual' or 'gay' is supposedly not gender-specific - in practice it is generally understood to be referring to men. Therefore it is necessary to make explicit references to lesbians and to often use phrases which may seem unnecessarily cumbersome such as 'lesbians and homosexual men' to make it quite clear that lesbians are

also being referred to.

I also do not see why my sentence explaining that Stonewall Day was on Saturday June 27th and that various activities are planned - needed to have 'in its honour' tacked on the end and attributed to me.

Finally three points of correction. (1) The second paragraph should have been attributed to Denis Altman, not me. (2) The pink triangle, not the Nazi period, has been taken up as the symbol of the struggle for Gay Liberation. (3) I was writing on behalf of the Stonewall Day Collective, not the Stonewall Day Collection.

Julie Bryden  
The article as submitted was confusing and badly written. Hence we, the editors, told Julie Bryden that style (not ideological) changes would have to be made in order for it to be included in the paper. We offered her the opportunity to make them herself, pointing out that otherwise we might inadvertently change some significant features. This offer was rejected. The editors rewrote a small amount of material but the main changes were in editing lines and rearranging paragraphs. We are sorry for our ignorance of such a specialised political area, but we feel Julie Bryden's complaints are unjustified considering that we spent a fair amount of time in explaining the situation as it stood.  
Eds.

### PROSH

"To be or not to be" Part 2

Your decision this week.

Student meeting to continue discussions on end of second term fund raising and entertainment activities. WEDNESDAY, 1ST JULY, 1981 AT 1 P.M. Union Gallery (Level 6)

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Possible Charities to benefit  
(a) Multiple Sclerosis Society of SA Inc. Information on their activities and their interest will be available.  
(b) SA Paralysis Association.

2. Prosh Rag  
Suggested last week that whilst *On dit* staff and facilities should assist with production of Rag, other students should be responsible for encouraging contributions, editing and general production and distribution of Rag. It should be produced and available for selling on the Monday or Tuesday of the last week of 2nd term.

3. General Activities/Events  
(a) Length of activity period - Wednesday - Friday lunchtime  
(b) Procession - Thursday 1 p.m. Would require permission through negotiation.  
(c) Prosh Ball or Dinner - Thursday evening.

(d) Movie Marathon - Thursday night.  
(e) Breakfast - Friday 9 a.m.  
(f) Fill in entertainment.  
(g) Other suggestions.

4. Decision to hold Prosh - General Student Meeting.

Suggest hold a General Student Meeting in the Helen Mayo Refectory at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 9th July, 1981 to decide whether to hold "Prosh" and if so which charities will benefit.

Barry Salter  
Activities Director

## Production

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# 2000 Undergrads go in Medlin proposals

In the wake of the Razor Gang report, the Tertiary Education Commission report and this State's own Razor Gang, come a series of proposals from within the University which will mean radical and far-reaching changes to the structure and philosophy of University education. Some of the proposals put to the Executive body of the Education Committee of this University will lead to cuts in both staff and student numbers.

Part of the philosophy includes cutting out the "dead wood" of both staff and students, with reductions in undergraduate students in the order of 2000 and retirement of "ineffective" staff being proposed.

Changes to the University away from vocation training courses (Medical, Engineering, Law) to pure academic or research courses are also suggested.

Tim Dodd takes a look at these proposals and some of their implications. He spoke with the Chairman of the Education Committee and Deputy Chancellor Dr Harry Medlin, who has presented the proposals. The interview follows in the middle pages.

Could this have greater direct implications for staff and students at Adelaide University than the Fraser Government's Razor Report? Does it involve too radical a change in the philosophy and fundamentals of education at Adelaide? How does it affect you? Read and think on.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COULD SEE A DROP IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NUMBERS OF OVER 2000.

This is one stunning proposal in a paper which the Chairman of the University's Education Committee, Dr Harry Medlin, recently presented to the Executive body of the Committee.

The paper is rather pointedly titled with a line of Edmund Burke's, "Evil will triumph if good men do nothing". Shades of vallant Sir Harry slaying the wicked on all-sides, but the paper does represent Dr Medlin's serious ideas about how the University is to come to grips with the new austere funding atmosphere and still retain what he sees as its academic integrity.

## The Proposals

If the proposals are implemented it would signal a watershed in the development of Adelaide University. Here's what would happen:

**Undergraduate student numbers would be reduced by introducing stricter entry requirements.** The present 7100 students studying for Bachelor degrees would be reduced to 5000.

**All postgraduate diplomas and masters degree coursework would go.** This includes the popular Diploma of Education in which almost 200 students are enrolled this year. Another casualty would be the masters coursework in Environmental Studies.

**The number of postgraduate research students would be increased to 1500.** This compares with the present 500 full-time postgraduate students.

**Major changes would take place in lecture and exam timetables.** The idea is to streamline the lecture timetable and schedule exams at ordinary lecture times during the exam week. It is possible that some courses may be axed in conjunction with this restructuring but no definite proposals have yet surfaced.

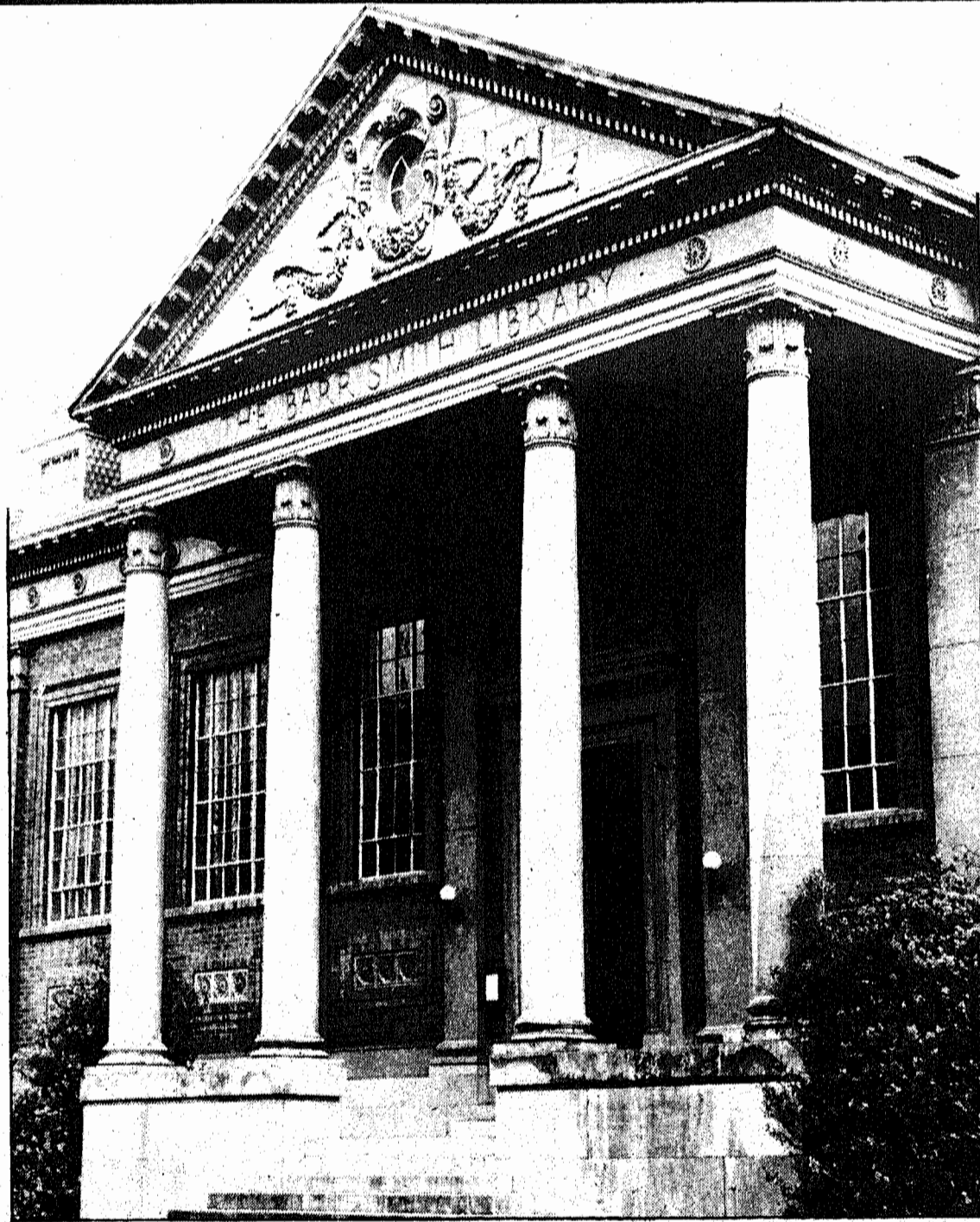
**Students with CAE degrees would be eligible for automatic transfer to Adelaide Uni.,** with two years credit towards a bachelors degree. Further links with colleges would be established through making study for a PhD available to CAE academic staff.

**It is proposed that the freeze on academic staff be removed** and that each department outline its fundamental staffing needs in a "minimum academic profile".

## Then the bombshell.

Each department would be asked to report to the administration, staff members who are "sufficiently ineffective" to justify early retirement or an invalidity pension.

Other proposals are made with regard to funding mechanisms, voluntary academic leave without pay and car parking charges. The latter are likely to increase to be compatible with commercial long-term parking rates.



The report is presented, says Dr Medlin in his preamble, in an effort to respond to the attempts "to control the freedom of the mind through the abuse of the power of the purse". That's the philosophy and these proposals are intended to apply it.

## The Reaction

It is anticipated that the cut in undergraduate numbers and the increase in postgraduate numbers will mean a 10% net saving in academic staff time. This provides the University with leeway to reduce staff. A 10% staff reduction is anticipated in the next ten

years.

The 2000 drop in undergraduates (referred to by Dr Medlin as the filtering out of the 'agony group') will leave academics with more time to give to abler students and to research.

Other opinion is less sanguine.

Universities should not "simply seek an elite group to pursue 'higher learning'" according to Students' Association President Mandy Cornwall.

The increase in postgraduate numbers is in line with Dr Medlin's mooted concept of a research oriented university.

Postgraduate Students Association (PSA) spokesman Jim Hyde said that the increase was a fine idea in principle, but pointed out that the lack of scholarships and the threat of postgraduate fees would not attract more students. Hyde also claimed that any influx of postgraduate students would lead to severe accommodation problems in overcrowded departments.

The Medlin report also deals with examinations. A review of assessment procedure is overdue according to Mandy Cornwall. Examinations do come under the spotlight in the report. If departments supervise

their own exams it will save \$30,000 a year. But Ms Cornwall points out that "this present proposal is based on financial grounds and makes no reference to any educational benefits.

A major thrust of the proposals is centred on the concept of the University as a place for an educational elite. A major gulf is drawn between it and the more vocationally oriented CAEs. The paper advocates a widening of the present split but also provides a means to cross it. Medlin would have the University give two years credit to holders of CAE degrees who wish to do a university degree. This idea would have student support but indications are that academic staff would, in the main, strongly oppose it.

Funding cuts are the reason why some changes are now imperative in the University. To cut costs it is necessary to cut staff. But relying on retirements and resignations spreads the load unevenly so, inevitably, the Medlin report examines the sacred institution of academic tenure.

Dr Medlin suggests a method for culling incompetent academics. Whether this can be achieved in the face of "professional ethics" and other similar academic traditions, remains to be seen. It is suggested that 1% of all staff might be "sufficiently inadequate" to justify action. That is about five lecturers in the whole university. Students might consider that a low estimate. (Perhaps *On dit's* Troglodyte column should be consulted.)

## The Aftermath

If the recommendations of the Medlin report were implemented it could mean a major change of direction in the University. The trend of the last fifteen years toward a large University sector with easy access to courses would be reversed. The Universities would again become the place for the educational elite. Other students would find it necessary to fall back on CAE courses.

Dr Medlin believes that these changes signalled in his report are desirable even separated from the financial state of the University. However he does believe about \$800,000 per annum could be saved with their implementation. He believes that a saving of academic time of about 15% would also result. This time he thinks could be well invested in research and in the education of those students who are left. Finally he thinks students would find a welcome relief from "sadistic examining" which should be moderated.

The Medlin proposals certainly are a talking point though prevailing opinion is that most have little chance of being introduced. But they have stimulated debate.

The debate is very pertinent to students, so think about it. **Tim Dodd**





# Bilbo

## TIME OFF IN LIEU

Bilbo noticed recently that some of the paper in the toilets on campus was advertising for holidays in Tasmania. Your bemused hobbit wonders whether the location of the brochure indicates the type of holiday that could be expected or if it was just intended to encourage movement.

## WIPING OVER MISTAKES

While on a similar subject, Bilbo would like to mention *On dit's* reference to Beethoven's 1812 Overture. The editors claim was a deliberate mistake to find out if people read before they wiped. Bilbo thinks that they really didn't know that it was Tchaichovsky who wrote the 1812 Overture - Beethoven wrote the Nutcracker Suite.

## INNER CIRCLE

Another suite where tough nuts are cracked is the University Council room. Participants in meetings in this room sit in two circles, one slightly bigger and outside the other. This arrangement helped make a meeting go a little strange last week.

The Education Committee, one of the more important committees, had a problem electing an unopposed candidate to chair the Executive Committee (Harry Medlin does it again). There is a process whereby ballot papers must be marked with approval to elect even unopposed candidates but some academics seemed to

think there could be cheating on this. So, they adopted the procedure that all voters would have to put their papers in a ballot box and have their names crossed off the roll, rather than just distributing and collecting ballot papers.

This led to the situation where the two circles were moving round and round like a kindergarten class singing *Little Red Caboose* looking, being and feeling rather silly. The Committee didn't do this for the next election, which was contested and in which a student got a high number of votes.

If students are interested in attending a meeting to see the Education Committee go round in circles, the date of the next meeting will probably be advertised by a circular round about three week's time.

## DECIDE NOW, VOTE LATER

Also coming up soon are the elections and Bilbo would now like to keep you up-to-date with the latest candidates etc.

*On dit* did look as though it might have Jennifer Hein and Dennis Medlow but they're now going to go for *Bread and Circuses* editorship.

Linda Gale is still in the air about a partner for *On dit* but there was a rumour that fellow-SAUA Executive member Janet Townend might make up the team. However, Janet might be a candidate for Education Vice-President of the Students' Association, so Gale has suffered a few blows, although it was suggested that Alan Kenington, occasional *On dit* contributor, might join with her. Paul (*cheaper for students*) Klaric will not be running for any full-time paid positions but may run for an honorary position on one of the committees, perhaps Activities.

The race for President seems to be left to Mark Jamieson but there's still time for a dark horse to come through a win

(and compared to some Presidents, a horse would do the job well).

The Union Figurehead, sorry, President position not only has Ken McAlpine and Simon Maddocks as rumoured runners, but Mandy (First Woman President Twice) Cornwall could be in the running. This election will be by the Union Council and not directly by students, so this means lobbying will be important.

Ernest Grott may also be a candidate for the Activities Council so even if you don't want to know, you may soon know the identity of this egg.

Bilbo doesn't know anything about the democratic processes for Student Radio Co-ordinators but it's rumoured that there's no such thing, just processes.

There will also be Union Council elections coming up soon and Bilbo will be interested to see if some of the old hacks keep coming back. Maybe students will notice too.

AUS will be having elections at its Annual Council meeting in January 1982, but it's all being sorted out now. Paul Carrick will probably run for another term as President and there are potential Media Officer candidates from all over the place, including Western Australia.

The position of AUS Education Vice-President looks like it will be filled by our own Julia Gillard, who has proven lobbying ability and television presentation. Although she doesn't hold an AUS position (yet) she has attended all the right meetings and conferences and has been given the nod by the boys in Melbourne.

The AUS Women's Officer position isn't usually determined until the Council meeting and this year there are few rumours or obvious heirs to make it different this year.

Bilbo would like to remind students that the elections aren't just being run for and by 'heavies' and anyone can run. If you are a candidate and would like a mention in this column, please address an anonymous envelope to Bilbo, c/- *On dit*, with relevant details about yourself.

## TICKETTING OFF

Law students soon forget their famous kin. One law student, Martin Karaffa, came through the Student Activities office last week giving away tickets to the Law School revue *Barristar Galactica*. Although Mandy Cornwall is a law student (still) and President of the Association and therefore interested in getting some perks from that office, Martin didn't give her tickets. Mandy eventually attended with the Office Manager, Angel Hunt.

Bilbo would like to suggest that all groups putting on

performances on campus can avoid these embarrassing revelations by depositing some tickets for Bilbo in the *On dit* office.

## BAD PLANNING

The State Liberal Government has claimed to have problems with leaks of confidential material, so they must have been very embarrassed when the other week the State Government Printing Office put on sale the suggested amendments to the Planning and Development Act. The document was on sale for three days before it was realised that it hadn't even been to the Cabinet, let alone passed through Parliament.

Bilbo wonders whether this is open government or an experiment in the Freedom of Information. It's either that or at least some of the so-called leaks are due to Government incompetence.

# Letters

## Boom...

To the Editors,

In response to the article by Mike Khizam in *On dit* (Vol. 49, No. 11) we would like to point out the obvious limitations on his use of sources.

Of course the Iraqi reactor had to be taken militarily. Does Mr Khizam honestly believe that the issue could have been resolved diplomatically? On every instance, the United Nations overwhelmingly condemns Israel, simply on the sheer strength of the "Arab Oil" vote. We find it difficult to concede that this undermines the basic principle behind the action. The development of nuclear weapons anywhere, and particularly in a region with the volatility of the Middle East must surely be condemned. Which brings us to Mr Khizam's second incorrect allegation. His claim that Israel has nuclear weapons which, "The Arab States ... live under the threat of" is unjustified, and we challenge him to present respectable documentation in the light of statements of intent printed in the official Iraqi papers, which Mr Khizam has neglected to mention. We feel that commenting on Mr Begin's comments of genocide would be fruitless, other than to say he is speaking from direct personal experience. It has often been said that anti-zionism is the modern manifestation of anti-semitism. To a large degree this is true. The day that Israel doesn't exist as a haven for Jewish refugees from all over the world will be a sad day for humanity. Not to "foster deliberate confusion" in the mind of Mr Khizam, we would like to point out that the PLO have always made it clear, in their National Covenant and otherwise, that they require the "pushing of the Zionists into the sea".

No Mr Khizam, it is not possible to dismantle a state without the killing of all its citizens. In answer to your question, "Is Israel under real threat?" Well, it was correctly pointed out that Lebanon is not an immediate threat. However, it certainly would have been, had Israel not come to the aid of the Christian militia in protecting Lebanon's Christian population from complete annihilation at the hands of its Arab brothers. One thinks in jest to believe that the Jordan River keeps out Hussein's troops as opposed to a mismanaged economy. We only need stretch our memories back to 1973 for proof of that. Syria on the other hand, in possession of the latest Soviet Hardware, from Surface to Surface missiles, to the incomparable T-17 tanks. Mr Khizam chose his words carefully when he spoke of Egypt. Let us point out to him, that as part of the "Camp David Accords", Egypt is entitled to honour its treaties with other Arab nations, of which it has many. That is to say, that if Syria-Soviet declared war on Israel, Egypt-US could legally participate. Through Mr Kimche's outspokenness, one thing is clear: The Arabs can afford to lose many wars, but Israel cannot even afford to win one.

And yes Mr Khizam, we wait with you in anticipation for the result of this month's election. Should the Likud coalition fall, we feel sure that the policy of Shimon Peres/Ma'arach coalition will not be different on matters of national security. We hope this letter will give a balance to the information repressing viewpoint that Mr Khizam has expressed.

Paul Steiner - Flinders University.  
Igor Blumenthal - Adelaide CAE.

## Veggie Reply

Dear Sirs,

In reference to the article 'Vegetarians

Gewaro', I would point out that the involvement of the Hare Krishnas in the setting up of a Club on campus was clear to all those present at Wednesday 17th's meeting and indeed to myself and twenty-odd other people who signed a 'petition' in Orientation Week to set up a 'Hare Krishna Vegetarian Club'. Copies of a proposed constitution were circulated at the meeting where the objectives of the Club were stated, and I believe most people who were interested took the opportunity to read through them.

It seems other religious and non-religious groups can set up on campus and receive substantial capital grants, but when the Hare Krishnas are involved there is a revival of the old style witch hunts, people looking for skeletons in closets etc. The article thus points to a need for unhysterical discussion with the people concerned, i.e. if you're so interested in the objectives and motives of the Hare Krishna movement, why not ask them instead of making up other people's minds for them by writing slanted, anonymous articles. I think you will find that the Hare Krishnas are not about taking over people's minds and churning out shaven-headed saffron robed fanatics - rather, they do have something to offer to people at large, including a good knowledge of vegetarian cooking which is the major reason for setting up a club on campus.

Richard Scarborough

# AUS Fightback

Dear James and Paul,

I was very disappointed with Geoff Hanmer's letter of last week in which he attacked Linda Gale for allegedly saying that keeping students informed of what happened to the \$15,000 paid to AUS for the 'Education Fightback' campaign was 'silly and frivolous'. My disappointment was increased by the fact that Geoff usually, at least on matters of fact, has respect for accuracy in his reporting of events.

Linda Gale has at no stage described the informing of students of how their money is spent as silly or frivolous.

What she *did* say at the last Union Council meeting was that AUS should not have to report to Union Council on how the money is spent. Rather, AUS should report to the Students' Association (the only body on this campus affiliated to AUS) and directly to students through such means as *On dit*.

The Union Council is the management body of the Union to which such groups as the Students' Association can ask for grants.

For instance, the Union Council grants money to the Clubs and Societies Council, but respecting the autonomy of the CSC, it does not demand to know how that money is spent, except in the broadest outline.

Given that a report to Union Council would only appear in the minutes of that body, a motion demanding that the Council should be told at each meeting what's happening to the money (in addition to the reports which AUS regularly gives to the Students' Association and the articles in *On dit*) was correctly described by Linda as "silly and frivolous".

Geoff was obviously relying on second hand information and maybe isn't to blame for the inaccuracies of his attack on Linda. However, he should have got his facts straight first.

Ken McAlpine

If there were any inaccuracies in the above letter they were our fault, not Mr Hanmer's, who relied on us for his information. In future such comments should be directed to the editors - Eds.

# Trogs

IT IS WELL known among Troglodyte observers that there exists a German equivalent known as a Hollenbewohner (one who lives in holes). One of these has immigrated to Australia and is currently living in the German Department of this university.

The culprit is Herr Boenig, who seems to think that students are at liberty to spend much of

their time waiting for his lectures to either start or finish. It is not unusual for him to arrive up to twenty minutes late for his lectures and assume that students are perfectly happy to make up that lost time at the end of his lecture. Even if he is on time (wonder of wonders), students can count on him going at least five minutes overtime. Bad luck if you have to be at another lecture! All entreaties to finish on time are in vain, so I would consider him a perfect candidate for Troglodyte of the Week.

We are pleased to see an entry for the "Best Lecturer of the Year" contest, from a first year student too! Keep 'em rolling in folks.

On hearing of your Best Lecturer category Contest, I would like to nominate Prof. Dalziel of the Psychology Department. He is informative, easy to take notes on, yet balances his lectures well on content and humour to make Psych. an interesting topic.  
Anon. 1st Year Psych. Student

# notices

## JOIN THE FIGHTBACK AGAINST THE RAZOR

There will be a meeting of students from all campuses in Adelaide this Saturday 4th July at the SA Institute of Technology Student Lounge.

We will be working out pre-budget campaigns and activities for campuses and across the state.

If you would like more information see Mandy Cornwall in the Student Office.

## ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY JULY 1st - 7.30 - 7.30 p.m.

We are holding a welcome for Professor Roy Rappaport who is at present visiting from the Uni. of Michigan. Jeff Collmann will first be presenting a video of his latest research in Seville, Spain. This will be followed by general discussion and an opportunity to meet Professor Rappaport. Wine and cheese provided.

To be held in the Anthropology Department Staff Lounge, Level 3, Old Medical School, Frome Road.

Members free (\$2 membership fee available at door), others 50¢.

Page 4

## STUDENTS NEEDED FOR INFORMATION DAYS

Information Days are organised every year to provide information about the University to prospective students.

Students are needed for this year's Information Day to put forward the student view of courses. In the past information has been provided only by academics.

It simply involves giving a brief talk at a faculty seminar on Tuesday July 28th.

There will be a meeting this Thursday 2nd July at 1 p.m. in the Student Counselling Service for all students interested in participating.

## ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION LATE NIGHT FILM, FRIDAY, 3RD JULY at 11.30 PM, LITTLE CINEMA, FIFTH FLOOR, UNION HOUSE. ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13.

A cop with a war on his hands ... His enemy ... an army of street killers. His only ally ... a convicted murderer.

ADMISSION: Film Group members: \$2, Others \$2.50.

# Nat W

National 'W' is a national feminist newspaper produced annually by the AUS Women's Department. This year it is being produced in Adelaide.

There will be a meeting of women interested in helping with this year's National 'W' next Tuesday 30th July at 6.00 p.m. in the Women's Room at Adelaide Uni.

The National AUS Women's Officer, Philomena Horsley, will be visiting Adelaide to help us get it together.

This meeting will be working out the overall theme/editing policy/what the paper should look like, etc. The printing date is 14th-15th July, so you can see there is lots to be done in a relatively short time.

Also, the third National Women's Policy Collective meeting will be held in Adelaide 10th-13th July. This will allow women from all over Australia to help lay-out National 'W'. We will need billets for about ten women, so if you have a spare bed ...

Without the work of South Australian women, National 'W' will not happen this year. Come to the meeting and bring a friend (or two).

For any inquiries contact MANDY CORNWALL at the Students' Association at Adelaide Uni. ph. 2232412 or 2234333 ext. 2383.



# Things go better with.... LOW ALCOHOL BEER

SOMEBODY ONCE SAID that "Drunkness is nothing more than voluntary madness". Perhaps you wondered why the booths in the Union Bar are padded. Even so, a majority of Adelaide Uni. beer drinkers have indicated that they prefer temporary lunacy to full-time sobriety.

In a survey conducted last Thursday, questioning just under one hundred beer drinkers in the Bar, a staggering 91% said they would oppose a move from normal strength beer to low alcohol type. A surprising result, considering the rather tough random breath test legislation which has just been passed in Parliament. Even if the cost of low alcohol beer were to be 5c to 7c cheaper a glass (due to a proposed Government cut in excise on low alcohol beers) the response was still an 85% against.

*On dit* also questioned drinkers as to whether or not there should be a normal tap and a low alcohol tap simultaneously to cater for everyone's taste. Eight four percent agreed, though only 15% indicated that they would even consider drinking low alcohol beer. Seemingly, students are quite happy with the situation as it stands regarding beer types. Union Bar Manager, Terry Wells, thinks that it is because many students come to have a drink to relieve pressures from study, and under the low alcohol beer system it is more difficult to actually feel like one has had a drink (i.e. people have to pay more to get pissed).

Apart from the non-support it receives from students, low alcohol beer has other problems associated with its introduction. The cool room in the Bar contains kegs of beer, cider and wine. Due to the small size of the area, another variety of beer would add confusion and congestion. "It's a slight problem which we would put up with if the demand for low alcohol beer was there," said Terry, "but nobody wants it."

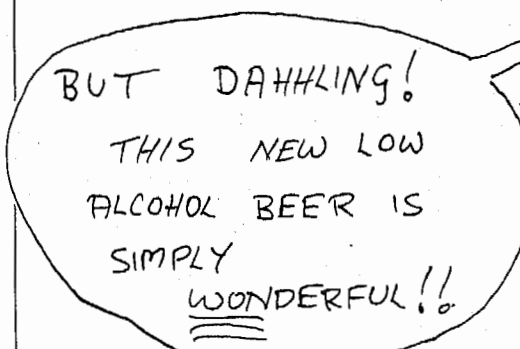
Proof of this fact is that when bottles of low alcohol beer came on the market, orders were made for the Union Bar. The number of bottles sold leads one to the conclusion that low alcohol beer is as popular in the Bar as Mark Chapman is to the John Lennon Fan Club; after a few weeks Terry had to send most of the stock to the bars in Union Hall and Little Cinema.

There are still a few bottles of low alcohol beer kept on hand if somebody requests it; though it is seldom asked for.

Interestingly enough, other universities have recently been experimenting with the types of beer sold, with similar student responses. Last year the Queensland Uni. Bar introduced low alcohol beer totally, i.e. no option given to the drinker. The reaction was unfavourable and the Bar Manager is still wanted for questioning.

On the other hand, Flinders Uni. has changed all of their beer over to West End *Export*, which is higher in alcohol content than the ordinary draught. In fact, the barman on duty at the Flinders Tavern

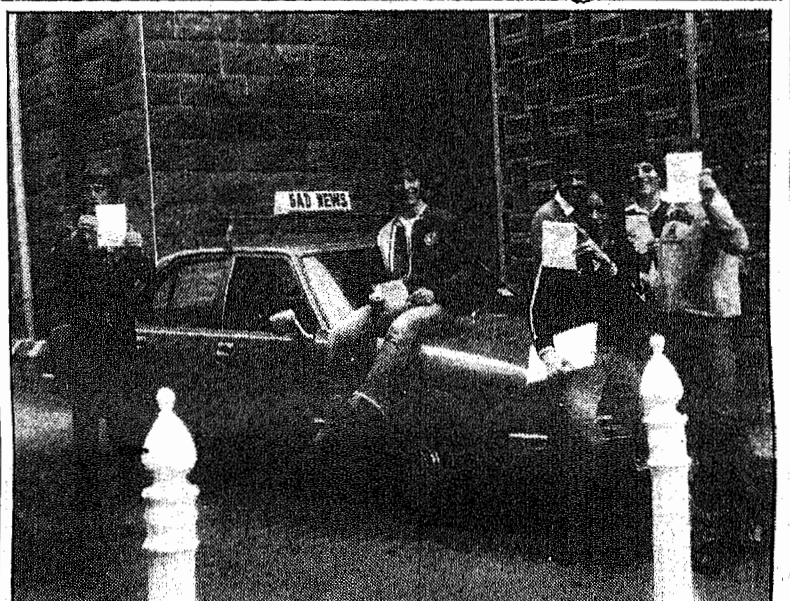
## BEER



when *On dit* rang, said that they didn't carry any low alcohol beer at all, and that the *Export* brand was very popular amongst their drinkers in terms of taste and alcohol content.

So it seems then, that low alcohol beer would be unpopular in our Bar. Terry Wells feels that to introduce it without the students' consent would be unfair. "I don't think we should instal it unless there is a demand for it." Indications are that there won't be an overwhelming demand for it unless it is cheaper, and even then the level of demand may not increase. Certainly this is one area where Union Council and the Catering Management Board should heed the war cry of the Adelaide Uni. boozier. Drunkenness may be nothing more than voluntary madness, but then again, so would the installation of an unpopular product to the Union Bar.

Paul Klaric



# Prosh Debate

ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE people turned up to a meeting to revive Prosh Day last week. Organised by the Activities people in the Gallery, Barry Salter and Maureen Sadler, the discussion centred around the various types of activities and the charities the money raised from Prosh would go to. Do we call it Prosh, do we have a procession, will there be a Prosh Ball, Prosh Brekky or Movie Marathon? The need to have students involved in these different areas is obvious if they are to go ahead at all.

A general student meeting is to be held before Prosh gets too close to determine their level of support. Motions in support of Prosh and against Prosh will be put to the meeting to enable students to express their viewpoint. However, it is apparent that more than just an expression of support is needed as Prosh is not just some self-fulfilling event, but requires active participation of students.

One proposal is for the Prosh rag to be sold over a period of a few days, probably earlier in the week, and that the pressure of editing and producing the rag not be left entirely with the Editors of *On dit*. A question was also raised about the content of the rag with its previously "off" slant. Many people expressed the desire for a more discursive rag with an opportunity to present issues to the public about student life, still retaining the witty and

humorous side. A major fund raiser, many people are required to sell the Prosh rag on the city streets. Vera Trust from the Craft Studio has expressed her willingness to help in making floats and put the real meaning back into Prosh (i.e. procession). This requires people also, hopefully those with a sense of humour. If a procession is to go ahead permission will be required from the Adelaide City Council and the Police. The University will also have to be told of Prosh proceedings. Another meeting to discuss the possibilities and program of Prosh in more detail is to be held on Wednesday July 1st at 1.00 in the Gallery (see notice on page 2). Prosh is, or can be, more than just an idiot time to let off steam; it can also benefit people in need. I urge you to get involved, not just for your sake, but so that the community at large can benefit. And if you're not into altruism it will also be great fun and could help change the growing cynicism of the public about the worth of this University and the students in it. I suggest you look beyond yourself and apathy and self-interest and look to others. Is this call in vain? I fear so. Come to the meeting on Wednesday and the GSM. Give Prosh mouth to mouth! Resuscitate it now! Paul Hunt

# Religious Education

A GROUP OF concerned Christians on campus have come together to support AUS in its campaign against the Federal Government's attack on tertiary education. On May 8 a dozen students gathered in the Chapel to share thoughts and arrive at a common platform from which they could act as a group. Since then the group has met three times, and last week released a statement concerning its policy and aims. This is being circulated around campus.

The focal point of the statement is justice, as an individual and social responsibility, as a consequence of God's love for each person. To deny anyone their democratic

rights in a society is to deny that God loves them. In this context, the group views education as a God-given gift, both for survival and self-fulfilment. Thus it must be made available to all, poor and rich alike. In fact, education is a means of narrowing the gap between rich and poor.

The statement further recognises Christ as the personification of God's love and mercy. Only in following Christ's commandments is there true justice. They cite Matthew 25:

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink ... I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important, you did it for me." (Matt. 25: 35-40)

The group see this as a direct challenge: to take the plight of the poor as a personal responsibility.

Today the Federal Government is forcing more and more to choose between food and tertiary education. For many, the choice will never exist.

To ignore these people while we enjoy our privileges is to ignore the oppressed and needy: it is to ignore Jesus.

The group has decided to call itself the Christian Education Action Group. They are inviting other Christians on campus to join them in their efforts, and supply new ideas and opinions. Meetings will be held during term. See *Bread and Circuses* for details. Jim Nolan



# Figurehead or Scapegoat?

THE CONSTITUTIONAL changes proposed by the Union Council, if accepted by the University Council and ultimately by the students at a referendum this term, will set up a Union President and an Executive of Union Council. These new positions will have specific tasks set out in the Constitution which will be:

**Executive of Union Council ...** to administer matters referred to it by its own regulations or by Union Council, to act on behalf of Union Council on matters delegated to it by Union Council, and to perform other functions necessary or incidental so that the first two points can be performed successfully.

**President of Union Council ...** to perform duties given him/her by Union Council, to be the official spokesperson of the Union, to chair Union Council and Executive.

The duties of the two new entities are clearly defined, but problems can (and undoubtedly will) arise. Many Councillors expressed concern over whether the Union would grind to a halt if the President was sacked in vacation time or the President skipped to Cuba with the cheque book etc. etc. These problems have been overcome by the amendments that Council passed at the last meeting. However the implementation will still not be a 'bed or roses' out-with-the-old-in-with-the-new process, and several areas of concern still exist with the demarcation of the President's/Executive jobs and the Secretary of the Union's jobs.

I spoke to David Muir, the Union Secretary last Thursday to find some answers to questions I had regarding the Executive/President introduction. His overall view was that if Union Council and the students want a president and executive, they shall have a president and executive and the Secretary should advise the new bodies as to the best course for the Union in the future.

I asked David about the possible danger in his duties as Chief Executive Officer of the Union if a Union President was

introduced. He said that the Union Secretary would be under the Union President with the President as "head" of the Union organisation. The current suggestion is for the President to be elected by Union Council, which in turn is elected by students. Some changes in the duties of the Secretary would be necessary to meet these requirements.

David expressed the view that he could not see any benefits to the Union in particular, but he could envisage, due to the changing political scene in the Union, benefits to Union staff and in particular, to the Secretary. With the increasing involvement of Union Council in the running of the Union, the introduction of a Union President would enable Council to direct Union affairs and the President would be able to take the responsibility for any decisions that he or she made in that capacity. The Secretary should not have to, as he does at the moment, take the full blame for decisions made that could have political repercussions, David believes. Since the President would make those decisions the Secretary would be 'protected' from political backlashes and would be able to concentrate on the role of advisor and Secretary of the Union as a professional officer.

Over the past few years Union Council has become more and more involved in the Union's day to day management and the role of responsibility in policy matters should be carried by an elected representative rather than by a paid professional officer.

If passed by University Council and accepted by the students at the referendum, will the proposals be easy to implement?

David said that "implementation will be one that will require a lot of work from the point of view of consultation and conciliation between the Union President and the Secretary." In the phasing in stage the jobs must be clearly defined as to who does what and where and when so that conflicts do not occur such as the Secretary

says one thing and the President saying something else. David feels that the restructuring can be effective if it is handled in the right way. The Secretary admitted that he has been treating the Chair of Union Council (Kerry Hinton) as a Union President anyway.

David feels that the Secretary should handle finance since he is a professional officer trained to do the job effectively. The Union is many things, not just a business, with an annual turnover of about \$5 million and employing over two hundred staff requiring a professional officer at the financial helm. What a student President could do is a difficult question. David doesn't see the President as an accountant but rather as a spokesperson for the Union, to make announcements regarding the Union to the student body as well as to the public. David added that previous Union Chairs had learned quite a lot from their experiences with the Union and that the Union amongst other things is a "training ground" for people who would like to know how a business operates.

There shouldn't really be any problems with the Union getting into political trouble because of the President, as the Union Council will direct the President to make statements and the President would not make any other announcements other than those. The Secretary would advise Council as to what form these announcements would take. Should the President say something not endorsed by Union Council, then he/she would be sacked and the Union would be able to claim that the President has no Union backing in the things that were said.

Can you see the Presidential position becoming just a figurehead or will it become a contributing factor in the decision making of the Union?

The Secretary said that Union Council would expect the President to be a contributor to the decision making process, and he doubted whether Council would let the President become a figurehead.

At the moment the Chair of Union Council was seen as more of a figurehead than as an active participant in Union matters.

Having enlightened you on some of the things that the Secretary has said, I would like to say that the restructuring of Union Council is still a long way off. The Constitution changes must be approved by the University Council before they can be put to the students at a referendum. Then it is up to you, the students, to make your feelings felt one way or another about this important issue.

The proposed restructuring is important. Make yourself aware of what will happen, and think about whether you agree with the proposals. One thing that has already come under criticism is the fact that the President will not be elected by the student body as a whole but from amongst the ranks of Union Council. I am not saying that this or any other proposals are good or bad, but I urge all students to know what the results will be should the referendum pass the Constitutional changes.

Dennis Medlow

## From Pres. to Pres.

*This letter was written by the Students' Association President and Union Councillor Mandy Cornwall, to put forward her position on the proposed Union President position. We feel it merits inclusion after the article on this issue as it gives an alternative viewpoint and discusses the implications of this change. For your edification, read on. - Eds.*

Dear Paul and James,

Chris Barry's article on the proposed position of Union President quoted me as saying it would not be a figurehead.

In the light of current debate on this issue, I would like to expand on a few points.

While I do not believe the President should be a figurehead, the current proposal of the Union Council will create a position which is exactly that. The Union Council decided at its last meeting that the President will not be the Chief Executive Officer of the Union. This means the Secretary of the Union will retain his current hot seat of coping all the political flack. On the one hand the Council says we need a President to protect our professional officers from being involved in the nitty-gritty of student debates, yet they set up the position without any power or responsibility. Unless the President is the person ultimately responsible to the Council then the positing is nothing more than a PR exercise to pretend that students control the Union.

Some councillors believe that if the President is the "No. 1", s/he will have too much power. They have visions of a newly elected President attempting to

handle industrial or staffing matters and run the accounts of the Union. Responsibility for these matters which are obviously a professional's job, would remain with the Secretary as is stated in the job specifications. Also, the President is accountable to the Union Council and its Executive.

There would be little opportunity for the President to get up to much without being censured or sacked or whatever.

This brings me to my second point. The current proposals for the election and dismissal of the President are quite remarkable. It was agreed early in the piece that the President should be elected by the Council rather than directly elected by students. This is to avoid candidates with little competence but a good election campaign from being elected. After having worked with people on the Union Council for a while, it is hoped that Councillors will be better informed as to which candidate would do the job best. The trouble is that now the Council has decided the President will be elected at the first Union Council meeting after the elections. The new completely inexperienced Council will be electing the President. There seems some inconsistency there. Also, just to make sure there's plenty of time to have a break after exams, essay deadlines etc the President's term is to start 1st December instead of 1st January, as is the case with other paid student positions such as *On dit* editors or President of the SAUA.

To dismiss the President all that is necessary is a two-thirds majority vote of the Union Council. There is no appeal to the general student body at a General Union meeting or referendum. This is despite other clauses in the Constitution which guarantee reference to members and make General Union meetings binding on the Council.

The current proposal of the Union Council for President of the Union amounts to a timid attempt at Union Council control of the Union without proper reference to students and staff who make up the membership. Let's hope the debate at this week's Council meeting will see some of these difficulties resolved.

Mandy Cornwall  
Union Councillor

## ART COURSE?

VERA TRUST, Craft Studio Director, suggests that art be offered as a university subject. In a recent interview, Vera said that not only would this allow people to continue their interests in art without making a life of it and going to art school, but also that it would offer a wider education to all undergraduates.

At the moment there is no course in the Arts degree remotely concerning art - fairly strange when one considers the number of other disciplines covered. However there is of course the Craft Studio which, though it can't offer academic status, can offer a relaxing approach to art as a leisure time activity.

It is Vera's belief that too many people go through university without taking on any sort of extra curricular activity. And yet it is this sort of activity that produces well rounded graduates. It seems the university's policy has always been 'We'll educate you

to a point - get well rounded yourself". So it is up to the individual at the moment to make the effort to get involved.

The effort necessary is not too great - the studio covers most areas that people might be interested in from jewellery and shoe making to batik and pottery. Vera and her assistant, Steve Wigg, are on duty every week day to make access easy. No prior knowledge of any craft is necessary. Once you have seen enough to discover what interests you, you take a course of about six to ten weeks at a small price (to pay for professional tutors).

The Studio can be a venue for relaxation while also offers the benefit of relating to people with similar interest. If students get involved in some of the workshops and art projects that Vera is continuously planning, it can create a community feeling on campus. Once you have finished your degree you will not "leave behind only a stack of marked papers" but a



part of your identity. Many ex-students have realised what the Studio offers after they have left and have come back to do a course because they either had no

time or interest while at Uni. Why wait till then when the Studio is available for your use now. If you have any queries as to courses etc, just feel like spending a couple of hours

there, go up 'cos you'll be made most welcome. And you'll probably be doing yourself a bigger favour than you think.

On dit Staff



# CHINA- Friend or Foe?

PRESIDENT NIXON'S trip to China in 1972 was hailed as an historic landmark. It was the beginning of a new relationship between the West and a communist superpower. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Nobel prizewinning novelist and Soviet dissident-in-exile, puts a sinister interpretation upon this *rapprochement*: "In expectation of World War Three the West again seeks cover, and finds Communist China as an ally! This is another betrayal, not only of Taiwan, but of the entire oppressed Chinese people. Moreover, it is a mad, suicidal policy: having supplied billion-strong China with American arms, the West will defeat the USSR, but thereafter no force will restrain Communist China from world conquest." Solzhenitsyn is well noted for sounding alarm bells, but in this case does his claim have any foundation in truth?



Deng Xiaoping in a loquacious mood

## MAO'S GHOST

The first thing one notices about China today is that it is undergoing profound changes. Mao Tse-tung has been dead for four and a half years now. The comrades who succeeded him have become increasingly critical of the "errors" the Great Helmsman made in his later years, and have even authorized the taking down of Mao statues and pictures all over China. Those in control now, like Party Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang, were former victims of Mao's purges. This anti-Mao movement culminated late last year in the trial and sentencing of the "Gang of Four", which was led by Mao's widow, Jiang Qing.

The drastic turnabout is perhaps best represented by the words of old Mao ally, Party Chairman Hua Guofeng, who was forced to resign as Premier last year. In the introduction to the 1977 volume of the collected works of Mao, edited by Hua, he had declared that "Comrade Mao was the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our time; his thought and teachings will live forever". But in 1980, Hua was saying that "concrete circumstances may invalidate Mao's teachings".

The country is still poor and backward, but there has been a noticeable easing of the atmosphere, indicated by a return of romantic drama on TV, glossy billboards advertising Coca-Cola and Sanyo tape recorders,

and an end to the militant Maoist campaigns and marches. In the past two years the leaders of China have abandoned a rigid ideology in favour of a relatively free-wheeling pragmatism. Communist economic policies have been modified to give greater initiative to local factories and farms. The government has offered new latitude for artists and writers, and it has risked sending thousands of scholars and scientists to study in the capitalist West. The government's main aim is to achieve the "Four Modernizations": the upgrading of industry, agriculture, science and technology, and streamlining of the military.

On the one hand, the new regime encourages a measure of freedom and even some free-wheeling debate in such areas as technology and economic planning. But in the political realm, in order to check a system still dominated by Mao-spouting devotees of the Cultural Revolution, authoritarianism is the order of the day

## STILL DICTATORSHIP

Rigid political control takes two forms. The good form is in the provinces, where some officials are being purged for various forms of malfeasance and dereliction of duty. The less attractive aspect concerns the suppression of freedom of speech. Farmers bringing their complaints to Peking are beaten by plainclothes security personnel for talking to foreigners.

There has been a general cracking down on the small, but vocal, free speech movement. In recent years, dissidents had been pasting up on "democracy wall" (the only place in China where free expression was genuinely tolerated) posters bluntly attacking the authoritarianism of the regime. Underground magazines have provided detailed reports on the horrendous conditions in Chinese prisons, as well as sharply worded demands for human rights. Obviously, there are limits to liberalization in the post-Mao China. A leading Communist Party newspaper, the Shanghai *Liberation Daily*, has warned that: "A very small group of counter-revolutionaries has been poisoning people's minds. Those who should be arrested must be arrested. Those who should be sentenced must be sentenced. Those who should be killed must be killed. We cannot be softhearted in this matter." These less-than-rosy aspects of modern China are largely omitted from the commentaries of our own media, in their eagerness to embrace the new anti-Soviet "friend".

## 'GREAT LEAP OUTWARD'

Apart from the "Four Modernizations", China's other great policy ambition is the "Great Leap Outward" - an end to the isolation of the past. No country seems to be too unsuitable for approach. In October 1979, Chinese and Soviet high officials met for the first time in sixteen years. On landing at Sheremetyevo Airport, then Deputy Foreign Minister Wang Youping, head of the ten-man Chinese delegation, resurrected expressions from the fraternal era before

the Sino-Soviet schism began in 1959, when he declared that "the Chinese and Soviet people have built and developed a profound friendship over long years of common revolutionary struggle".

These overtures were in sharp contradiction to statements being made to US officials - like those only a month earlier that produced a "practical cooperation" pact between the two countries. An example of Chinese perfidity? More likely, the Soviet approach was prompted by a desire to withdraw some of China's 1.6 million border troops from the northern frontier, and devote more resources to its ambitious plans for internal modernization. The Soviets, for their part, may have felt that by playing their "China Card" their hand would be strengthened in dealings with the US.

## GENOCIDE

In any event, negotiations broke down under the weight of mutual suspicions. Only a week before the Sino-Soviet meeting Viet Nam began its invasion of Cambodia, where troops loyal to deposed Premier Pol Pot, backed by China, have been carrying on a stubborn insurgency. It was feared that China might take direct action in defence of Pol Pot, and even perhaps launch another "punitive" attack like its massive invasion of Viet Nam in February of 1979. A Chinese military operation on that scale would again raise the risk of direct Soviet intervention.

In the diplomatic arena, China prevailed over the Soviet Union in that it succeeded in keeping Pol Pot as the representative of Cambodia in the United Nations General Assembly, rather than the Viet Nam-installed government of President Heng Samrin, as the Soviet Union insisted. This situation has since been reversed, though Vice Chairman Deng recently reiterated China's support for the genocidal regime of Pol Pot, and disparaged accounts that one million people had died under Pot's rule.

## TAIWAN

Another neighbour of China to supprisingly receive the "Outward Leap" treatment is Taiwan. In January 1979, China stopped its alternate-day shelling of the Taiwan-held offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu. The islands were long regarded as symbols of



Party Chairman Hua Guofeng (left) chatting with Zhao Ziyang, who succeeds him as Premier

the ongoing civil war between the People's Republic and the Republic of China. Peking continues to call for a resumption of postal, telegraphic and air links between the mainland and the prospering island of Taiwan, as a first step toward reunification. The terms of reunification presently remain unacceptable to the Taiwanese, who are fearful that Peking's long-range goal is to impose communism on the island, which not only has a higher living standard but enjoys far more political freedom as well.

In the same month as the meeting with Soviet officials - October 1979 - China's Chairman and then Premier Hua Guofeng started a three-week tour of France, West Germany, Britain and Italy. The Chairman expressed his support for both the European Community and NATO in the common struggle against "hegemonism", meaning: Moscow's expansionist ambitions.

## "FRIENDS"

More recently, in June 1980, there were official visits aimed at securing economic and military accords with Japan and the United States. Foreign Minister Huang Hua stressed China's growing uneasiness over Soviet advances in Afghanistan and Indo-China. The main result of the visit to the US was an announcement that the Chinese would be permitted to purchase non-lethal military hardware, such as air defence radar and long-distance communications gear as well as helicopters and transport planes. US Defence Secretary at the time, Harold Brown, was quick to mention that this was not the first step toward a new alliance. Said he: "It is possible to be friends without being allies." Moscow thought otherwise. TASS, the Soviet news agency, termed the Washington agreements "fraught with dangerous consequences" and the Sino-Japanese talks "a dangerous course".

This has been the result of China's "Great Leap Outward"

so far. But what may prove of greater significance to future developments is not China's vigorous new foreign policy, but Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping's (the mastermind of the whole set of changes) actions on the domestic front. Specifically, this is in regard to the People's Liberation Army. Deng has trimmed the military's budget by 4.2 billion dollars, reduced its ranks, and checked its political influence. Given the primitive state of China's economy, Deng believes that the armed forces do not deserve priority over agricultural and industrial development.

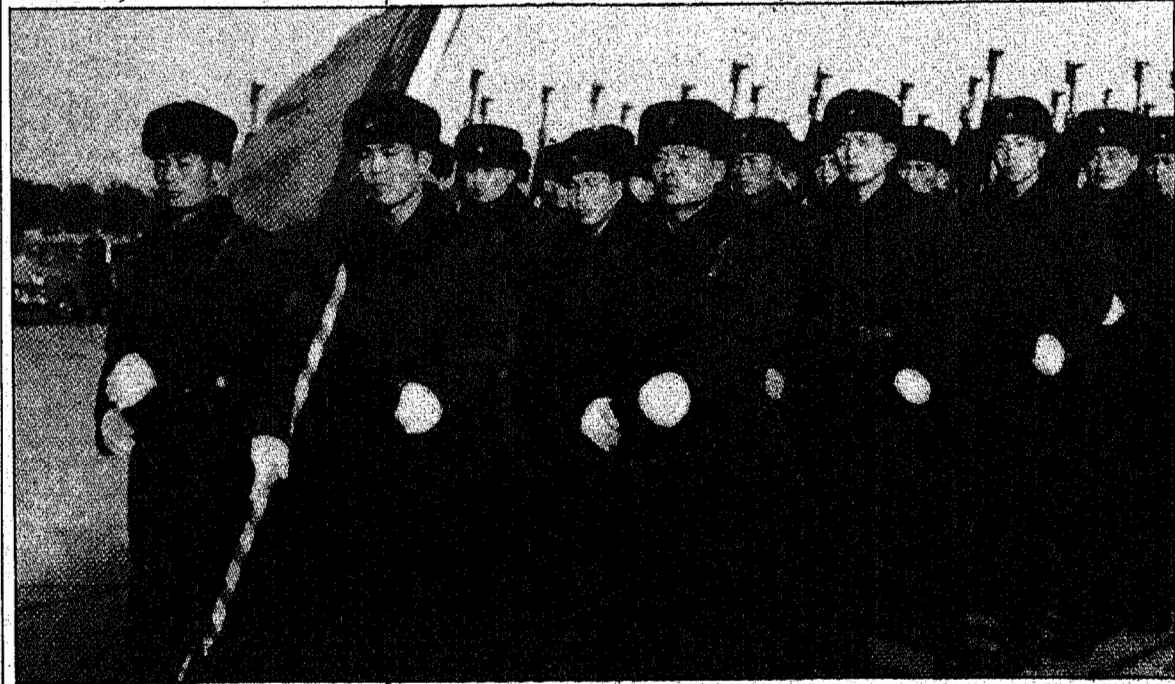
## CIVIL WAR?

As a possible consequence of this, it has been noted over the past few months that the discredited Hua Guofeng has been meeting with military commanders unhappy at the low priority being given to modernization of the military establishment. General Yang Dezhi, Armed Forces Chief of Staff, said ominously in March of this year: "We hope that the state increases by an appropriate amount the national-defense budget to speed up the process of modernizing our defense capability. Of course, we cannot just sit and wait."

The Deng forces have yet to prove that they can avoid the sort of factionalism in the party that has bedeviled China's leaders so often in the past. Failure to do so may well result in civil war or at least a coup in the near future. Only time will tell.

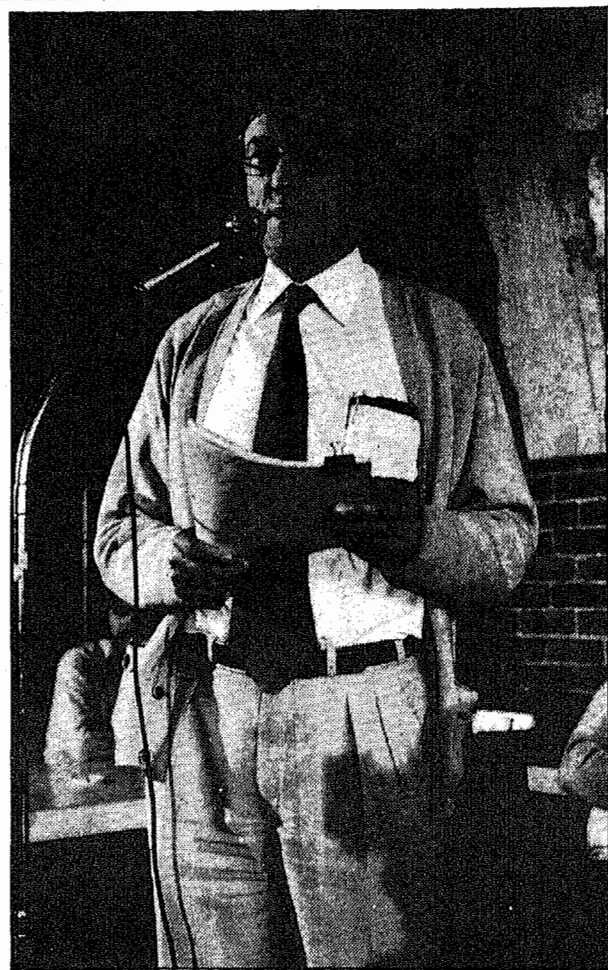
As for the answer to the question: is China our friend or our foe? We must remember that the expedience of countering the actions of the Soviet Union should not entirely overrule our concern for the continuation of very serious breaches of human freedom still being perpetrated in communist China. The country is as enigmatic as ever, and so the final solution to our question may well remain as inscrutable as the people.

Tony Butcher





# Axing the "Agony Group"



Dr Harry Medlin is both Deputy Chancellor and Chairman of the all-powerful Education Committee of the University. Not bad for one who's been heard to introduce himself. "I'm Harry Medlin, I teach physics". He's also the author of some radical proposals to change the nature of this University. *Tim Dodd* pressed him further ...

**Tim:** The most radical change you have proposed is to decrease the number of undergraduates and increase the number of postgraduates. How is that going to affect students?

**Harry:** There are a lot of reasons for it but one of them is that universities are supposed to be learning institutions. Staff should learn from their research and students should learn in their own particular way. The trend is not encouraged that it be a teaching institution. There are students who find it hard to get to grips with the university as a learning institution. They don't find the exercise pleasant.

**Tim:** Would the proposal be a desirable one even if the university was not facing funding cuts?

**Harry:** Absolutely. **Tim:** There are over 2000 students here now who would not be here if your proposals were implemented. What happens to these students?

**Harry:** They go elsewhere. **Tim:** Why can't they get anything out of courses here? You refer to them in the paper as the "agony group".

**Harry:** Well, as I say, they should have access to the university courses and they have the right to discover for themselves whether or not they find the courses attractive. I'm also trying to encourage transfers in both directions between universities and CAE's.

**Tim:** Do you think these students want to go?

**Harry:** I think they probably don't because there is, in the community, this notion of the elitism of the universities. Elitism in the pejorative sense of the word. They aspire to be an elite but they don't comprehend what's involved.

**Tim:** Somewhere our society has to train its technicians. It's becoming even more important. Is a university the right place for it?

**Harry:** The training of technicians is the role of the CAE's and Technical and Further Education institutions. The vocational training of engineers I again believe to be the role of the CAE's.

**Tim:** What about law and medicine and other vocationally oriented courses?

**Harry:** I think there are aspects of the professions to be found in this place which, if we had not inherited them out of history, would be placed elsewhere.

**Tim:** There are a significant number of mature-age students who are coming to university for the fun of it. Many of them do very well academically but others don't. Are they going to be thrown out?

**Harry:** The University is getting some sort of experience of this. Quotas have been restricted in dentistry and medicine. One way out of it with mature-age students is to let them in above the quota. They are not here in such proportions as to make it impossible.

**Tim:** You have proposed that all postgraduate diploma courses and master courses be phased out. Will that include the Dip.Ed.

**Harry:** Well I don't want to talk about any courses in particular because I think that introduces a counter-productive sensitivity into the situation, and these things are being debated by the Deans [of the faculties] at the moment.

**Tim:** Is this proposal economically motivated or educationally motivated?

**Harry:** Well as far as I'm concerned it's educationally

motivated. I believe our postgraduate efforts should be put into research. Courses can be provided at CAE level which are more intensive and fully professional.

**Tim:** The Diploma of Computing Science would make graduates more employable. The masters coursework in Environmental Studies seems a desirable thing.

**Harry:** It's not the prime obligation of a university to turn out people to be employable in the sense that they can march smoothly into an established set of employment positions. Hopefully a university will give students the best possible education that they can get in the hope that they will improve the conditions of society.

**Tim:** You propose to increase the number of postgraduates. The government has introduced fees. If fees are charged then many more postgraduate scholarships will have to be offered.

**Harry:** Yes that's right. There are flow on problems of that sort.

**Harry:** The idea is to be able to say that the examination in a subject will be held at the same time and in the same place as the lecture. There might be a course or two with a Saturday morning lecture. I'm trying to promote the idea that there should be shorter exams and that even final exams could be restricted to two hours.

**Tim:** How far have these proposals gone?

**Harry:** It's one of a great volume of things which have been picked up by the Deans who are working on an academic staffing profile.

**Tim:** If student numbers are reduced the income which goes to the Student Union from the Union fee will go down correspondingly. This means that extra-curricular students' activities will decrease.

**Harry:** I realise that, and that has been one of the things that's worried me, because I've spent a lot of my life in and around the Union. I know how valuable the Union function is. Indeed I believe that if we can get a rationalised lecture and examination timetable, we can relieve students of the pressures and tensions of examining. I would hope they will be able to put more of their time into cultural, sporting and even political activities of the sort promoted in the Union.

**Tim:** There is a shortage of postgraduate accommodation now. If numbers of postgrads increased, wouldn't it lead to problems?

**Harry:** I don't want to argue for adversity but there is something to be said for controlled adversity. Shortage is a relative term. I don't want to play the old man of the tribe but when I went to Cambridge I was given a laboratory bench in a corridor and that was my workspace. I was horrified when I first saw it but I realised how marvellous it was because of the enthusiasm of the laboratory. Everybody who went past wanted to know what was going on.

**Tim:** You have proposed that the lecture and examination timetables be changed. How will this affect students?

**Harry:** It's one of the sensitive things which the Deans have been talking about. The purpose of tenure is to guarantee academic freedom. There are people around who won't concede that. They think it's for the purpose of guaranteeing job security. It's not. Indeed academics have no more job security *per se* than a public servant, nor should they. We (the University community) are caused at this time to engage in the sort of self-analysis that we should be engaged in continuously whether money is short or not.

*On dit will keep you informed about future developments and their effect. Stay tuned!*

*"something to be said for controlled adversity"*

# Blacks Forgotten Again

The recent announcement of a feasibility study into the development of an \$80 m. uranium conversion plant has brought to the fore, once again, the issues of uranium mining and nuclear development. But this time the issue is right at our back door step. Already the decision has aroused the expected backlash from conservationists and other anti-uranium lobbyists. Nationwide (Monday 22 June) conducted their own "assessment" of the proposal by interviewing the two sides to the story; the Port Pirie Council's point of view was matched against the view of Friends of the Earth representatives. Once again the views of a consistently ignored, but increasingly vocal body - the Aboriginal population - has been forgotten, denied consultation.

The Aboriginal people of the Iron Triangle have, in the preceding decades, experienced the massive and irreparable onslaught of industrial development and mining. It is certainly not a new phenomenon. Whyalla is a prime example. It was once an exceptionally important traditional site, a big pre- and post-contact meeting ground. It is now impossible to recognise Whyalla's traditional content; the town has become a mass of lateral grids that cut across the traditional landscape and its meaning.

At the time when BHP was developing Whyalla, the Aboriginal people had no mainstream political voice in the way of the right to vote; nor had they the power to develop a strong alternative political voice. Now the Aborigines of this area do have a political voice and the right to vote but, more significantly they have developed a strong alternative political voice; the Land Rights lobby. In the Iron Triangle area three major Land Rights groups are active and each one is affiliated to a particular tribal identity and land interest. While the Aboriginal population has never had a lobby strength equal to that of the mining companies (who has?), they are no longer a silent minority.

Every move made by the Government or developers in relation to the area is now matched by fiery comment on the part of the Aboriginal communities. The major vehicle of comment is the media, and while the power of publicity is limited, it has done much to make the Government aware of how the Aboriginal people feel about mining and associated developments in the area. The need now is to have these opinions translated into action.

A significant breakthrough has been the recent Government move to ensure that companies planning development produce a social and environmental impact statement. Included in such studies are archaeological and anthropological surveys. It is hopefully becoming the norm to investigate the possibility of development site having Aboriginal value. If a site is of archaeological value then it is eligible for consideration under the Aboriginal and Historical Relics Act. Although this Act does not confer Aboriginal ownership, and protection of the site is a Government responsibility, it does offer protection for significant sites against indiscriminate develop-

ment. The other aspect of such assessment is the anthropological studies. These aim to determine the contemporary significance of potential development sites to Aboriginal communities. It is an admirable Act. Never before have Aboriginal communities been consulted on such issues prior to development and there is no doubt that this consultation move is appreciated by the Aboriginal people. However, it still remains unclear as to how the Aboriginal point of view, revealed in such studies, is to be translated into action. There is no clear legislative basis to which surveys of this type must answer.

Let us say that an Aboriginal community is consulted over a proposed mining development which is likely to extract part of the land they consider to be theirs but over which they hold no title. Let us also say that this community is similar to many of the communities of the Iron Triangle in that it is long removed from its traditional lifestyle and territory, residing in the large northern towns and living an essentially European lifestyle (or what appears to be such). For such communities it is not always patently obvious that land is uniquely meaningful and that development might seriously damage this meaning. Even the nature of the land's meaning is not always obvious; not totally traditional; not totally economic. What is undeniable is that land is significant via its relationship to heritage, shared community experience, and thus to tribal identity.

Once there has been consultation and the Aboriginal



point of view established and made formally known to the mining company, what next? The mining company is aware of the meaning of the land in question for the Aboriginal people, but are they compelled to act? The reality of the consultation bind is that there is no legal compulsion forcing companies conducting the studies to act upon their findings in anthropological assessment. It thus becomes an appreciated but generally meaningless act of consultation, with any potential action hinging on the prerogative of the company involved.

For the Aboriginal people of the Iron Triangle, this is an especially important issue. They face a barrage of encounters with prospective developers. Such confrontations, through the sheer paucity of relevant legislation, remain largely outside the political and legal mainstream. It will be a case of tough battles being fought by small Land Rights groups with little finance, disparate and varying support, and little legal foundation upon which to set into action their desires to be realistically consulted and compensated for over such action.

The proposal for the uranium conversion plant is bound to see the presently quiet Aboriginal lobby of the north become loud and volatile over the particular land rights issues facing these groups. It is not this development alone that will be crucial to the nature of Aboriginal action in this area; the uranium proposal is only the most recent of development schemes to be suggested for the Iron Triangle. The first such proposal was the Redcliff

Petro-chemical plant, instigated by Dow Chemicals. This has been followed by the Santos proposal for a fractionating plant and port to deal with liquid extractions from the Cooper Basin, and the final chapter is, of course, the uranium conversion proposal. The issue of such development is volatile even before the Aboriginal question is considered, as was revealed by the strong conservationist opposition to Redcliff. The Government is now better prepared to cope with such opposition through its insistence on environmental impact statements. (Although it remains difficult to imagine how valid such statements are when they are conducted by the concerned companies and not independent bodies.)

It is not the actual siting of the uranium conversion plant at Port Pirie which is likely to arouse Aboriginal opposition. However the unstated uranium feed source will concern not only the Aborigines of the Iron Triangle but communities throughout the north. At present it seems obvious that the feed source will be the Roxby Downs discovery. It was suggested in *The Advertiser* (June 22, 1980) that the Roxby Downs uranium is to be a "prime ingredient of the feasibility of the study". It is over this aspect of the proposal that controversy is likely to arise, for it is widely held knowledge amongst the Aborigines of the north that the area is of great religious and cultural significance. Already the Kokotha tribe are fighting Western Mining for the land, but there is really no legal issue for the land is not owned by

the community, and there is no legal avenue established to deal with such claims.

The Government's policy of development in the area will guarantee continued confrontation between development companies and the Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal communities are aware of this, and are also aware of how to fight, both inside and outside the political mainstream. They are also aware of the common white consensus that Aboriginal claims to land only emerge after a profitable development decision has been made. The fact is that it is incongruous with Aboriginal tradition to publicise a sacred site's whereabouts - this is only necessary if the site is being threatened, something Aboriginal people only know about after the development decision has been made. The underlying assumption of such beliefs is that the Aboriginal people are profit seeking and using their tradition to seek such profit. This is an illogical reality of public opinion. An act of land claim for profit seems only realistic if there was some means of ensuring the claim was, at the very least, considered by the Government. It somehow seems out of keeping with profit seeking interests to spend much personal money and time chasing a futile land claim, legally out of reach under present legislation. The profit-seeking stereotype is unrealistic; the desperate and persistent attempts by Aboriginal communities to gain land rights cannot logically be seen as motivated. In such cases, by anything but a genuine, long-standing and culturally meaningful attach-

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Aboriginal communities are not about to ignore this view of their land rights action. To countermand this common but destructive view they have begun to play an astute game in which they are acting within the rules being set by common opinion. The priority rule is one of validating Aboriginal culture in European terms through the recording of sites, stories, language and other aspects of culture. The Aboriginal and Historical Relics Unit is potentially valuable in this process of registering sites for they are then brought under the protection of the Relics Act. However it is often the case that the registration of sites with the Unit is perceived by communities as passing sacred information over to the Government without any security of tenure or control being conferred to the people. It is seen as far more appropriate by some communities to employ an independent anthropologist to carry out such work in close conjunction with the tribal group. The logic behind the whole strategy is to have dated records of significant sites that can be used to prove to developers that a site in question has always been traditionally significant, even prior to development plans. While in realistic land rights terms this process has as yet little value, for the fact remains that there is no way of transferring ownership on these grounds. However it does work to dispel misconceptions held by the broader society and has the value of being in keeping with the successful "tradition logic" that backed the Pitjantjatjara claim. It is thus a potentially valuable bargaining point.

However, for the fragmented communities of the Iron Triangle the current view that a valid land claim is a traditionally based claim, is severely disadvantaging the community. For these communities much tradition has been lost and it remains a living experience. For a large majority tradition is meaningful as cultural heritage, which is at present a far less powerful

cross-cultural bargaining point. There is one basic flaw to this cultural/political strategy. It records tradition and thus turns it into a code; something that not only restricts cultural freedom and flexibility but which can also be misused if placed in the wrong hands. While at present a flexible oral tradition known only by the community ensures that they are the experts on what is best for their future, a recorded code of tradition may allow outsiders to the cultural situation to become "experts" and thus exploit the situation.

The precedent set by the Pitjantjatjara case has placed an unrealistic emphasis on tradition that disadvantages those groups not living a traditional lifestyle. Less traditional associations with land which have emerged out of shared post-contact experience, such as long associations with a particular station or mission, and the more contemporary economic need for land, can only be met through the limited purchasing power of the Lands Trust and can certainly not compete with mining and development interests.

What is needed is meaningful consultation between development companies and Aboriginal communities. It is inept to have consultation if there are no legal or policy guidelines offered to the developers by which they can deal with Aboriginal opinions. Also needed, in the establishment of legal or political parameters in this issue, is the recognition not only of traditional usage of land as a valid claim case, but also that cultural heritage, both traditional and post-contact, holds as valid justification for land claim due to its significant role in furnishing and maintaining cultural identity. Aboriginal communities do not always want to stop development; probably more than the white community they would benefit from the employment opportunities created by the development. However it is essential that the cost of such development is not weighed too heavily upon Aboriginal culture. The Iron Triangle situation will, in the next decade, emerge as a massive test case for these issues. The undeniable reality is that there must be some legal or political decision made in relation to these issues to facilitate consistent and fair treatment for all involved.

On-duty Staff

# Love thy Distant Neighbour



MUCH HAS BEEN said recently about the necessity of violence to force a change in South Africa. It seems ironic that the very same attitudes and modes of thought which foster the apartheid system inside South Africa are used by these proponents of violence. Apartheid sees people as either white or black and thus subjugates all the other elements that make up a human being to this one distinction.

That is why it is degrading - your worth as a person is measured by the shade of your skin. These supporters of force seem to have the same black-white view of the world in that they see people as either wholly good or evil where all white South Africans are evil and thus deserve to be slaughtered.

Who is to bear the cost of a violent revolution? Consider the world wars, the Russian revolution, present acts of terrorism and sabotage, or what will happen in a possible nuclear war. In all acts of mass violence it has been the innocent victims who had to pay with their lives; children, women, passers-by. What gives anybody the right to purchase an end with someone else's life? And this applies to a wider situation than just South Africa.

A social system is something which is abstract - an agreed body of thought and permitted behaviour amongst a large number of people. The choice still resides with every individual as to whether he adopts any part of it or not. Can such a system be weighed against a single life? Admittedly in the name of a system many tangible and cruel deeds have been done, but they were done by individuals who therefore are to blame, and not by a faceless system. Christianity is an example which springs to mind; in its name people have been burned, tortured and murdered. But is every Christian to blame for these actions? Or closer to home, is every Australian to be blamed for every mis-step of the Fraser government? The whole concept of a nation bearing collective guilt for a collective crime seems dubious. A system or a nation is an abstraction

that cannot bear any responsibility - that can only be borne by individuals for their own acts.

You shall bear the sins of your fathers and forefathers.

We merely inherit the world and the state of it from previous generations and are not to blame for their sins. Group judgements, amongst which resides racism, bigotry etc. cannot be made by anyone who claims to be civilised.

"A nation deserves the government it gets" is a popular group judgement doing the round these days and commonly used in discussions on South Africa. This gross statement ignores the fact that a "nation" is not a united homogenous body with a single decision-making will. It ignores the fact that people are moulded by the system they grow up in, wherever that is. A system might be so deeply rooted and be maintained by such powerful forces that an individual in such a situation is practically helpless. Consider the Soviet system; most present day Russians inherited it from their parents and probably find it a yoke too heavy to throw off. It has been installed by fear. The statement is also a smug pronouncement by the fortunates and is applied to the less fortunates and totally disregards human frailties - that most people are quite weak and insecure.

Nobody inside South Africa really likes apartheid, but the Afrikaner sees it as a strategy for survival. He sees himself and his identity threatened by the large numbers of black people, by events in Africa, by the hostility of the world. This fear is unfortunate since the worst crimes in history were done in fear rather than innate evil (e.g. the Stalinist purges). Apartheid, too, is built on fear and insecurity. The Afrikaner in his history constantly had to fight for his very right to exist, and has learned to flourish under pressure. The low-level guerilla war on its borders made South Africa the strongest military power in Africa. Previous embargoes and threats thereof made it totally self-sufficient and gave it the most powerful economy in

Africa. (Some may say that this is due to cheap black labour, which is true, but then black labour is even cheaper in all other African countries.) Its extremely fertile cultural life and rich literature may be due to the feeling of national isolation.

Every white South African male has to risk his life for his country in the guerilla war. Therefore, having invested so much personally in the system, he would be quite jealous of it and be prepared to defend it against any form of violent or external attack.

The Afrikaner is used to violence and with his back to the wall, will fight with a rare tenacity.

Apartheid in itself can only be condemned but that condemnation cannot be justly extended to all white South Africans. This does not mean that the brutalities perpetrated by some in South Africa are to be condoned either; the blame for these misdeeds falls on certain individuals in the police force and government. These atrocities are vehemently denounced inside South Africa too. There are moral people in South Africa.

Change towards a more just society is definitely necessary and here non-violent methods like industrial strikes by the black workforce are vastly more effective and more humane.

Apartheid, which literally means separateness, is a system of alienation through the erection of barriers. It causes the two groups of people to become faceless conglomerates to each other. It causes a growing resentment and unrest amongst black South Africans, thus creating an atmosphere of harsh absolute judgements. One could therefore easily understand the feeling of the necessity of violence since every individual feels helplessly caught in the jaws of an unjust, faceless system into which every individual of the opposite camp has been absorbed. The person one would kill in a revolution will be faceless - merely the representative of a hated class. Not a human being.

Unfortunately it seems that there is an endless chain of violence and blood. The Afrikaners now oppress the black races as they themselves were oppressed by the British. No doubt some black people who were wronged still preserve the memory of the misdeed and long for the day when they can repay the deed in kind. Perhaps on somebody different than the original perpetrator. But I do think that it is possible to break the chain of violence.

I am conscious that in the paragraphs above I have made and used some general statements which by their nature would at most be only partially true, if at all. These are distinct from group judgements in that a group judgement claims to be absolute; it judges everyone in that group.

Nothing is simple in South Africa, and simple judgements are out of place. The position I prefer is that taken by Dr Christian Barnard (the heart surgeon): "I am pro-South African but against the South African government".

Hendrik Grundling

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