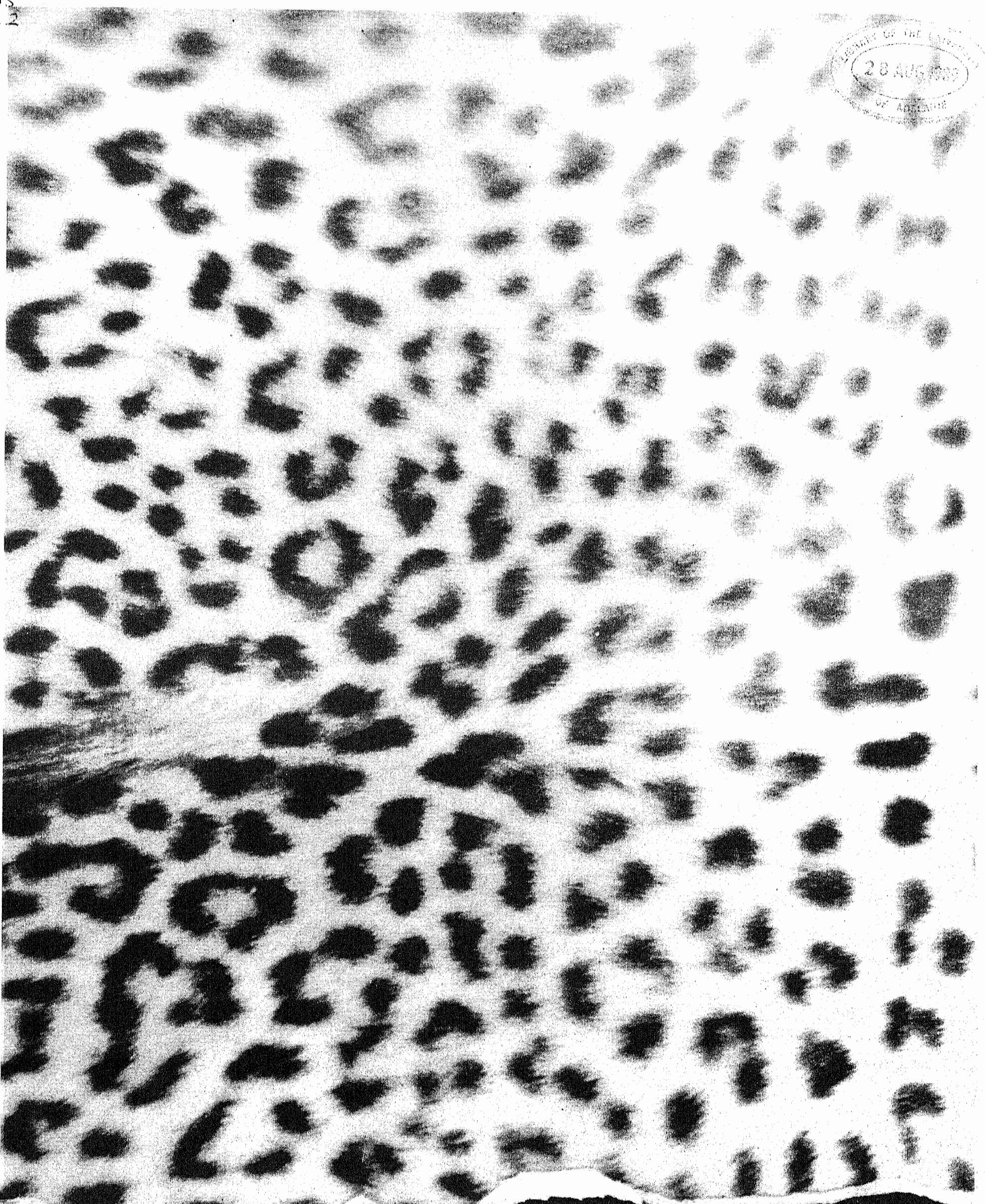
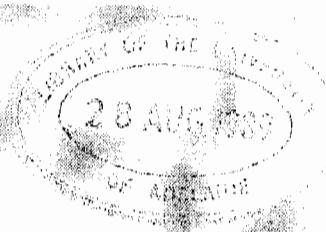


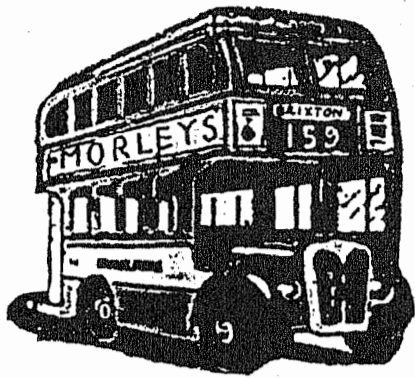
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on dit

the adelaide university students' association weekly

August 21 1989 • Volume 57 Number 16



FACT OF THE WEEK

Glancing at a copy of "Truth" newspaper in a deli, I saw the dignified headline, "Weeing Nuns Give Us Babies!". I prefer the stork or the cabbage patch.

RIP ACIEEEEEED

Now that Acid House is dead - and what else could you expect from its own advertising; "No song, no structure, no melody, not even a catchy chorus you can sing along with, and barely a solid human voice....and is not what you could describe as good music" - Onditbus will be bringing the latest musical trends to your attention.

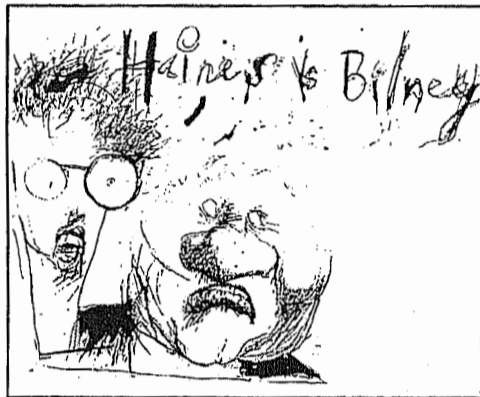
This week - Garage. Make sure you don't tread on nails or splinters.

HAINES HAS HER SAY

Those who are interested in the future of tertiary education in this country (if, indeed it has much of a future) or simply wish to observe the cynicism of politicians (Ms Haines excepted) should rock up to Sturt CAE and hear Janine Haines (who else but Democrat) and Gordon Bilney (ALP) speak on 'The Budget Implications For Education and Welfare'.

The august debate will occur this Friday, August (ha) 25, in the Sturt Theatre. The great question is, of course, whether Gordon Bilney can manage to articulate his viewpoint in a logical fashion instead of disgressing to crass generalisations as he is wont to do.

As for Judy Fuller, I hear the absence of phone boxes in the Sturt Theatre prevented her from nominating to take part.



BAR NIGHT

The saga of the On Dit Bar Night continues before it has even started. I am sorry to report the loss of the Penthouse Paupers to our cause - apparently one of the band members decided to go instead to an engagement party. Weep not - we have those perpetrators of fratricide, Mark of Cain, to replace the Paupers.

Have you ever spent a Saturday night high on Emu Lager? There is a first and a last time for everything at the On Dit Bar Night, this Saturday. Students - \$5, Guests - \$6.

SOME AUGUST PEOPLE

On this day in 1872, decadent Aubrey Beardsley was born in Brighton. Among this artist's claims to fame were his illustrations for Oscar Wilde's "Salome" and the marvellous "Yellow Books".

Dying of consumption (TB to us) in 1894, however, Audrey begged his friends to burn the 'indecent' drawings he had executed. Another deathbed sell-out.

And everyone's favourite Pope, Alexander VI (otherwise known as Rodrigo Borgia and said to have made a pact with the devil), died on the 18th of August, 1503.

He belonged, of course, to the infamous Borgia family which has been misrepresented by historians, novelists, and 'historical romance' (ugh) writers. The Borgias (including the much maligned

Lucrezia) did not poison many of their enemies although slanderous people have claimed the contrary. Instead, straightforward stranglings and clubbings were the Borgia trademarks.

On August 24, 1922, Virginia Woolf, writer of anaemic novels, wrote of the first six chapters of James Joyce's "Ulysses"; "Never have I read such tosh....Of course, genius may blaze out on page 652 but I have my doubts."



WISDOM OF THE WEEK

"If I had any decency, I'd be dead. Most of my friends are."
Dorothy Parker

Monica Carroll

production

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Editing and Proof reading: Monica Carroll.

Advertising Manager: Ben Pearson.

Typesetting: Sharon Middleton.

Freight: Alex Wheaton.

Bromides: Andrew Joyner and Mark

On Dit is a weekly paper published by Mark Gamtcheff and Monica Carroll for the Students' Association of the University of Adelaide.

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The On Dit Office is located in the Lady Symon Building of the Union Building, Ground floor, south-west corner of the cloisters.

The editors have complete editorial control although opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of the editors.

Deadline for all material is 3pm each Wednesday.

On Dit is printed by Murray Bridge Press.

Cover Photograph by James Danenburg

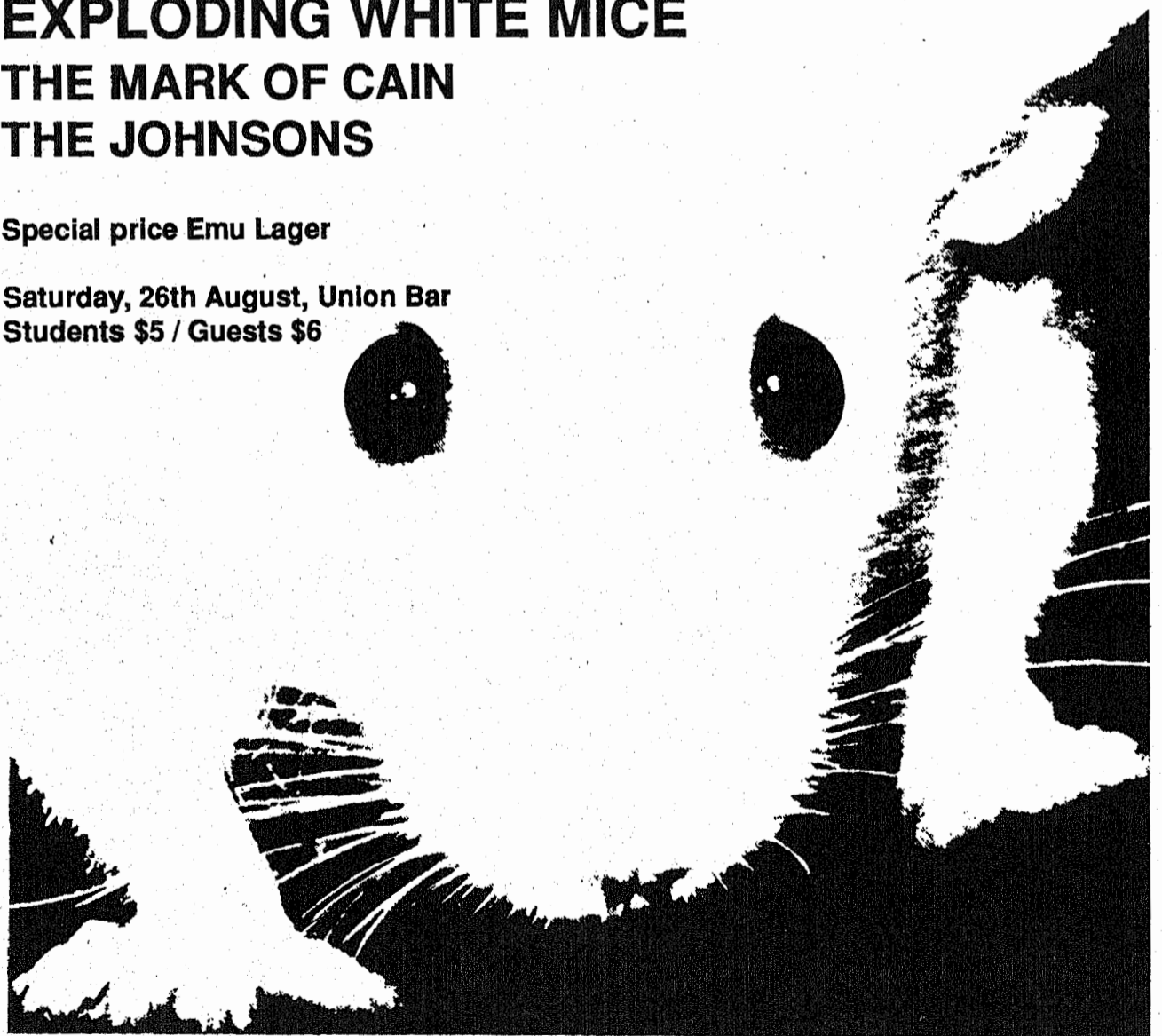
Also page 4 & 9, this edition; page 8, edition 15; page 12, edition 14; page 8, edition 13

The ON DIT BAR NIGHT with

EXPLODING WHITE MICE
THE MARK OF CAIN
THE JOHNSONS

Special price Emu Lager

Saturday, 26th August, Union Bar
Students \$5 / Guests \$6





nus 'education is australia's future' campaign

This week sees the commencement of the National Union of Students' 'Education is Australia's Future' campaign.

Built on the premise that, as former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam said, "The future of all Australians will be enhanced by a tremendous uplifting in our educational expectations and standards", this campaign for a free, accessible, high quality, public education system will be co-ordinated by NUS at local and national level.

James Greentree, General Secretary of the State branch of NUS, explained, "Nationally, NUS will be emphasising a new perspective on education. We'll be taking our message to

ordinary people around Australia. Student representatives and ordinary students will be leafleting their local areas, meeting with local personalities, MPs and councillors, and demonstrating how important education is."

Mr Greentree stressed that it was important for pro-education students to build ties with the community in campaigns such as this. The indispensability of a high quality, free education system had to be emphasised not only for student support, but to inform those in the community that society's well-being is linked with participation in such a system.

In South Australia, the campaign will

distribute material such as leaflets and posters. At Adelaide University, there will be an information table throughout this week at a suitable location for students.

"Maybe we'll be telling people things they know already. But education is an important issue, and it is possible to communicate our message that we can be successful in reforming the education system and restoring free education," Mr Greentree concluded.

Monica Carroll

Sarah Hopkins reports on the picket organised last week by the Education Action Group as part of its ongoing activism for free education.

the education fight continues

On Thursday, August 17, 30-40 students gathered outside the Department of Education, Employment and Training. The student picket was aimed at reminding the government that student demands in regard to amalgamations, the graduate tax and inadequate areas of government funding were by no means over even if the government, in its pre-election budget chose to give these issues a low profile.

The picket was interesting and original. In between chants, students had the opportunity to address passers-by with what they perceived to be the most important issues and concerns that have arisen as a consequence of the Dawkins Education Agenda. Milling about, and certainly drawing attention to the picket, were several students wearing bright white laboratory coats - the backs of which sported the logo - "Big Business: Specialising in Frontal Lobotomies". Need more be said....

Big business certainly will not require bright, enquiring, critical minds once the ALP has totally geared our tertiary education towards marketable degrees, etc that serve the profit motive only, rather than education for its own sake as we used to have it during the short reign of free education.

The picket was timed to fall within the National Education Access Week, 14-18 August. Campuses all around Australia this week have had actions organised by their respective Education Action Groups - the program was planned to highlight issues of access and equity that will be severely endangered (and indeed already have been as a consequence of the graduate tax) if the amalgamations go through.

At the picket, Scott Wilson, on Union Council at the South Australian Institute of Technology, expressed several areas of concern. He said that both access and equity were a farce already, as it is SAIT policy, and Commonwealth Government practise, to pay the graduate tax for their staff members who are also studying.

Hence, those who are working and thus most able to afford to pay, are the ones escaping, while students on Austudy (\$40

below the poverty line), Abstudy and others from low socio-economic backgrounds (traditionally women, the working classes, and those from non-English speaking backgrounds) save to take on an extra tax burden with no help or rebates. This policy of paying staff-student debts by Commonwealth Government departments and some of the bigger businesses has a two-fold effect, 1) students from disadvantaged backgrounds are not attracted to the tertiary education system and 2) the student body is divided and thus weakened, between those who are paid for and those who struggle.

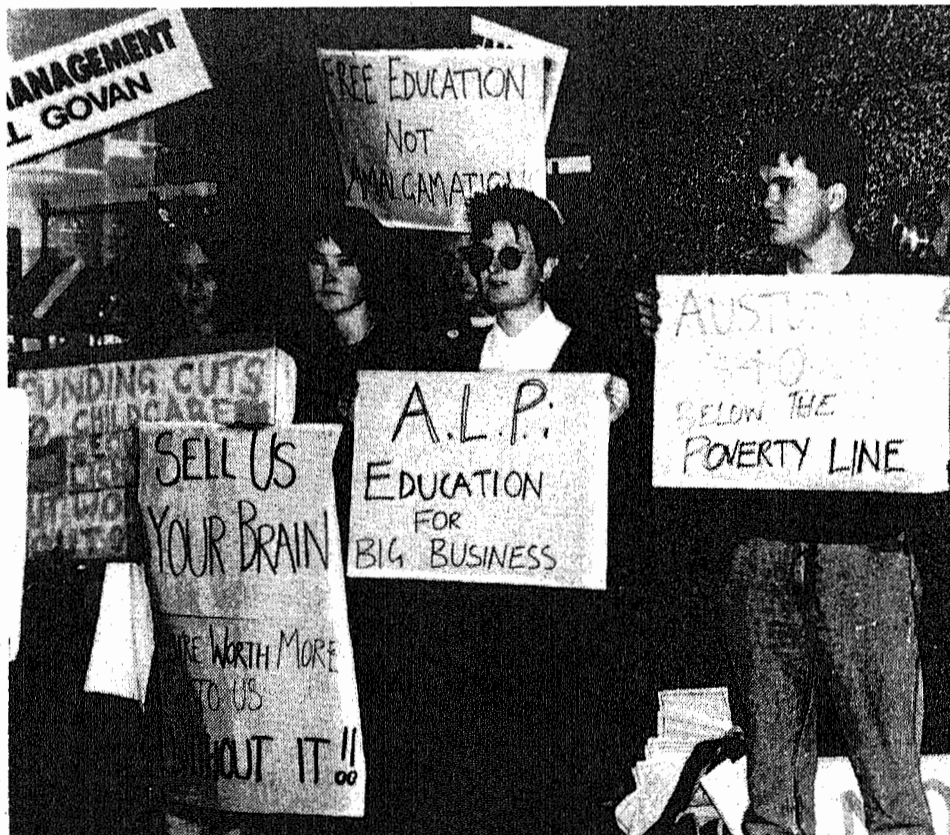
THE REAL COST OF CUTS

While students at the picket handed out the National Inter Campus Coalition Education Newsletters to the community, Tom Flannagan, the General Secretary of Flinders University, outlined student concerns with Government spending in the tertiary sector. Governments have this

into user-pays (as has the graduate tax to education in general). People of all ages and backgrounds need these services to participate in higher education but increasingly they will have to pay for them, further disadvantaging those on low incomes. The Government's priorities, despite its rhetoric, are obviously not geared towards principles of access and equity.

After an hour of chanting and waving placards sporting such slogans as "Amalgamations = ALP Selling Education to Big Business" and "If Big Business had controlled Uni's do you think we'd have been told about the Ozone Layer?" and "HECS - Another Soul-Destroying Debt".

Natalie Meyer (Adelaide University Education Action Group), Annie Fisher (S.A.I.T. Education Officer) and Scott Wilson went into the Da Costa Building and spoke to the Head of Education and Aboriginal Studies who was sincere, but could not produce satisfying answers except to repeat that any government spending in one area has to come at the expense of another. A



wonderful habit of putting money into one area at the expense of another. With the Government pumping money into such things as expanding places in specific educational areas, and boosting and upgradinscience/technology/business departments in tertiary education, funding is cut to services such as childcare, Austudy and security on campus.

Not only do cuts to these services discourage the entry and full participation of women, but it also turns these services

pity and a crime that the areas which suffer are necessary support and educational areas such as Austudy, Abstudy, childcare, security, the humanities and tertiary staff quality and quantity. An interesting example of this process was the Adelaide University offer to turn the Observatorium into a student childcare centre....a counter proposal has been to bulldoze the place to make way for the Biological Science Department!

TAMPERING WITH EDUCATION

The education system's structure was a concern to all at the picket who stressed the dangerous changes that are occurring as a consequence of the amalgamation process. Natalie Meyer discussed how universities are to be co-ordinated and "managed" by a hierarchical structure that has at its top a small body (roughly 15) of Government and Corporate officials - this will serve to further lock out students and staff from the democratic decision-making process on campus.

The Hawke Government's education policies are obviously geared towards producing cheap graduates for business and industry. Education is sadly not being made accessible to the community as a whole.

So what can we expect when, as stated in the press release statement, "The cheapest graduates are well-off males straight from high school with English as their first language. They don't need Austudy, childcare, campus security, government-funded tertiary or other support services - and they aren't discouraged by the debt burden imposed by the ... HECS or Tertiary Tax"?

As Kathy Ragless explained, we will be left with half-baked, cheap and dangerous security measures such as Adelaide University's notorious safety zone and less women will consequently fully, if at all, participate if they can't feel safe at night after lectures, etc. We can also expect further cuts to the humanities and other areas less inclined to the economically profitable areas of tertiary education. We will certainly see students squeezed out of the decision-making process of their campuses. Most of all, and the biggest loss of all, less women, Aborigines, migrants and working-class students will seek and be able to pursue participation in higher education.

Last Thursday's picket was an attempt to once again try and raise community awareness regarding the problems and disadvantages of what is happening to higher education Australia-wide. Unless we want to see our higher education system increasingly produce predominantly white middle-class males, at the expense of others and detrimental to educational areas not directly associated with "boosting the economy", then more mobilization and community awareness is necessary.

Join the pickets, rallies and petitioners - fight to be involved in the consultation process between government, business, and tertiary education institutions if amalgamations go ahead, totally oppose the process in the meantime, and thus help to save and promote an education system that can be accessible, equitable and geared to the community as a whole.

union board meeting sets 1990 budget

Following a debate which at times was heated and took approximately 4 and a half hours at the Union Board meeting on Monday, August 14, the Statutory Union Fee for 1990 has been set at \$228.

Andrew Lamb, Chair of the Finance and Development Standing Committee, introduced the proposed 1990 budget to the Union Board. He said the recommended Statutory Union Fee was \$232, an increase of 7.9% and this was due to the way depreciation was calculated. In previous years, the Union had budgeted only half for depreciation (estimated capital outlay to replace equipment etc). The Fee included \$74,000 for a resource centre or the same amount to be spent on other assets.

The Students' Association's request for \$7,370 to increase the honoraria given to the Education Vice-President and the Women's Officer, and the Postgraduate Students' Association's request for \$15,000 to enable their President to perform the job full-time, were discussed.

The case for increasing the honoraria emphasised the quality of student representation. Referring specifically to the EVP honorarium, Wendy Wakefield said Students' Association Council had twice voted to include this recommendation in its budget submission because of "the ongoing implementation of White Paper policy"; the Government's attacks on education had already strained SAUA resources.

Ms Wakefield said the problems faced by students in this University were going to increase with the move to 'Area Funding' by which the different faculties and their departments now had complete discretion to allocate funds. Strong student representation was an indispensable priority of the SAUA. Following from this, Emma Hunt said she had attended this Board meeting as a student representative in the Law Faculty and Department who had first-hand experience of the benefits of the EVP's work.

Citing the recent defeat of the \$50 materials fee imposed illegally on Law students, she referred to the link between the SAUA and student representatives; "We can only work properly for students, especially now with greater financial and educational pressures, by having a strong support system in the SAUA."

The Law situation was also mentioned by Cameron Bell who referred to the Psychology Department as an area in which students were experiencing problems. He said the honorarium request was definitely linked with a good standard of service for students; "We should be recognising and justly compensating our elected officers for the work they do. An effective and efficient SAUA requires an administration which has the structure to represent student interests - Board is not taking students seriously if it refuses to acknowledge the importance of their Association's service."

Anthea Howard said that as the current Education Vice-President she was qualified

to speak of its function. Mentioning the changed role of the EVP because of the pressures of the Higher Education changes, she said it involved more than 20 hours work a week but the SAUA was only asking for compensation of 20 hours lost by the EVP owing to SAUA work.

Ms Howard said the matter was not only one of urgency but also a question of access; "Students must be able to find SAUA office-holders when they need them. And are you going to make it possible only for moneyed people to run for the position of EVP?"

This point was taken up by SAUA Councillor Penny Wong. "How can you expect a student to perform the EVP's job, which involves full-time hours, yet still pay \$20 for the position? Most students have to work part-time to support themselves, so more difficulties are placed in the way. The SAUA is about representing students, therefore we have prioritised our money in this budget submission," she said.

On the subject of the Postgraduate Students' Association honorarium, PGSA researcher Mark Leahy pointed to the hours the President works; "Our President spends countless hours sitting on University committees and working on all areas of postgraduate concerns. It is no surprise the past four Presidents have not finished their theses. It is difficult for postgraduates to go part-time in their studies, unlike undergraduates, so ideally the President would suspend their work for a year to fill the full-time role of the President." "When this University joined the Unified National System, it brought an era of accountability. More pressure will be put on student representatives to protect the right of students to participate in decision-making," said PGSA President John Fitzsimmons.

He mentioned the difficulties of trying to balance an academic career with the dedication required by those students in educational and representative structures.

Regarding the Women's Officer honorarium, Kim Pedler emphasised the importance of the position at both local and national level; the Women's Officer was the central contact for, and instigator of, campaigns for campus security, childcare facilities, sexual harassment grievance procedures etc. Natasha Stott-Despoja agreed, referring to the particular difficulties the Women's Officer faced and posed the question, "If you initiate a position, what's wrong with having it done properly?"

The case against the increase focused on financial implications. Michael Vorin spoke of the need for consistency in honorarium policy, which meant keeping honoraria at the same level. He said there was no logical connection between an increase in honoraria and student representation, and asked if the current EVP was doing her job properly since she was asking for an increase in pay for the position.

Tom Cox said the SAUA should get its priorities right and the proposed increase was a case of "student politicians trying to vote student politicians money."

Union President Sathish Dasan dealt at length with the case against the increase. He cited the lengthy discussions on this subject during the budgetary process, and voiced concern at SAUA members' lack of acknowledgement that the debate was now about half-time wages - not honorariums; "Without this 'wish list' of half wages, the money for student positions still comes to \$73,000. If everyone has their way, the bill will be \$123,000."

He did not disagree with the importance of these jobs - "Student representation is not under-rated in this Union" - but said the

money requested "does not amount to a well ordered increase."

Mr Dasan asked why some form of job specifications had not been put forward by the SAUA if it believed these office-bearers deserved part time wages? He said the Union was one of the best in the country and its Statutory Fee was one of the lowest. An increase in SAUA and PGSA honoraria was not responsible, as all associations within the umbrella of the Union have to be accountable and "live off the same fee; we do not have a Union of parts."

Speaking of the SAUA's "budget blow out" last year, he remarked that other student organisations were able to live off smaller budgets. "And how are we going to ensure the next EVP does the amount of work to justify a wage? Although Anthea has done the job well, we can't guarantee the next person in the position will," he added.

Mark Gamtcheff said there was a problem with paying office-bearers more; "We can't quantify how much work student representatives do. Perhaps the EVP is doing work that the President should do."

A poll was called and the vote was taken. For the increase in honoraria - Wakefield, Bell, Howard, Leahy, Pedler.

Against - Dasan, Cox, Gamtcheff, Vorin, Lovatt, Olweny, Boyd-Turner, Moten, Hennessey. Abstention - Lamb.

Two other budget matters were discussed. One was a proposed resource centre for which the F&DSC had allocated \$74,000.

Mr Dasan said such a proposal was in line with what was happening on other campuses and in some cases, these centres were already in place. Likewise, the Adelaide University Union would be able to foster computer literacy, providing computing resources to students; "It is vital for this Union to begin providing new services to its members. If we don't begin now, we'll never begin."

In response to a question, Mr Lamb said the money for the resource centre would add \$9 to the Union Fee, taking it to \$232 although this would be a once-off expenditure.

Ms Howard, Mr Bell, and Mr Leahy all spoke in turn, opposing the expenditure. They said they had no problems with the concept of the centre, but where were the plans and the costings? The Union President had previously spoken of accountability, but what kind of accountability approved such a large sum of money without providing sufficient details of how it would be spent and without consulting students?

Bruce Hannaford, Labor Club member, said the Union should not attempt to do something which was the University's job. The four or so terminals which would begin the Centre were inadequate for 9,000 or so students; "Student representation is something from which students directly benefit, so why are very costly, scatter-

brained proposals being suggested instead? There are also security implications which haven't been addressed."

Nick Boyd-Turner supported the concept of the resource centre but said he would like to see more of a detailed submission and believed \$15,000 should be put aside for such a project instead of the proposed amount.

The resource centre proposal was put to the vote. For - Dasan, Vorin, Olweny, Boyd-Turner, Moten, Hennessey.

Against - Gamtcheff, Cox, Bell, Howard, Wakefield, Leahy, Lamb, Pedler. Abstention - Lovatt.

Another motion to allocate \$15,000 for a resource centre was defeated.

Capital development was the next budget item. Mr Dasan said there was a recommendation that \$5 per EFTSU (Effective Full-Time Student Load) be allocated for capital development works. After some discussion, a motion approving this was passed.

Lastly on budget matters, Mr Bell asked that \$5,000 be provided for a stove in the Mayo Refectory. He said he had worked as a cook and understood the difficulty of working in kitchens with friers; they made food greasy and unpalatable, and if the Union was serious about increasing the standard of service to its members, then it should begin with basics such as catering.

In reply, Mr Dasan said he understood that a stove would be a suitable utility for the kitchen, but it should not be included in this budget as a lot of deliberation had gone into the budgetary process and even \$5,000 which was not a lot compared with other expenditure, would alter the balance.

The motion to include expenditure for a stove was defeated.

The 1990 budget of \$228 instead of \$232 was approved.

A motion pertaining to the budgetary process was then proposed by Ms Wakefield and Ms Howard. Its purpose was to ensure that students were informed of the progress of the budget's formulation through a detailed report being submitted to On Dit during the F&DSC budget sessions, and informed of all details of the budget after the Union Board had approved it in its final form through another report submitted to On Dit.

Board resolved that this proposed change to the rules of the Union Constitution be taken to the Finance and Development Standing Committee for consideration.

While the Statutory Union Fee for 1990 has increased, it is still one of the lowest Union Fees of all Australian universities.

A breakdown of the budget allocations for the areas most relevant to students will be published in next week's On Dit.

Monica Carroll

Adelaide University Labor Club presents
 Guest Speaker
Sen. Nick Bolkus
 Minister for Consumer Affairs
 Monday 21 August
 1 pm Union Cinema

a bouquet and brickbats

Dear Editors,
I like On Dit this year, it's fun, something it wasn't before. You've actually done something new with On Dit which is more difficult than relying on the hack way of doing the paper before. What makes me wonder are those bozos who write stupid letters but to ones like G. Noone's last week. He or she is dork of the week for whimpering about harmless comments like Monica Carroll's in her Onditbus.

G. Noone: if a humour column is too serious for you, I suggest you don't read On Dit or anything else for that matter, obviously it's too dangerous for your weak (literally) little mind.

On something else: in his article on Matt Johnson, Simon Healy's falling down at the altar of a pop singer was more than a bit pathetic. Though he obviously thinks he's a cutting satirist and does his best to be cynical each week in his tv article, through his goony pop worship Simon "makes the same mistake as mainstream religion in seeing Matt Johnson as significant in the void."

Yours faithfully
I.P

paul's boutique

Dear Eds,
Regarding "Paul's Boutique" - just under 50 minutes, eh Jase? Then why couldn't you fit it on one side of a fucking 100 minute tape? Whoops...did I say that?

S.J. Heal
2nd Year Plasticine

scum's hearsay

Dear David Krantz,
Thanks for your latest 'Scum in Utopia' (On Dit, 14/8). I found it really amusing - about time there was some humour on the back page of On Dit (no, that not intended as a slight against the Stegasaur). However, it's fairly obvious tht you were 'cartooning' from hearsay, and didn't actually get to any of the meetings last week.

For a start, neither Paul Harrington nor myself are actually in urgent need of \$8 million...yes, I know you were sending up a certain American "evangelist"...but the truth is that there wasn't even a single mention of MONEY at any of the "Come, Meet the Living God" meetings. Not a collection plate in sight.

I'm also aware that, when engaging in a spot of 'Christian-bashing', an obvious target to pick on is the 'extremist fringe' of Christianity. But the KKK at an E.U. meeting??! Fair go! (not to mentio the whip-toting flagellant...) To tar Australian Christians with the same brush as an American cult and a group of medieval extremists - well, it's merely showing your ignorance, David.

Finally, if 'fitting in' - "being cool" - is such a major part of life ... well, who's to be more pitied? In other words, if it's un-trendy to be a Christian, I couldn't care less: I'd rather be a Christian.

Looking forward to next week's installment,
Yours sincerely,
Andrew Cohen
Organiser
"Come Meet the Living God" Week
Fifth Year Music/Arts Student

something for dave to think about

Dear Mr Krantz,
Great to see you've finally got around to stereotyping the Christians at this Uni - and about time, too. You are spot on in showing how hypocritical Christians can be - and how far from perfect they are. It's good to know that we have level-headed people like yorself who have the answers to our deepest problems. You at least are not silly enough to get involved in any religion that doesn't seem to practise what

it preaches.
Actually, Mr Krantz, I must confess to you that I am a Christian, and far from perfect, as well. Yet, it is a shame that you did not got to any of the talks about Christianity last week, because you might have had a pleasant surprise. No, you certainly wouldn't have found any perfect Christians. However, you would have met a person called Jesus, not just a religion about him.

It's understandable if you have rejected the religion of 'Church' that seems so false, but how can you reject the person and claims of Jesus, if you don't even know him? But beware, Jesus was more than nice bloke who tells us to live a good life. He also claims to be the son of God. Now that is something to think about, isn't it?

Sincerely,
Craig Hunter
Asian Studies

slander!

Dear Editors,
David Krantz really takes the cake! To comically knock social issues is fun, and Dave is fantastic at it, but to blatantly get in and slander particular people falsely is a bit much. Yest, I'm referring to last week's "Scum in Utopia" and yes, I'm sticking up for those Christian people.

Let me tell you something about Dave Krantz. Apart from his violent attitude towards his sister (and others), he has had a number of drug charges laid on him in the past few years, not for using but for pushing dope onto GRADE SEVEN children in the southern suburbs (shame) - as well as five assault charges and one breaking and entering charge.

Let me now tell you that I have never even met Dave in my life, never even seen him (I mean, does he have a sister?). But you see I just made up and wrote some terribly horrible things about a guy I know NOTHING about, i.e. the last paragraph was cod's wallop.

Let me now tell you that Dave did NOT go to 'Come, meet the Living God', knows nothing about what went on there (oh yeah, it was quite good - well done E.U.) and then goes away and writes/draws that crap that he did.

Do you see my point?
I'm still waiting for "Unofficial AURORA" to answer on Peter Wilson's letter and find a flaw in the Bible. And when Geoff Coats signed of "yours finally" he meant it and went off to set in the corner with his ears blocked. It seems the enlightened are getting the last word!

Sure, Christians make mistakes (re: Catholic Priest, leave it alone, Krantzie, you've killed it) they are only human; but no, no one wants to come along and hear them say so themselves. Christians are simply hanging onto this Jesus guy who assures them they are forgiven; NOT IMMORTAL OR SUPERIOR, just plain forgiven. I've forgiven Krantzie, is he now superior or superhuman?

Why couldn't anyone go along to 'meet the living God' (it was aimed at people like that) and see the evidence truthfully. Not just sit back and say: "Jimmy Swaggart, Klu Klux Klan, Northern Island ..."

No, they'll just say to their mates over their beer (which, deep down to them, really is camel's wee): "Ha, stupid churchies!" and then go home to tell little brother not to let Peer Group Pressure at primary school run his life!

Who is everybody trying to kid?
Even now, as they put down their On Dit, they'll turn to friends and say: "What a FREAK"; and once again, amidst the clouded, fake, abusive world, after a glimmer of hope, the hand will go back into the Puppet: "er ... my shout I think".

The day I threw off my puppet was the day I lived!!

Yours sincerely,
Fred Smith
P.S. Keep up the good work Dave Krantz. It really is a funny cartoon. However a little less swearing would be nice.

scummy!

Dear Dave Krantz,
People are beginning to wonder just what your problem is! What is it that drives you to produce this rubbish? It isn't any form of literary or artistic talent (well, it certainly isn't displayed). Rather it seems to be a deep seated grudge against just about any group on the campus. The current rumour is that you were deprived of affection during childhood, but all those "WARNING - I BITE!" signs were a bit daunting (we did like the way you swung from the bars though!).

Assuming that you don't consider yourself to be in any of the groups that you abuse and noting that you have found it necessary to tear down absolutely everything, I have come to the conclusion that you are really a nothing - a nonentity. This is fortunate because it means you are not quite the waste of space I thought you were. In fact, the only space you waste is the back page of On Dit. How about finishing the job and disappearing altogether?

Greg Collings
Science

opposing the 'viability' argument

Dear Editors,
Kim Pedler has no right as a "representative" women's officer to misuse her column to push her views on abortion. It is not just a private or women's issue any more than slavery could be considered only a slave-owners' issue.

Without an absolute basis of the "sanctity of human life", will we lay ourselves open to all manner of discrimination and atrocity now considered barbaric? Without absolutes, law itself becomes the arbitrary expression of what a small number of influential people think will promote the current social and economic good - often in disregard to the worth of individuals. This attitude pervades trends in genetic engineering as it did Nazi Germany.

Are not abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, child-abuse, pornography, violence and the torture of political prisoners the fruits of a low estimation of human worth? By making absolutes obsolete, we are witnessing the "unthinkable" of the past become today's entertainment - in movies and (to the criminals concerned) sadistic assaults.

The attitude that we can judge the worth of life is the basis for discrimination.

With only a "viability" argument for the worth of human life, what stands in the way of late trimester abortions, infanticide (both rife in the U.S. scene) or compulsory euthanasia.

How can we contradict the drastically rising child-abuse figures to claim that abortion spells the end of unwanted children? Surely both result from our lowering views of human worth.

This low view is the reason why child-bearing and rearing is being increasingly considered in terms of convenience and being seen as a burden rather than the amazing joy which bringing about life should be.

Anthony Davis,
A Human's Liberationist, Asian Studies

geek, not greek

Editors,
Are you trying to get me killed?
Before the Greek community puts the face with the name, I would like to point out that I labelled Mr Brown a Geek, not a Greek. A Geek is "one who bites the heads off live chickens, though in Robert's case I was thinking more of "total loser".

Yours in hiding,
Richard Harrison,
Maths-Science

Dear Richard,
We apologise to you and any members of the Greek community for that reference in your letter. It was a typesetting mistake.
The Editors

concern for union security

To the Editors,
Security are Concerned About the large amount of thefts from within the Union Building confines; bags, notes, calculators, money, credit cards, etc.

For some 2 years Security has been banned from performing their tasks within the Union Building this has apparently become common knowledge to thieves and must be stopped.

As Security are responsible for campus Security and have a trained and dedicated group. We will ensure that this protection is extended into the Union confines, after all, students must be able to leave bags, etc, unattended with some safety, it is unfair to put this responsibility onto the stewards as they have many other tasks to perform.

R. Roney
Facilities & Security Superintendent

"cliched absurdity"

Dear Editors,
Paul Schoff's letter in last week's On dit showed an ignorance matched only by its clichéd absurdity.

Get your facts straight Paul - the rugby players preparing to go to South Africa are not part of a "rebel Australia team" but instead are members of an IRB (International Ruby Board) sponsored World XV. Therefore they are neither "rebels" nor are they playing as an Australian team. Your assertion that their actions will "jeopardize our participation in next year's Commonwealth Games" is ludicrous and is obviously the product of an over-active imagination.

Our current government's position on sporting contacts with South Africa, which you obviously support, is nothing but gutless political expediency. Sports boycotts are only effective if used in conjunction with a system of incentives. Rewards (such as this tour) should be given for any positive moves towards inter-racial sport and these, together with the ongoing threat of an international boycott will ensure that positive moves will keep on occuring. Our government's blanket condemnation of everything and everyone in South African sport does not do any good for anybody in South Africa and is callously designed for political point-scoring.

Like it or not, Paul, positive changes are being made in South African sport and, although not nearly far-reaching enough, must be rewarded in order to ensure further gains.

Yours sincerely,
Craig Wilkins

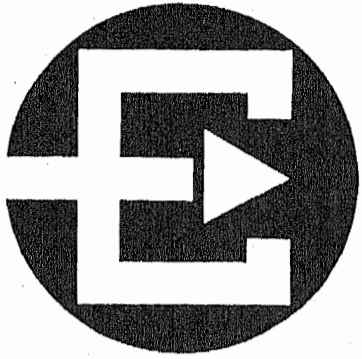
so what!

Dear Editors,
So Tiffany Livingstone-Rossiter was a joke. So what! The fact still remains that Adelaide University is an institution for the elite of South Australia's intellectuals. It has a higher standard and better reputation than any other institution in the state. Amalgamation would only dilute that standard with people who, let's face it, do not have sufficient academic ability to be accepted here. Thus our reputation would be sorely blemished. Such things are precious and should be protected, not given away on financial grounds.

Perhaps if radicals, such as Robert Brown and Richard Harrison, are not happy with the high class that most students at this university would like to maintain, they should take their socialist friends and re-enroll (sic) at Flinders University. They would not have to work nearly so hard to get a degree there.

Yours sincerely,
Suzie Clarke
2nd Year Arts

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION



Studies have shown that the vast majority of Australians regard education as one of the most important issues in their lives. Education directly effects the type of society which we live in.

NUS believes that a free, accessible, high quality, public education system is needed for a fair and equitable Australia.

The *Education is Australia's Future* campaign is part of the overall strategy to change community attitudes and to create an education system that will lead to greater social and economic equality.

"The future of all Australians will be enhanced by a tremendous uplifting in our educational expectations and standards."

E.G. Whitlam

THE HIGHER EDUCATION "DEBILITATION" SCHEME

Most of the arguments used by the government to promote the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (tertiary tax) have stressed access and equity. The most significant of these distortions is that revenue from the tertiary tax will be used to create extra places in education, to be filled largely by students from backgrounds traditionally under-represented in higher education.

One of the strongest proponents of the tax, West Australian back-bencher George Gear, argued that students should pay to overcome situations where "Kids who are eligible to study miss out because there is not enough money for all the extra places."

While a shortage of places is a problem (and an increase in places is desirable), there are other factors which restrict access to higher education: inadequate student financial support, lack of housing and childcare, inequitable selection criteria, unsafe campuses, insufficient academic support... the list goes on.

The tertiary tax does not address these factors. It exacerbates the situation by creating additional financial burdens for students. If the aim is to broaden access to education, the tax simply doesn't work. It is a disaster.

The Higher Education Contribution Scheme is not an isolated policy. To fight it and related issues of privatisation and funding cuts, we must campaign for a free education system which gives all Australians access to education.

AN EQUITABLE ENTRY SCHEME

Selection procedures based on secondary school exam results are inefficient and inequitable. Many people are excluded from higher education by these entry requirements.

Selection criteria should determine which students are best able to cope with higher education. External examination results do not do this adequately. There is no major correlation between secondary school results and tertiary performance.

No-one is suggesting that external assessments should be disregarded, but other factors must be taken into account when institutions and government bodies select students. For example:

- credit for previous successful study (e.g. at TAFE), or for similar non-academic work. This is particularly important to give mature-aged women greater access to higher education;
- personal interviews and discussions with teachers or parents, which can indicate whether or not a student is ready for higher education;
- special entry schemes, such as Adelaide University's Fairway scheme, which add a loading onto final school examination results to overcome biases against people from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- short tertiary introduction and bridging courses, giving non-school leavers experience with the skills they will need in higher education;
- schemes that correct significant structural biases in our education system, such as those which discriminate against Aboriginals, or direct women away from maths and science areas.

The implementation of equitable entry schemes improves access to education.

A QUESTION OF FINANCES

The Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme (TEAS), the predecessor of AUSTUDY, was introduced in 1973 to ensure that students on low incomes could afford to participate in higher education. It was envisaged that TEAS would at least cover basic living costs.

To maintain a student's standard of living, Student Allowance Schemes have to keep pace with C.P.I. This has not eventuated and payments have effectively decreased since the introduction of TEAS in 1973 (see graph).

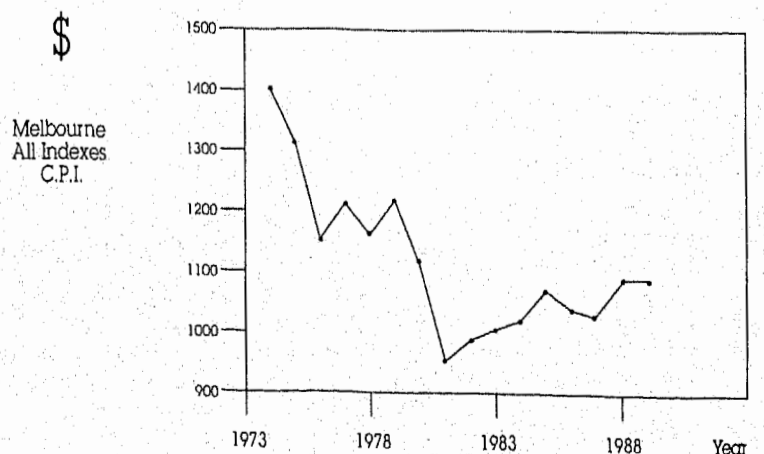
AUSTUDY is a system of "income support" that supplements income gained from other work. It has rules and regulations which virtually destroy any chance of earning enough money to live on.

The AUSTUDY campaign remains a major priority. Its aims are to increase AUSTUDY payments and relax the qualification criteria.

In particular, NUS is campaigning for:

- changes to the "Independent" status requirement, both in terms of a student's age and their time in the work force;
- genuine student representation in the administration of student allowances, especially in regards to appeals against bureaucratic decisions;
- improved benefits associated with receiving AUSTUDY, such as an automatic Health Care Card entitling students to a wide range of discounts and free services;
- relaxed rules on academic progress;
- comprehensive information about how to obtain AUSTUDY;
- the introduction of a lump sum allowance on top of AUSTUDY benefits, payable at the start of the year, to assist with annual costs like books, materials and union fees.

The campaign for better AUSTUDY is a campaign for free and accessible education.



Source: Department of Education, Employment & Training

EDUCATION IS AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE: YOU'RE PART OF IT



Education Vice-President
Arlene Howard

STUDY SKILLS WORKING PARTY

As you would be aware, the University is currently undertaking an extensive review of study skills services provision. The final discussion paper recommending changes to study skills service delivery in the University will be going to the Executive Committee on the 30th September. The SAUA has had substantial input into the Working Party on the issue over the past couple of months.

The task before the Working Party has been to identify the inadequacies of the

current services. Among the areas the SAUA identified were;

- two part-time tutors (located in Careers and Counselling) cannot even meet basic needs
- unacceptable delays in initial appointments with these tutors result in increased attrition - students can't get help when they need it - and the Careers and Counselling service is badly located
- part-timers are discriminated against by the 9 to 5 service;
- the service is unable to cope with problems arising from qualitative aspects of course delivery.

On a general level it was identified that, statistically, students at the University of Adelaide have one the embarrassingly lowest student support service systems in

Australia.

ISSUES FOR A FULL STUDY SKILLS REVIEW

The SAUA has communicated, via its representative on the Working Party, a number of issues to be considered in the context of a full study skills review:

- the institution has a responsibility to provide high quality education delivery and adequate support services, and in a context of study skills service review, both "sides" of the learning/teaching proficiency balance should be considered.

In other words, teachers have a responsibility to deliver according to the needs of their students as much as the students have a responsibility to do their

best to avail themselves of the support services their teacher(s)/institution provides. The traditional elitist perception of "you'll only get through if you're up to our standards" is becoming increasingly irrelevant to current needs, and cannot survive if the University is to maintain its standing as an institution attuned to community needs.

- reforms should not be based on general Area funds allocations, as students then have no guarantees that the faculties (which are not bound into a central planning and monitoring process) will allocate adequate resources to study skills support programmes. This could mean that some faculties will de-prioritise study.

Project Research Officer
Alan Fairley

At its August 11th meeting, the Council of the University of Adelaide declined to endorse the draft Merger Investigation Agreement with the SACAE. It did endorse the signing of an (unspecified) Agreement on the Investigation of a Merger with Roseworthy Agricultural College.

After disposing of the draft Agreement with the SACAE, University Council voted "to establish a joint committee to examine the feasibility of an association between the two institutions" as well as separately exploring the possibility of "association" with other South Australian Higher Education institutions.

Previously, University of Adelaide representatives on the Merger Implementation Committee (MIC) with the SACAE had voted unanimously to endorse the signing of the merger implementation agreement between ourselves and the College. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Marjoribanks, supported this, as did Juanita Lovatt on behalf of the Students' Association. This agreement ensured a full and in-depth investigation of the possible merger and would have provided the basis for a considered opinion on its advisability.

The unanimous endorsement of the MIC document and the University's subsequent renegeing on the statement set the scene for the August 11th Council meeting. The crucial decision was whether to endorse or not the MIC draft agreement, which had been prepared by joint University/College/Roseworthy deliberations. As part of the deliberations, it had been the University of Adelaide Council that had first endorsed the proposal that negotiations for merger should involve the SACAE as a

whole institution, and not seek its dismemberment. Somewhere along the line University of Adelaide representatives discarded this decision taken by University Council, without dissent, at its May 12th meeting.

At the very least, other parties to the negotiation process have cause for concern as to whether the University actually knows what it is doing when it makes decisions, and moreover, has the capacity to expect that its officers act in accordance with the direction so given.

GRAVE CONCERNS

The decisions made at University Council on 11th August presume that other institutions will accept our capacity to act with consistency and with regard to broader concerns than the perceived immediate interests of the University of Adelaide. It may be difficult to establish that this perception is valid anyway. Student representatives within this University certainly hold grave concerns about the situation Adelaide students will be placed in should the merger negotiation process collapse completely. John Fitzsimmons, Postgraduate Students' Association President has put his position quite strongly:

We live in an era of accountability and funding cuts. Unless the University is serious about exploring all the options available to it, there is every chance that the money available to deliver academic programs will be reduced from next year. Students should not be fooled by academic drivel about standards. Academics are protected by tenure, so no matter how much we lose in teaching, they will retain their jobs. Students, however, will have to suffer increases in tutorial sizes, increases in material costs, reductions in courses/

subjects available, reductions in student services, poor teaching, and so on.

Students should remember the support we got from academics in the HECS debate: when the crunch comes, academics will support everything up to and including full-cost recovery fees for all students so as to protect their positions. If we have to live with these cuts without exploring all the options available to us; and if, as a University, we don't have the courage to explore an idea before we draw our conclusions, then future generations of students will hold us responsible for the demise of the University into a fourth-rate teaching institution.

The pertinence of these comments are reinforced by the decision of the Council of the South Australian College held on Tuesday, 15th August, which responded to the position taken by our Council. College Council noted the University decision, and reiterated its commitment to continue meaningful discussions on the future structure of higher education in South Australia.

Unfortunately for the University, the College then took a very reasonable stance. Given that University Council had destroyed the rational and participatory investigative phase outlined in the draft merger investigation process, it was incumbent on the University to suggest the basis for ongoing negotiations. All our Council has done is to call for the establishment of a joint committee - without a brief or objectives - which would look at the feasibility of "association".

The College has taken a step back and suggested that maybe this is a little ambiguous and in need of clarification. Accordingly, the College resolved "to obtain clarification of the nature and intent of the discussions with the University of Adelaide as proposed at their Council meeting of 11th

August 1989, and how it differs substantially from the recent MIC arrangements." This information will then be taken back to the College's next Council meeting.

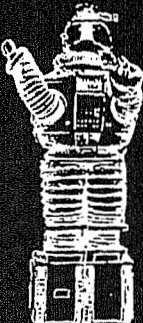
In other words, the University has cast itself adrift from any structured investigative process, and the SACAE can, at this time, look out for its own interests and consider other possibilities. The University, presumably, will twiddle its thumbs and wait for someone to come and talk to us. It will be interesting to see whether anything new can be taken to the next meeting of University Council on 8th September.

Whatever advice is presented to Council for the meeting of September 8th, and it will be a brave observer who would even hazard a guess about this, will then be seen as a new offer by the SACAE should the College be involved. It will also be treated with considerable caution given the rather erratic course our University has steered so far this year. Matthew Hepplewhite, General Secretary of the student federation in the SACAE put this perspective quite strongly - "No one dealing with the University will respond to anything but a clear statement of its position, and a watertight commitment to follow through on its undertakings". Such is the position in which we find ourselves.

Whatever one thinks of the possibility of merger with the SACAE, it is probable that significant hurdles will have to be overcome if dialogue is to be re-established. In the meanwhile, the College will be investigating, as a whole institution, the possibility of "association" with institutions other than this University.

This might sit well with academics on tenure, but it offers disturbing future possibilities for students at this institution who may have to study at a university which is of declining significance in the context of the Unified National System.

LOST
IN
SPACE



Saturday 26th August
**RATS IN THE WALLS
& WHO'S WATT**

Thursdays : FREE DRINKS

9.30 - 10.30 pm & 12 midnight - 12.30 am

GOVERNOR HINDMARSH HOTEL

59 PORT ROAD, HINDMARSH

Thursday 24 Aug - The Gift
Thursday 7th Sept - Rats in the Walls
Thursday 21 Sept - The Artisans
Thursday 5th Oct - Batteries Not Included

Shane Carty heard eminent Soviet scientist Dr Segei Kapitza speak on campus.

This is Soviet Scientist Dr Sergei Kapitza's medical analysis of the world. A highly emotive trope that betrays his conservative, scientific approach to nuclear disarmament. A position that is motivated by a belief in the universal bonding of scientific truth and an emphasis on utilitarian arguments.

Throughout his public speech in the Florey Lecture Theatre on Friday, 11th August, Dr Kapitza kept the audience interested with his humanitarian scientific approach. Having been involved in various organizations such as the Club of Rome, and having published a book and fronted a television show, one would expect him to display the competence which he did.

Although believing science has many answers, Dr Kapitza still showed concern over the disparity between the rate of technical and social development. The concept of a technocratic society was no longer desirable and progression to "new thinking" was required to ensure technical developments were not out of place. Alluding to his home country, he said technology can cause social disruption that can have disastrous effects on an economy. An understanding of scientific terminology and major concepts, what he calls "scientific literacy", is required to have successful change - a matter that he feels is in the hands of the education system.

THE SPECTRE OF NUCLEAR WAR

*And War, which for a moment was no more,
Did glut himself again: - a meal was bought
With blood, and each sat sullenly apart
Gorging himself in gloom: no Love was left;
All earth was but one thought
- and that was Death*

Darkness, Lord Byron

Dr Kapitza then moved on to his two major points, the environment and nuclear arms, by asking us to "consider nuclear war as an environmental issue" and call nuclear war potentially "an environmental catastrophe for our planet".

Kapitza rates all the current global environmental threats as secondary when compared to the prospect of nuclear warfare which is a danger to all because "winds blow in all directions". The frightening reality of this is felt more in a compact continent, such as Europe, but a nuclear winter would affect all continents, Australia included.

With regards to nuclear parity and M.A.D. (Mutual Assured Destruction) Dr Kapitza

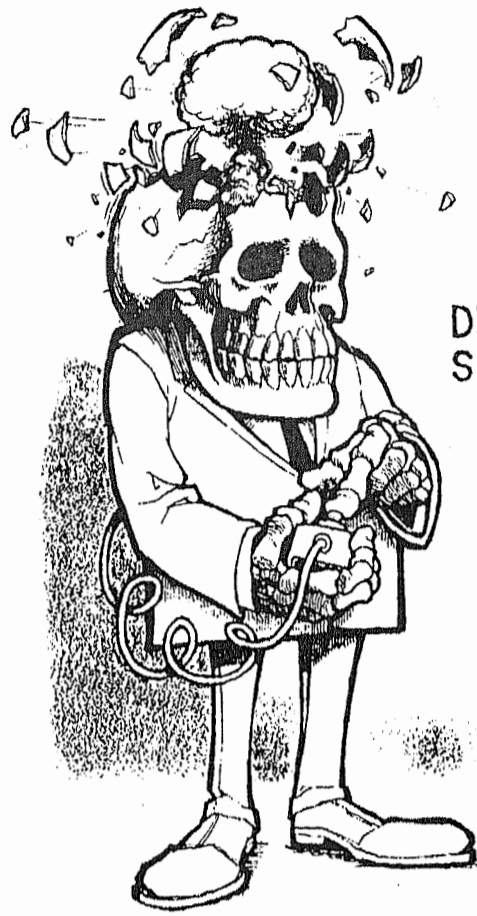
"the world is mentally ill with nuclear weapons."

could only call the current balance of nuclear power a "balance of fear". On the positive side, he said verification of arms would create a balance of power with a greater level of trust involved, citing the A.B.M. (Anti Ballistic Missile) treaty as an important event. This, and the Helsinki Final Agreement, were great moves forward, but all nuclear facilities should come under international control because, considering the nature of nuclear war, decision making should be shared between all affected regions.

NORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Dr Kapitza then shifted the focus of his public address to normal environmental issues, interestingly maintaining the idea of decentralised power. Initially commenting on Europe's appalling water pollution he blamed the pursuit of profit for this state of affairs. He then drew laughter from the crowd by calling the Rhine "a capitalist sewer", the Danube "a mixed sewer", and the Volga "a socialist sewer". He said central authorities can no longer deal with these problems and more local power was required, coupled with a super-national authority to deal with large problems.

From here Dr Kaptiza touched on global warming due to the burning of hydrocarbons, saying that not much was understood and a conservative approach



MAN DEMONSTRATING HIS SUPERIORITY OVER ANIMALS.



was needed. He considered the exact influence of hydrocarbon burning to be unknown, and believed understanding was a prerequisite for action. He felt certain groups that had "emotional, irrational ideas" in some ways may be a hindrance to necessary action if they "cry wolf" too often.

And, even more suprisingly, he said that alternative energies showed no great promise compared with current energy sources, particularly nuclear energy. For instance, most alternative energy sources would take about thirty years to return the amount of energy used in their production whereas a nuclear plant would take a mere three years. This is not to say he supported nuclear power plants, but rather was less than optimistic about the potential of alternative energy sources, saying energy-saving technology was the key to a short term solution.

There was time for questions and some sharp points were made. One concerned the effectiveness of different economic systems in solving environmental problems, an area where I guess most people feel socialism would be effective. Dr Kapitza answered that while in theory this may be so, in practice socialism has been as ineffective as a capitalist system in relation to environmental problems; "vested interests of industries in socialist countries are just as bad as those of super-nationals in capitalist countries". This answer epitomized the

frank and apolitical nature of Dr Kapitza's lecture which concentrated on science and not politics.

Someone then asked a question about Chernobyl cover ups and reports of giant, mutant rodents which most people found rather amusing. Dr Kapitza laughingly dismissed such claims as exaggerated, saying that as far as he knew the situation was openly discussed and could not really be concealed as most of the damage happened to neighbouring countries.

With reference to the giant rats he told a popular European joke of how a giant talking ball reveals itself as a Chernobyl hedgehog. Well, what kind of answer do you expect to a question on mutant rats?

After all the animal jokes were finished, Dr Kapitza concluded on an optimistic note of scientific progress and the potential in popular scientific knowledge. Confidence in science and the arms race are not coherent, people will naturally associate all technology with nuclear danger; this is why he believes a major hurdle in bringing science to the people is the threat of nuclear war.

Overcoming this hurdle requires more people like Dr Kapitza, allowing scientific progress to come back into step with humanity. Possibly then, can the sometimes absurd path of progress cease to become a maze.

Show you care

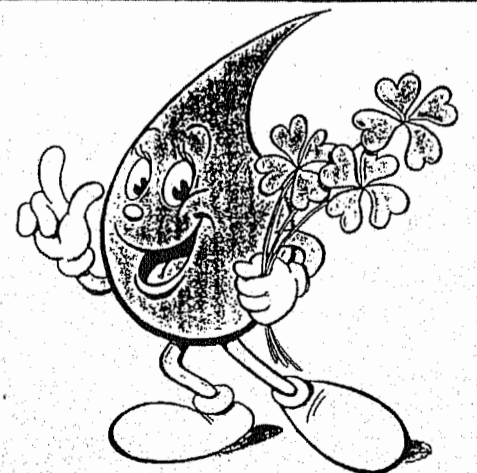
give Blood!

Blood Donation Day on Campus

Thursday, August 31st
Wills Refectory, Union House
9.30 - 11.30 am and 12.30 - 3.30 pm

Please fill out enrolment forms before the day and return to Union Office or box in Mayo Refectory.

Free glass of beer or tea/coffee after donation.



an adelaide institution

Don Dunstan

Farah Farouque conversed
with the former Premier at his Norwood home.

There was a sense of *déjà vu* on campus this month when Don Dunstan returned to his old university to preach to a hundred or so of the faithful on the issue of censorship. The former Labor premier, sometime Victorian tourism supremo, lawyer, writer, gourmet, and occasional thespian launched a vigorous defence for the right of adults to "read and see and hear what they wish".

It was vintage 70's stuff, harking back to the height of the Dunstan era when personal freedoms shaped the political agenda in this state and pink shorts in parliament were the talk of the town.

For many students at university today, the Dunstan premierships (1968-69; 1970-9) is but a hazy childhood memory. Yet a decade since Don Dunstan resigned from politics because of ill-health, the Dunstan legacy endures through a host of political and social reforms we more or less take for granted. The Dunstan regime democratised South Australia's constitution, legislated for Aboriginal land rights, for the decriminalisation of homosexuality and improvements in the status of women. Many of these initiatives were later adopted by the other states. Don certainly has no false modesty about him when discussing the record of his government. "There was almost no area of social policy in which we weren't innovative," he says not without a touch of arrogance.

Ten years on from the Premier's office, Don admits to some regrets. He feels his successors have failed to pursue the thrust of reforms he was pressing for in the late seventies: "I didn't want to leave politics when I did and I found it a very bitter pill to swallow that I wasn't able to continue with the policies that I thought were vitally important and in which South Australia was leading the world - or at least the western world."

Don has little time for the notion put about by "some of the journalists" that South Australia was ripe for change after a long period of conservative rule and that change would have happened even without Dunstan's Labor. "That's not true," he declares in his best statesman-like tone. "It didn't happen elsewhere to anything like the same extent that it happened in South Australia. If you take Labor governments which existed in other states, none of them changed the social and cultural face of their state as we did."

DON'S VIEWS ON POLITICS NOW

With apparently such giant footsteps to follow it seemed appropriate to canvass Don's views on the present state Labor government. Don bestows qualified praise:

"I think the Bannon government has been a very hard working government - they are people of competence. They have of course faced difficult financial times because of our general economic situation. With the fall in commodity prices. Australia faced a more difficult economic period than it had known since the war and within that situation I think they have done very well. I really don't think that the opposition look like an alternative government anyway."

Don couldn't resist the opportunity for a dig at the state Liberals. Don's relations with the Liberals have been unusually strained even for a Labor politician. There is a certain irony in this, because as a schoolboy at St Peters College he used to hand out 'how to

vote cards' for the Liberals at election meetings.

University and a solid diet of political texts changed all that. Don briefly flirted with the Communist Party, converted to democratic socialism, and found his niche in the Labor Party. He was instrumental in turning the State ALP into a slick electoral machine capable of winning government in South Australia after thirty odd years on the opposition benches.

Don's adult encounters with the Liberals have changed a great deal since his schooldays. Towards the latter part of his mid-eighties stint as Chairman of the Victorian Tourist Commission, for example, Don was subject to a spate of attacks on his management from Victoria's Liberals (he was of course a Cain Labor government appointee). Back in South Australia his appointment last year to a \$25,000 post as consultant to the state government on Aboriginal self-government was condemned by our own Liberals as "an insult to the Aboriginal people" and the "worst example of a job for the boys".

Don is not unnaturally bitter about some of these attacks; "The Liberal Party in this

state is just completely paranoid about my doing anything within this state. They are not prepared to admit - which they ought to do objectively - that I have any capabilities of any kind and they go into spasm at the mere mention of my name."

Don believes he evokes such strong feeling from his detractors for a number of reasons. "I was seen to be strongly radical and non-conformist," he explains. There is almost a crusading spirit about him as he launches into his next sentences:

"I challenged many of the basic assumptions of this society. I was successful politically in bringing many of the reforms which I advocated into being and, incidentally in doing that, to destroy the hegemony of the Adelaide Establishment for which they have never forgiven me and never will."

Don's relationship with the media has also been stormy. Political journalists generally seem to rate even worse than South Australia's Liberals on Don's scale of dislikes. He makes the point boldly; "I find most political journalists are people whom I do not respect. I have had quite shocking treatment from many of them. I don't find

many of them honest."

He continues, however, to be assiduously courted by media people ranging from the inoffensive Don Burke of "Burke's Backyard" to ABC-TV's Peter Couchman who wanted Don to appear on his current affairs show with former good-time girl Christine Keeler of 'Profumo' fame. Needless to say Couchman was given a curt knockback, but Don and his garden wire featured on "Burke's Backyard". Here Don made various innocuous revelations including the little known fact that he was South Australia's surfer of the year at one time in the sixties.

STILL SPEAKING OUT

Since his return from Victoria Don has become involved in grass roots ALP politics within his former Norwood electorate sub-branch, but he does not envisage a return to a role anything beyond that in the Party. Instead, he has channelled his efforts into political agitation of a different kind by speaking out on causes he feels strongly about.

The Fiji Coup is one of these issues (there is a personal angle to his interest because he was born and spent formative years there). Don is critical of the role played by the Hawke Labor government:

"I believe that if the Australian government had joined with New Zealand in effectively imposing sanctions on Fiji, the regime (which ousted Dr Bauadra's democratically elected government) would have collapsed within a very short time of the first coup...The Foreign Affairs Department would have been opposed to that but they are opposed to any strong stance of Australia on anything. They seem to be motivated to saying that we always ought to be there at the cocktail parties."

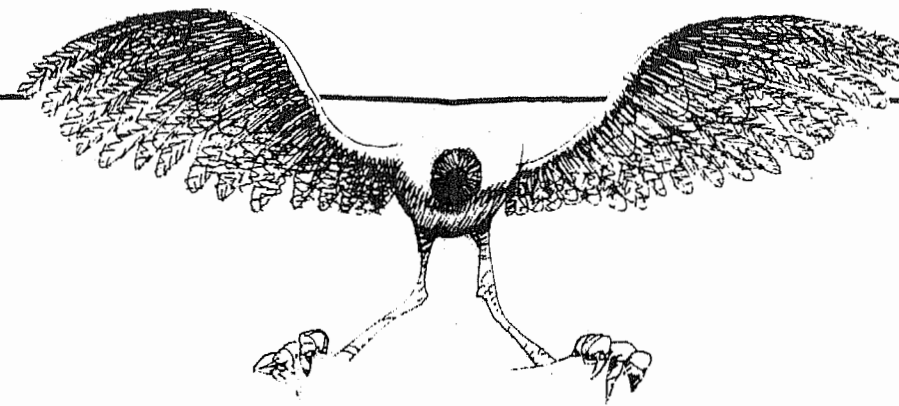
He has also taken up the cudgels on behalf of diverse issues ranging from censorship and marijuana law reform to human rights violations in South East Asia and South Africa. Don explains his seemingly relentless energy; "I have an attitude that life is too rich to waste any of it. We only have a limited amount of it and should use it to the full."

In that vein he contemplates spending the next six months on a range of projects; "I am delivering a paper to the Australian Legal Convention in Sydney...then attending the annual meeting of Freedom from Hunger of which I am President and Chairman of the Board. I've just got back from Queensland where I am assisting the James Cook University on the establishment of an arts fusion centre in Townsville. I have plenty on my plate."

The Don Dunstan of the eighties has come a long way from the gaunt, defeated figure who, clutching at a walking stick, appeared on our TV screens from a hospital room in 1979 to announce his shock resignation. There are visible signs of aging - he is chubbier and there is more grey hair, but he says his health is under control; he is more relaxed and at peace with himself.

The pink shorts have long since gone (he has apparently bequeathed them to State Archives which importuned him for examples of his clothing), but he continues to make passionate stands for issues close to his heart. He may not make the headlines as often as he used to, but it is unlikely that Don will disappear altogether from the public eye for a very long time.





Artist Vytas Serelis is in residence in the Union Gallery.
Mark Gantcheff talked to him about monoliths, the Universe, and his "Projects."



Vytas Serelis is more than an artist. He is a man with a vision of a better world where, as he told me last week when I talked with him, "people put forward ideas and are encouraged to do so."

Vytas is the artist in residence in the Union Gallery until early September and there, on level six of the Union House, he is moulding his vision into a collection of "Projects".

Jenni Jones, the Union Arts Officer, sought Vytas as resident artist because she saw the value in presenting a working artist in a wide context; "Artists aren't just people who get tucked away in their garrets to paint. The impact of artists on our community has been enormous. History shows that they have been able to bring about social change. Art and science are often working, not hand in hand, but with one or the other in front, with hand outreached waiting for the other to catch up. Ideas which have been just fantasy have become reality through scientific application."

No-one could show the truth of this statement better than Vytas Serelis.

He began communicating his wide-ranging visions in art school in the mid-sixties and has continued to do so ever since, his work developing into a series of projects in diverse media. His keen interest in scientific concepts and ways in which they can be applied is now, more than ever, behind much of the work he undertakes.

"It's all a project and it's very difficult to draw a picture of it. The reason it's so big is that it is a very simple idea that has to take everything into account. I am trying to create something that has unlimited potential and is completely organic in that it works off everything. It's all a big experiment."

Vytas feels that curricular-wise, the University could be more socially useful and that the question of students paying for their education could evaporate if students were encouraged to engage themselves in tackling practical projects.

He sees students as wasting much of the huge amount of energy they possess.

"The energy of young people is the best energy available. It's the most inappropriate time for them to be locked away from doing anything useful other than gaining a degree. If the University was participating in projects then students would be doing apprenticeships. The biggest qualification you can have is experience."

Part of his role then, as an artist in residence, is to harness this

energy in projects of his own devising and to co-operate with students in developing their own concepts into reality.

One project that embodies Vytas' ideas for this harnessing of energy is his monolith.

Scattered around the work and exhibition areas of the Gallery is the oft-repeated image of a baby "submerged" with only a shoulder and half its head revealed.

Vytas envisions a huge monolithic version of this image and sees it as a possible solution to the dormant problem of the wasteful gouges taken from the Adelaide Hills by quarrying.

He told me of how someone was once seriously suggesting that an Adelaidean Mount Rushmore with Tom Playford and Don Dunstan be sculpted from the quarry face, and this prompted him to explore the idea of placing his monolith in the context of the quarries.

"I can't go any further," he told me, "because there is no data on the quarries; on isometric maps the quarries are just a white hole. This is the perfect example of how people in surveying and engineering, regardless of the fact that they are not qualified, could be 'paying' for their education by gathering data as part of the curriculum."

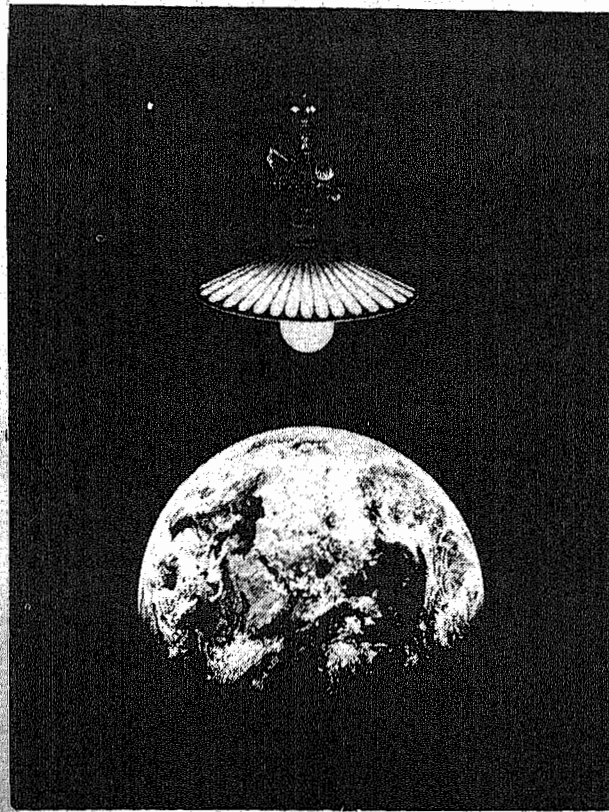
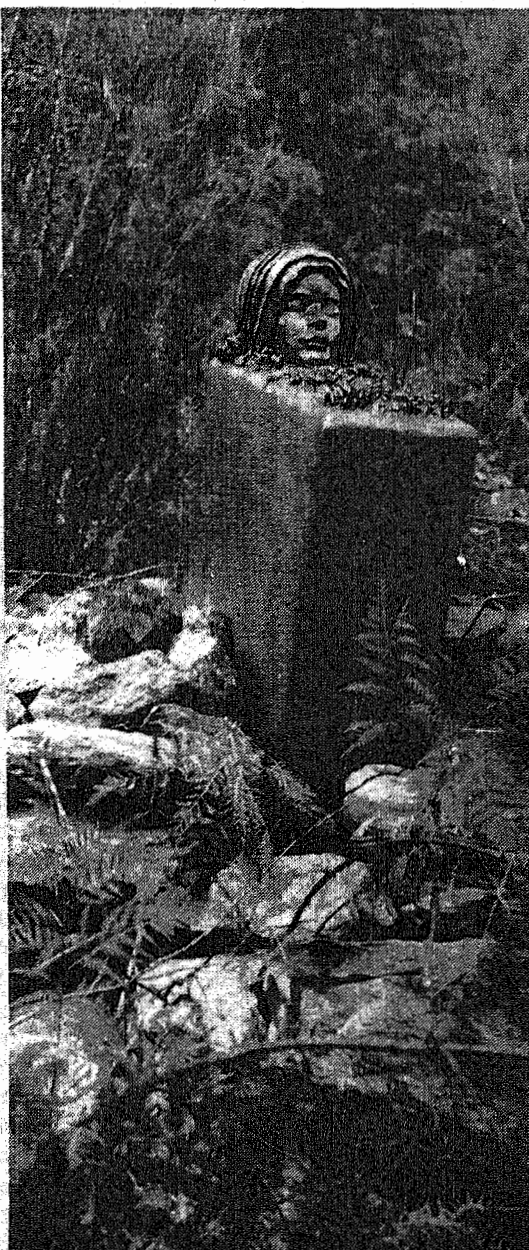
"The problem is that they are just digging a big hole. Obviously a monolith is not a hole but it could be a stadium or a slope that corresponds to the polar axis, it could be the world's largest astronomical instrument. There are a million permutations to working at that scale that people at University could be exercising their minds on."

Vytas was also hoping to make contact with someone who could construct computer models to explore one of his physical theories relating to the problem of the missing mass in the Universe.

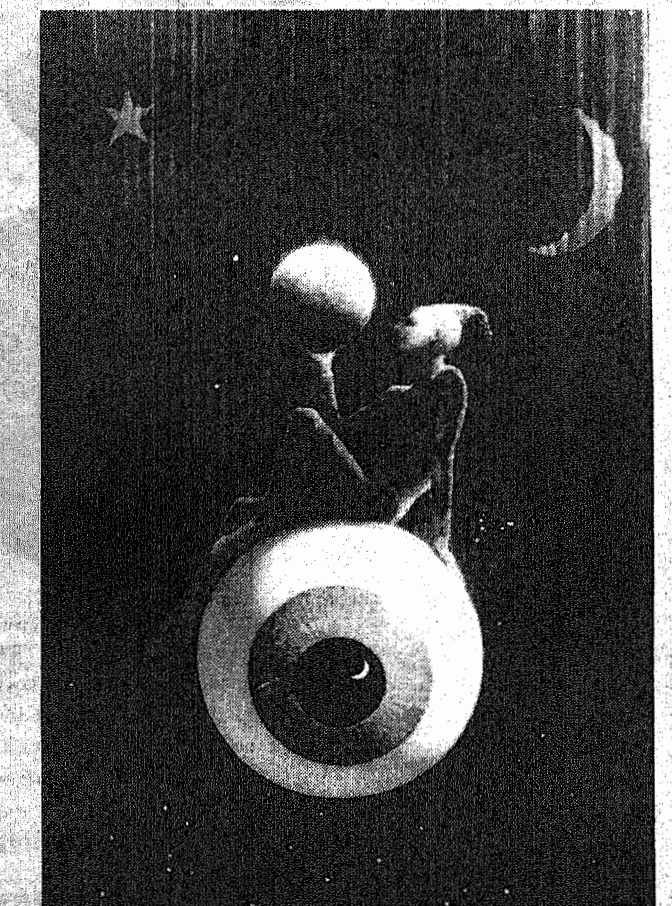
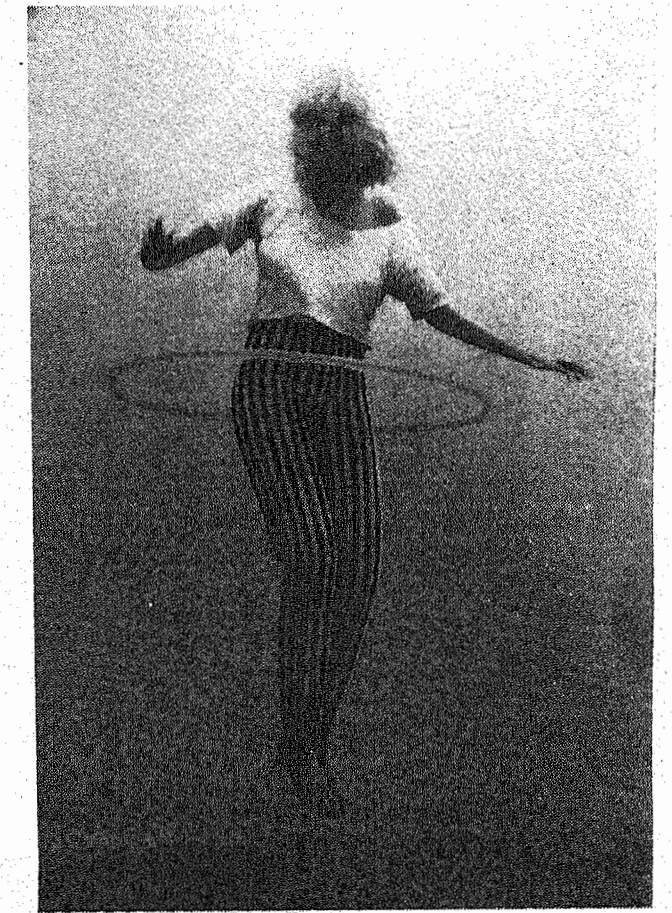
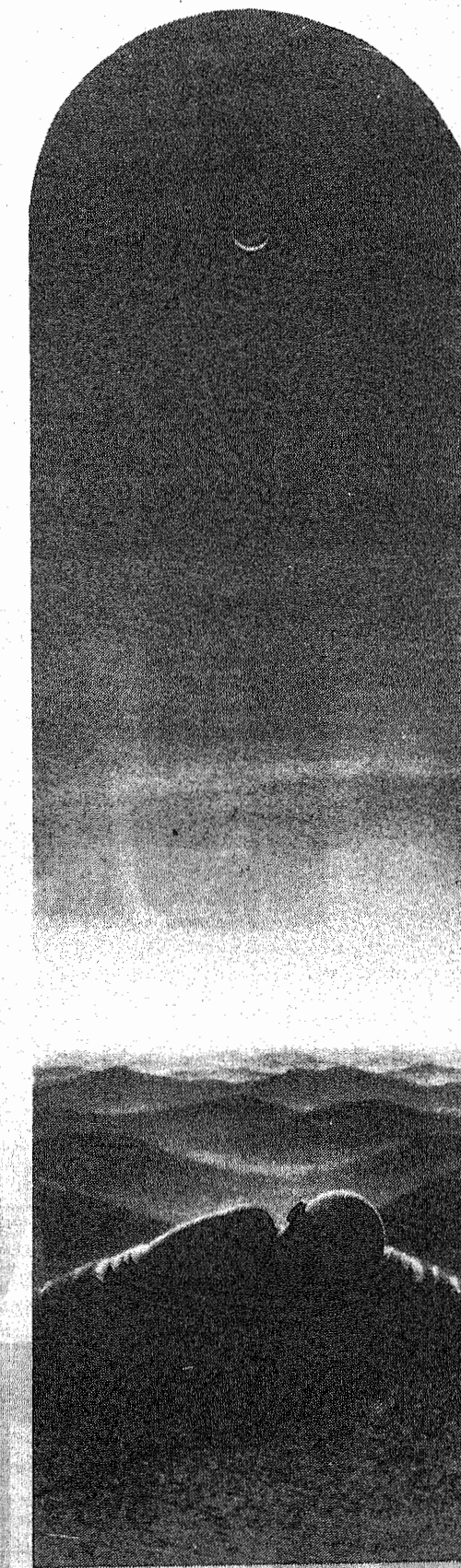
"I think we could dispel the notion of any missing mass... it's not something that could be achieved in a couple of weeks, it's a long term project."

Aside from material relating to the projects Vytas Serelis wants to explore with the assistance of students, he also will be displaying paintings and other works in the Gallery space, many of which will be completed during his stay.

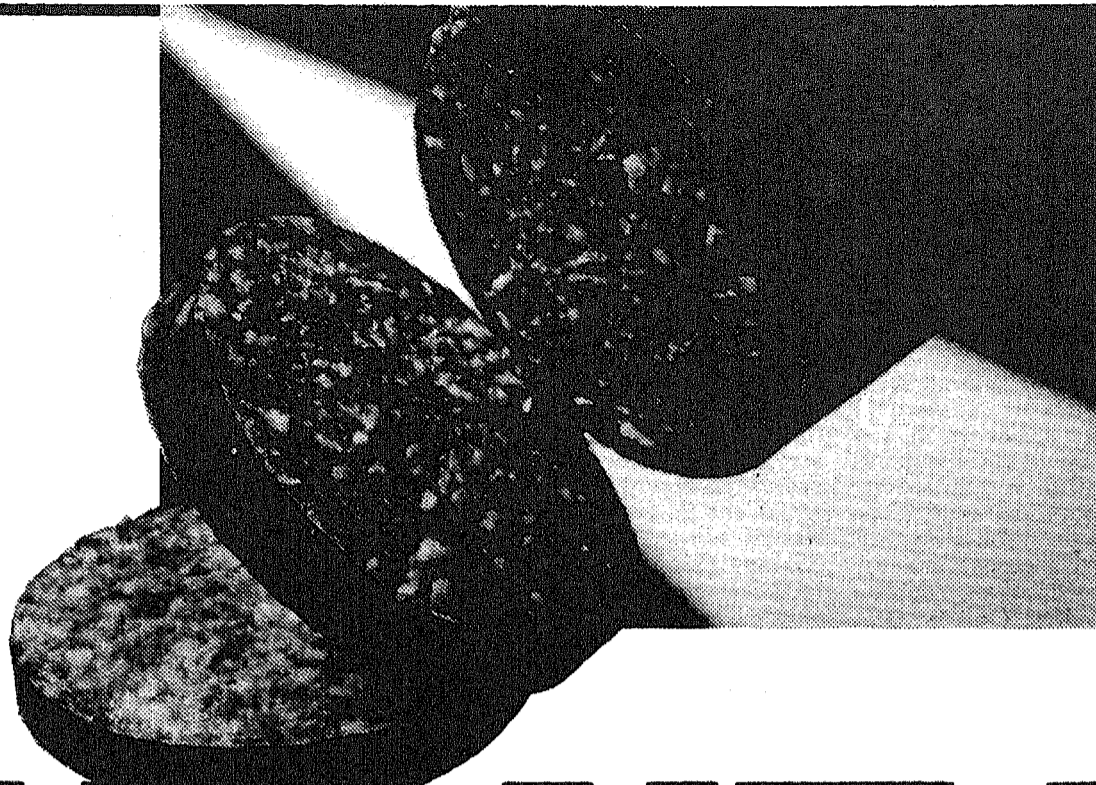
Take yourself up to the Gallery and experience Vytas' work and perhaps get involved. It could well be the most useful thing you will ever do at University.



clockwise from left:
Monument overlooking valley II
"The Petrol Sniffers"
Light Machine



clockwise from above:
Painting
Heather with Hoop I
Jester Watching



WANT IT SO BAD YOU'D KILL FOR IT?

That salami you'd "kill" for may be more obliging than you think. Sausages, meats, cheeses, fresh fruit, vegetables...any type of food you bring in from overseas could be loaded with disease. Diseases like foot and mouth and African swine fever, which in the short term would get their teeth into Australia's primary industries. And, in the long term, affect the livelihood of every Australian.

Because once the disease, and the word, spreads, our produce would no longer be welcome on world markets, and that would leave a bad taste in everyone's mouth. Australia is one of the few countries free of the world's most devastating diseases. With your help, we can keep it that way.



DECLARE IT FOR AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE

adelaide film event
eat the rich

"Eat The Rich" is a film which manages to combine several memorable scenes amongst a predominance of mediocre ones. The story revolves around two central characters - Alex, a black transsexual waiter and Nosh, a bullying, cockney Home Secretary. Alex originally works at 'Bastards', a restaurant which specialises in such things as Panda friend in honey, Baby Koala cutlets, and rude service. He gets fired for a combination of rudeness and insufficient flair when being rude.

Abandoned by his friends, sleeping in the streets, he goes to seek employment benefits where he is gleefully informed by the staff that they are not there to help him but to make sure he doesn't become a burden on society. In a fit of rage, he begins shooting the staff, then assorted windows, cats, and telephone boxes. This is the first step in his revolutionary cause.

Alex's method of changing society involves getting a revolutionary group together, capturing 'Bastards', and massacring the customers. 'Bastards' is re-named 'Eat The Rich' and serves up the upper class to the upper class.

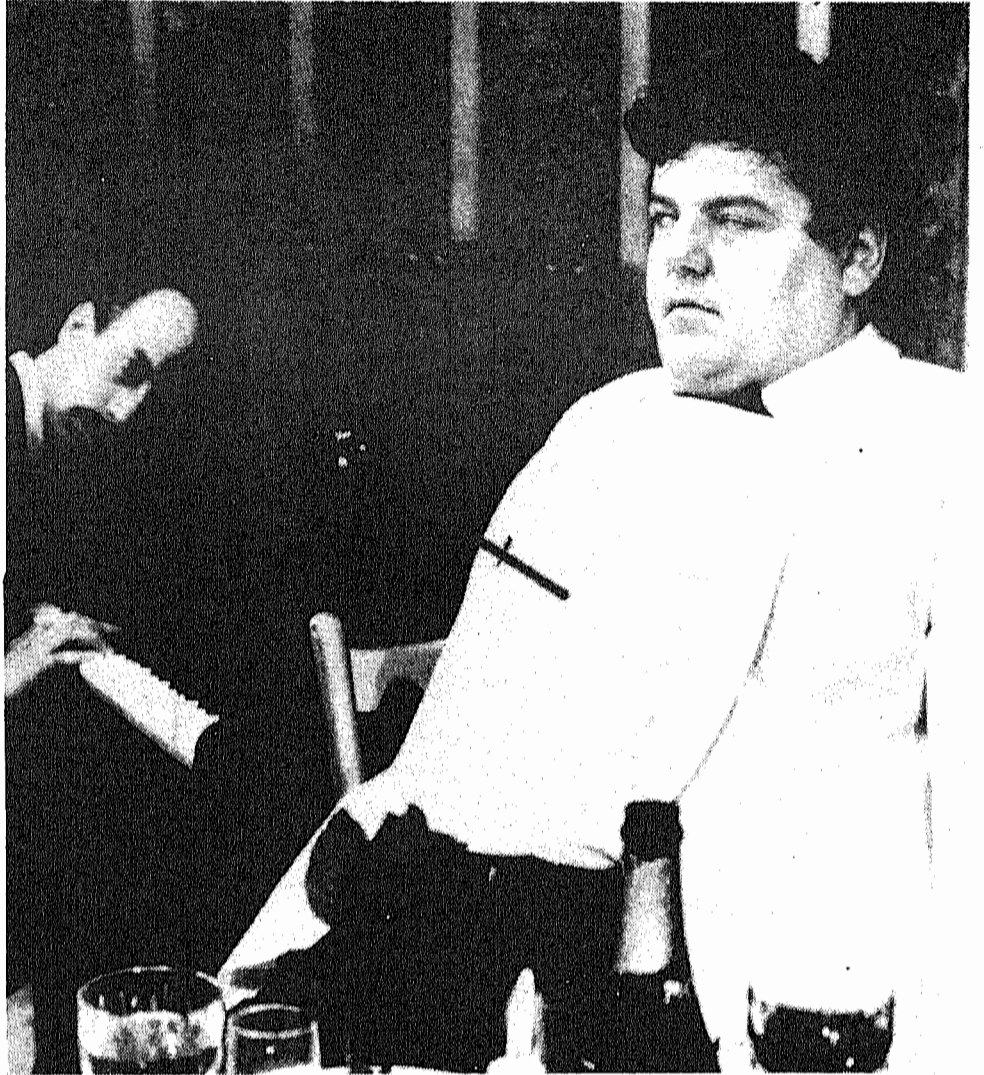
Nosh, on the other hand, is an inarticulate demagogue. He is a political superman, charismatic, entertaining, able to overcome terrorists armed with machine guns at one mighty punch of his weighty fists. He flirts with the Queen, has sex with an 80's Christine Keeler, terrorises unionists, and generally has a good time. Nosh epitomises the worst elements which can be electorally popular but irrationally so.

The film builds to an anti-climax where Alex and Nosh must clash. Unfortunately, while Nosh is supremely entertaining, Alex is mainly a fizzer. As he is the hub of the story, even more so than Nosh, it prevents the film from reaching to the heights of which it should have been capable.

The result of this is that while the film hilariously satirises the Queen, politicians, their wives, the public, and especially the upper class, it is ultimately disappointing. Many scenes should have been far funnier than they turned out; the more bitter the sarcasm, the more outrageous the dialogue, the better the film worked.

Although "Eat The Rich" is difficult to accuse of subtlety, the less subtle it was, the more successful it was. An entertaining but frustrating film.

Phil Sandercock



Chelsea
Cinema
till Aug 30

adelaide film event
the lonely passion of judith hearne

"The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne" is a masterly study of a woman suffering not from sexual repression but from a deep-seated craving for love. Middle-aged, alone, facing a Joycean Dublin, Judith (Maggie Smith) lives a cycle of guilt, alcoholism, and self-deceit, fettered by the memory of her austere aunt.

Jack Clayton, the director, has risen to the challenge of translating Brian Moore's novel for the screen. He conveys the Church as the dominant force in Judith's life, with powerful imagery. At a moment of confrontation, a steeple in the background literally and symbolically separates Judith from James (Bob Hoskins), the male protagonist. The repeated use of holy water, symbol of healing, culminates in Judith's precious gin assuming this power.

Clayton uses flashbacks to explain some of the complexities of Judith's character. We see the beginnings of innocence corrupted by guilt where the child Judith's irreverent giggles in Mass are turned to silent tears by her aunt's crushing hand.

The acting is superb. Maggie Smith creates a pathetic character who wins our sympathy as a victim of circumstances beyond her control. Bob Hoskins gives depth to the person of James, a working class Irish-American who has a genial surface with a dark undercurrent.

It is through her relationship with James that Judith is forced to confront the truth. Her struggle with doubt is heart-rending and the Church offers no answer to her loneliness. "If there's no other life I've wasted mine", she says with horror. Linked with this new recognition of reality is Judith's acceptance at a deep level that the resources necessary to give life meaning to her life are within. She states simply, "To be alone doesn't mean you're nobody".

"Judith Hearne" is a movie of subtleties and nuances. Peter Hannan's cinematography is exquisite. High quality performances and understated direction have provided yet another success for the Film Event.

Anne Lindsay & Sarah Kelly



Chelsea
Cinema
till Aug 23

You are cordially invited to the

INAUGURAL UNION LECTURE



Dr John Hewson,
MHR and Shadow Treasurer

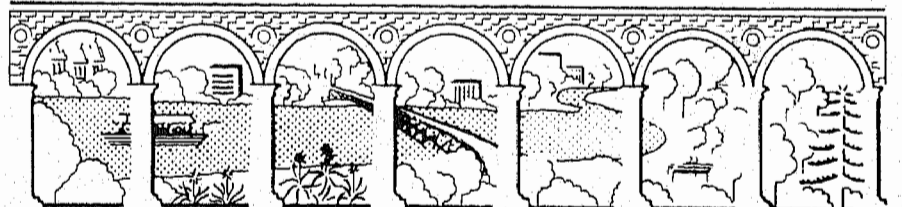
presents his views on the

"1989 Federal Budget and the Economy"

Thursday August 24th
1.10 pm
Union Hall

Short question time at the conclusion

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION



Alex Wheaton on
what's in store for this coming
Saturday night.

This Saturday night, Adelaide's best known band plays the Uni Bar. The **Exploding White Mice** perform exclusively for On Dit at their only on-campus show this year. After extensive Australian touring, the 'Mice are bringing forth a collection of new songs (soon to be recorded for Greasy Pop Records).

Also enlisted - powerful 3 piece band **The Mark of Cain**, playing their blend of 'English melody and American sonic, coupled with an Australian hard edged stance'. What does it all mean? It means on the eve of their debut album release ("Battlesick" - review next week), they're going to blast the bar into adulatory submission.

So... it's just as well that we've managed to procure vast quantities of Emu Export Lager (special price all night) to enable everything to flow smoothly.

And let's face it, what Bar night would be complete without the exceptional 'hellbelly soul' of **The Johnsons**, to start everything off. The one, the only Johnsons' 'Theme Song' may well be a must!!

Need I say more...

On Dit Bar Night



Just Kidding?



Pam O'Neill tells us these boys
are quite serious.

"It's good to hear that Adelaide's own Just Kidding are finally getting the recognition they deserve in Europe". These words, uttered by a DJ from this city's notorious commercial radio station, seemed rather sardonic. It was difficult to recall the last time the station had played a Just Kidding track or indeed, mentioned their name.

For a station that claims to be 'the first with the best' or is it 'the best with the first', why had it taken recognition in Europe to afford airplay in Adelaide? Just Kidding have, however, attracted an alternative market, receiving substantial airplay on Triple M FM and Melbourne's 3 RRR.

Just Kidding began as a collaboration between Chris Mills (guitar/vocals) and Steve Phillips (drums/backing vocals) during late 1986. Joined by other core members Bart Bee (bass/backing vocals) and Paul Duldig (keyboards/backing vocals), Just Kidding have progressed to become one of Adelaide's most innovative and outstanding bands. Their music has developed from its 'raw' ska beginnings into a more diverse blend of ska, reggae and funk, backed by a dynamic and flexible horn section.

When I spoke to band member Bart Bee, he was adamant that Just Kidding can no longer be described as purely ska, although this is usually suggested as the genre into which the band's music most comfortably fits:

"There is no doubt about it, we love ska and reggae music but we are not just a ska and reggae band. We are more of a dance band that plays original songs. We have direction from ska, but we do not want to be classified as such."

The ability to diversify, combined with musical dexterity and animated stage performances, has earned Just Kidding a loyal following of fans in various venues around town, including Le Rox, Limbo's, The Royal Admiral and the Uni Bar.

The band also spends a great deal of time writing and recording. Chris Mills, who doubles as business manager, writes the majority of lyrics, whilst other band members arrange the music. The material is drawn from a variety of sources but predominantly reflects Chris' English background, revolving around issues of equal opportunity, racism and unemployment. The band have created their own label 'No Joke Records', under which they have recorded the originals "Why Must We Fight"/"Making Time", a four song self-titled EP and recently the single titled "Bite the Bullet"/"I Don't Understand It".

Just Kidding's most promising development to date has been a European contract. Following a visit to Adelaide by an associate of Unicorn Record (London), the band was offered a place on two European compilation albums. Two tracks from their EP can be heard on Unicorn's "Skankin Round the World Volume II" and "Planete Ska" on the French label Squale Records.

In addition, Just Kidding secured a licensing deal with Unicorn, for the worldwide release of an 8 track mini LP, titled "Watch the Fires". Unicorn records have obviously recognised the fact that, in Bart's words, "Just because you are 'isolated' doesn't mean you are no good."

It is something that commercial radio stations and recording companies in Australia have yet to realise. Despite Just Kidding's European recognition, they are still waiting for that elusive Australian contract.

You will be able to hear them at the Adelaide Uni Bar on Friday 24th August.

MUCH WATER SO CLOSE TO HOME
Paul Kelly and the Messengers -
Mushroom

Slower, moodier and more sparse, this is the new sound of Paul Kelly. The title of this record was taken from a short story by Raymond Carver, which the song "Everything's Turning White" is based on. No doubt you have heard the first single "Sweet Guy", about a woman who is beaten by the man she loves but she cannot force herself to leave him.

This song stands out from the rest of the album because of its poignant lyrics (which is Kelly's trademark) but it is accompanied by fittingly moody music, so it comes together better:

"One thing I will never understand
(It's become my problem)
And it's something that's right out
of my hands (My hands are clean)
What makes such a sweet guy
turn so mean?"

Every other song has lyrics which are just as good but most fall short with the music; slow, almost country accompaniment which drags the songs down into a boring comatose.

Exceptions to this, though, are "Everything's Turning White" which uses this style of folksy acoustic guitar and slow percussion to great effect, giving an ironic touch to a tragic story, the quick hoe-down style of "Pigeon/Jundamurra" (about an Aborigine in the Kimberleys in the 1890s who effectively fought settlers with guerilla tactics for 3 years until he was shot dead by troopers) and "Cities of Texas", a slow rock/blues number.

Paul Kelly and the Messengers (the Coloured Girls changed their name but not line up) play Thebarton Theatre on Wednesday August 23rd, and I think they would be well worth a visit, just to hear live at least the good songs on this record.

James Nuttall

TAKE COVER
The Screaming Tribesmen - CBS

Looking like a weak Guns 'N Roses, the Screaming Tribesmen have released a 5 track EP of their favourite covers from their live set.

Being dubbed as 'one for the fans', "Take Cover" is a quite easily digestible piece of 'kick ass' rock, even for someone who is not a fan.

With a whole new line-up still headed by singer/songwriter Mick Medew, The Screaming Tribesmen churn out two great renditions on side two of Lou Reed's "I Can't Stand It" and the Vertabrats' "Left in the Dark".

So whether you are a fan or not, "Take Cover" is well worth having a listen to. Just remember to ignore the cover.

Jason Bootle

TIERRAS
The Tierras - TMC

Whaddya make of this one hombres?
Sounds like Los Lobos have been sanitized to the point of extinction. The Tierras are an Adelaide band who've been popular enough

to be able to finance the recording and release of their music. It's an ambitious and expensive move that deserves reward. Despite the lateness of this review, copies are available at selected retailers (try Greg at the Uni record shop). Available on CD or cassette only.

Clean snappy bright amalgams of C & W, R 'n B, Tex-Mex and toe-tappin' good-time music.

Side A: "Nuts and Bolts", "Every 5 Minutes", "Send Me". Showing the basic stripped back approach, simple drumming underpins the rhythms of fine guitar work; honking earthy sax and the strong, sometimes soaring vocal delivery of Lue.

Side B: 'One Step' - a hit!

"Kosmic Kowboy" with the Kitsch 'K's is a tedious, breathy, vocal and guitar attempt at deepness that is very much submerged by its own pomposity.

"A Letter"?? Don't know. Four listens later and I still don't remember hearing it....

On balance, this is so well done it deserves to be released on a major record label - but it won't be. A plea to the record companies in Adelaide; don't wait around for directions from head office in Sydney. Show some initiatives, get out of the office and discover some of the rich talent that resides in your own backyard.

The end.

Alex Wheaton.

MATCHBOOK
Ian Moss - Festival

The resemblance of this album to some of Cold Chisel's work was the first thing I noticed. Not the whole album, but just snippets, the occasional riff, the sporadic (no joke intended) drum beat. However, apart from these infrequent lapses by listener or record, there is a nice solid album that you can listen to without having to have your stereo full up.

Maddening as it is, I like "Telephone Booth" for its ability to stick in your head. The two singles aside, the rest of the album contains some quite acceptable mainstream music, featuring some average guitar-work (a reflection on Chisel's musical abilities, hmmm?

To sum up: An album of no surprises, just average rock. On a scale of 1 to 10, it's average.

Nick Fejer

STEADY ROLLING BLUES
Memphis Slim -
Festival 'Original Blues Classics'

A composer/pianist/vocalist, Memphis Slim was raised in backwoods Tennessee, learned his craft in Memphis, defined his style in Chicago, and then relocated himself to Paris (France).

"Steady Rolling Blues" was recorded and released in 1961, around the time he was contemplating his move to Europe, and one of a glut of albums he recorded around this time. It seems quality was sacrificed to quantity at this stage of Slim's extraordinary career.

Why am I telling you all this?

Well, "Steady Rolling Blues" is in no way representative, and is in fact a tedious, indulgent bag of shit.

Alex Wheaton



ENIKUFESIN
Anthrax - 12" Island

Usually between albums Anthrax release a few EP's of covers and other versions of their songs. Last year's "I'm the Man" took the piss out of hip-hop and this is the latest and it's great.

If you are sick of the 'Dungeons and Dragons' as well as the 'Spandex Poseur' image of metal/hard rock bands, this is a terrific alternative. It has 6 tracks, 2 from

their last album "State of Euphoria" ("Now it's Dark" and a French version of "Antisocial"), another French song "Le Sects", versions of "Pipeline", "Friggin in the Riggin" and Kiss - "Parasite" which is the record's only downfall (and only because Ace Frehley wrote crappy songs).

A good value buy for anyone who likes real rock played for its own sake, and read the title backwards.

James Nuttall

THE MARAT PACK TURNS MEDIAEVAL

The Marat Pack are back with an original production, "Bishop Takes Knight".
Monica Carroll was amused by them during a break in rehearsal.

Francis Greenslade, Shaun Micallef, and Alex Ward, that trouble-shooting theatrical threesome known more conventionally as 'The Marat Pack', will be livening up our theatre-going nights again. They have a new production, "Bishop Takes Knight" and it is an original play written by Shaun.

For those who were not around when the three were enervating Footlights productions with their panache and wit, Francis, Shaun, and Alex were prominent in early 80's Footlights shows. Their comic artistry was drawn upon for later productions such as "Poodle Armageddon", and the stunning revival of Ancient Greek comedy in "The Frogs". Footlight's recent adoption of a policy which 'retires' old Footlighters, has seen the trio concentrate on fame but not fortune with the Marat Pack.

When I turned up to interview them (in Bonython Hall's robing room, of all places) Mr Greenslade was absent but Mr Micallef, Mr Ward, plus two Storerers, Margot (production stalwart) and Jeremy, were waiting. The three males were wearing Chinese slippers - so was I. It was a promising start.

Shaun's grey hair is becoming more prominent and he remarked, "We're getting on a bit." Alex, however, was unfazed, and ingratiatingly said "hello students" in anticipation of their presence at the forthcoming production. Shaun sees it in terms of "coming back to the old fort". And it does not simply involve the Marat Pack; Jeremy Storer of footballing fame in this year's Footlight's "Less Than Zebra" Review will be taking part. So will the Honourable Anthony Durkin, acclaimed for his debonair debating but also a former Footlights zealot. Shaun refers to him as "The fourth wheel on the Marat Pack tricycle."

The Marat Pack's successes include "As Time Goes By" and "Beckoning Gullet" (such a sophisticated title).

"As Time Goes By" (which had for its publicity shot, Francis, Shaun, and Alex all looking remarkably suave in white jackets) was very successful as far as bringing in audiences was concerned. Critical adulation or lack thereof was another thing altogether.

Shaun mentions the Pack's involvement in theatre sports around that time; "We noticed that a number of people from that show ended up being on television in their own capacity - except for us. We're still doing the same thing we were doing three years ago." (dry laughter from Mr Ward).

"Beckoning Gullet" was a musical which packed (no pun intended) the audiences in and made \$5,000 profit, but this was "absorbed by radio rights, which we had flown over from Sydney."

Shaun and Alex have been on air for SAFM for a year or so, Francis has appeared in the State Theatre Company's production of "The Tempest" and Anthony "fell off a pole and cracked open his skull", thereby gaining more publicity than Francis, Shaun, and Alex put together, as Margot observes. Now they find themselves back here for the performance of an original play.

"Bishop Takes Knight" is a parody of Ingmar

Bergman's play "The Seventh Seal" from which the film was adapted.

Set in the Middle Ages, its theme of death receives a new treatment at Shaun's hands. He calls its transition from drama to comedy through his efforts, "a pathetic attempt to have a laugh-line poster".

In this production, Shaun plays the squire, Alex ("I used to get all the boy roles in the old days now I'm the cast catamite") is the knight, Francis the bishop, Jeremy the painter, Anthony Durkin the Chorus and last, but I wouldn't dream of saying least, Tracy Korsten plays a gypsy woman who goes mad.

So there is no truth to the rumour that former Footlights stalwart James (Slim Jim) Neate will be making an appearance in the play. He is the custodian of the Footlights videos and Alex has invited him to make a speech at a video night.

"Bishop Takes Knight" incorporates black comedy but this is not as serious as it sounds, firstly because of the play's essentially parodic nature, secondly because "it's an attempt by a group of untalented, undisciplined hams to put on a play", Shaun says reassuringly.

"The plot revolves around the knight and the squire travelling through Germany and coming across a church. A bishop tricks the pair into staying to help him rebuild the cathedral..."

At this point I am introduced to Tiriano (my apologies if this is not the correct spelling) exclusively from Hong Kong for the production. While she appears very twenty-ish with Eton crop, monocle, and smart trousers and matching jacket, Margot's old christening dress will metamorphose Tiriano into a suitably mediaeval ms. Alex is rumoured to be more than good friends with her.

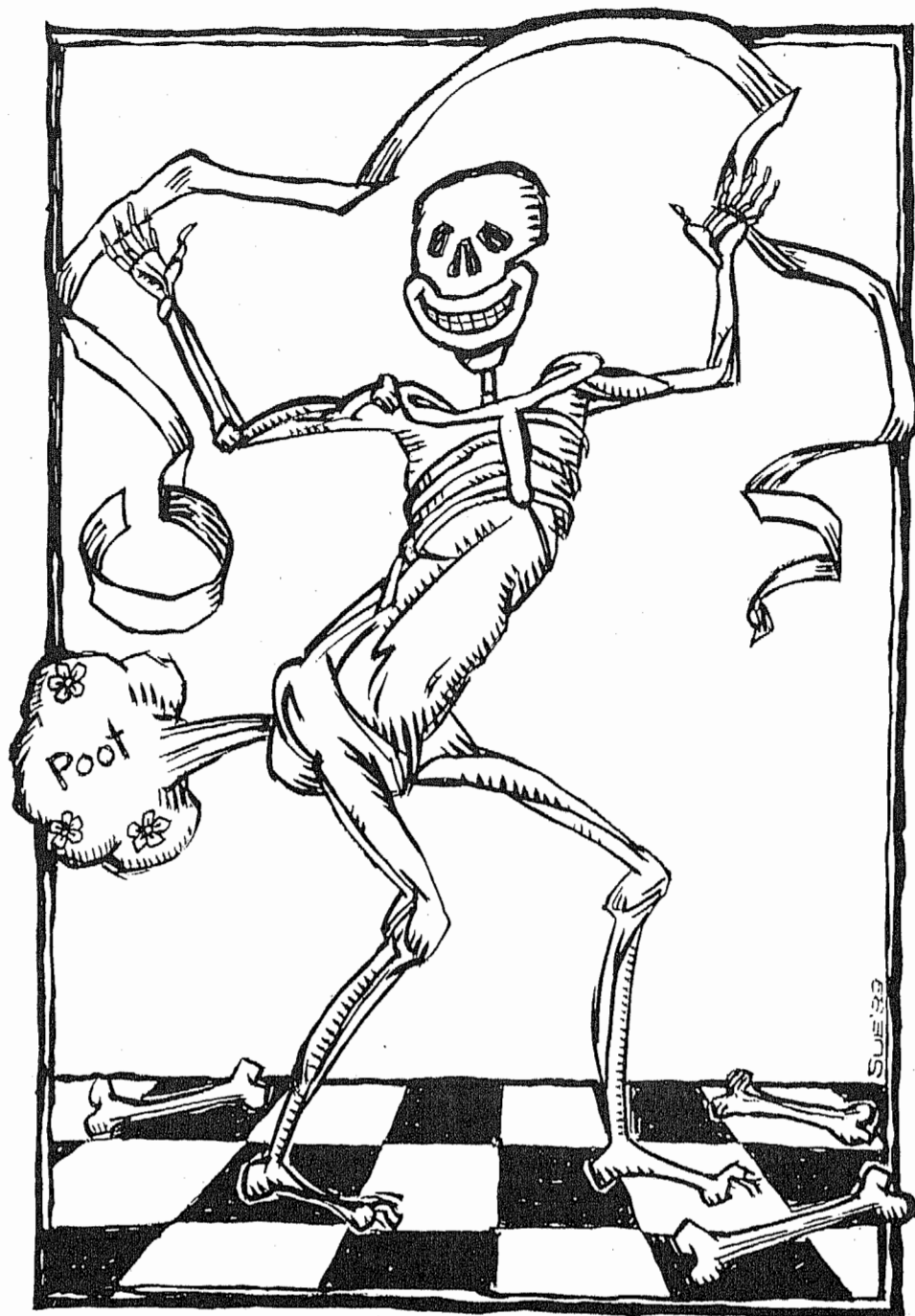
Returning to the plot, the bishop has plans for the knight. You will have to break the suspense by attending the play.

In relation to the publicity blurb about "a successful tour of Wales and the Isle of Man", Shaun and Alex went on holiday in Wales last year. A comedy festival was being staged so the two took part with a dialogue which was based on this play and took the town by storm. They won a prestigious trophy - a silver hand holding a fish - and were regularly invited to dinner with clergymen.

The costumes of "Bishop Takes Knight" have been designed by the Mediaeval Society of South Australia and apparently are "exquisite". Shaun, Alex, and Margot have great praise for Terry Brown; "Without her we would all be naked."

Considerable effort has been spent on creating an authentic Mediaeval setting, the highlight of which will be dried cowpats on each seat. As an added bonus, the members of the audience are permitted to take these home.

"Bishop Takes Knight" runs from August 24 to September 9 (excluding Sunday and Monday). It commences at 8 pm in the Little Theatre, and tickets are available from Bass outlets (I presume from the Students' Association Office as well).



Bishop takes Knight

Marat Packaged Entertainment presents
A Comedy for the Middle Ages
with

Shaun Micallef Alex Ward Francis Greenslade

Little Theatre University of Adelaide

August 24th - September 9th 8 p.m.

(excluding Sunday and Monday)

Tickets at BASS

THIS IS SERIOUS, PETER

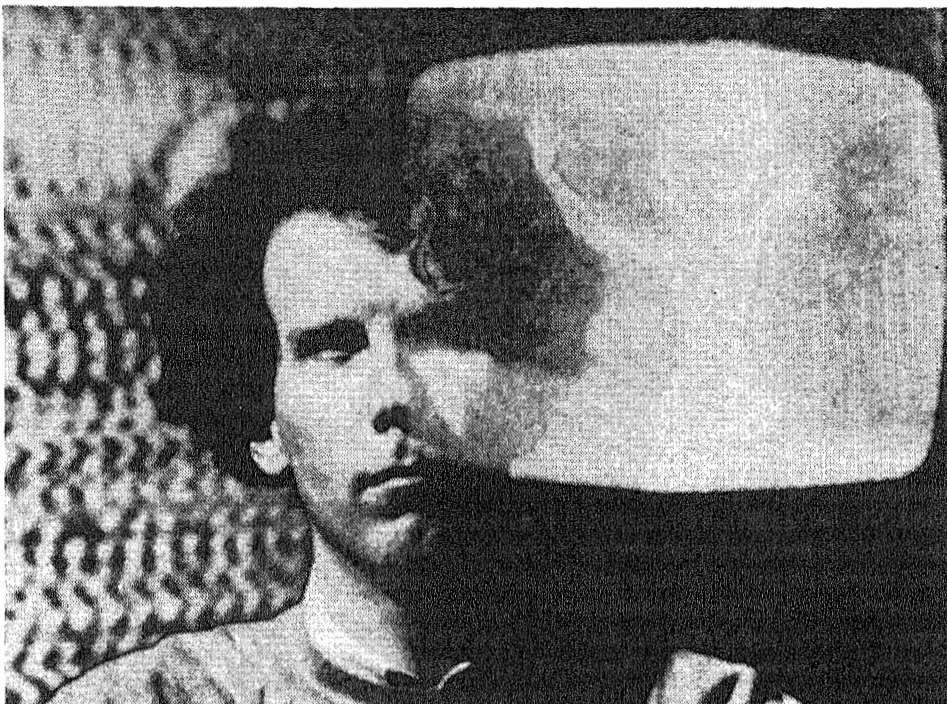
Peter Couchman is a serious journalist, well respected in the journalists' fraternity, and with a penchant for tackling the big issues. That said, "Couchman" (Channel 2, Wednesday, around 10 pm) is really quite a bit of fun.

It's the oldest formula in the world, of course. Pick a controversial topic and pack the room full of people who feel strongly about it. Then sit back and watch (with a St John's crew nearby).

Couchman is at least to be commended for not taking the easy option and actually throwing himself into the proceedings as a participant. On one level, he only does this because he's a self-important prick who cannot let anyone speak for over thirty seconds without interrupting; on the other hand, he operates as more of a commentator than a mediator in the sense that he's not afraid to tell the warring factions if they're both wrong or if their arguments are becoming irrelevant and boring.

The potential downside to putting one's own distinctive stamp on proceedings week after week is that your personality is soon revealed. Peter Couchman is more full of himself than any current affairs journo since Richard Carleton (who, incidentally, has almost made "60 Minutes" worth watching as a study in the limits of human bombast). He really does think he can operate as an expert on everything from the morality of abortion to the willingness of local industries to invest in Australian ideas.

It's something about him, but Couchman simply cannot get away with being loud



and overbearing in the same way that Geoffrey Robertson can. He always gives off an aura of trying too hard, and ultimately comes across as an unpleasant person to watch. For those watching closely, he also plays the two sides off each other a little too deliberately. But hey! Why else would he be there? Any flaws of his are ultimately as important as someone delivering an unconvincing monologue in the middle of a battlefield. We're here to see blood, and don't worry, we get it.

One particularly canny part of the set-up is the audience placement. The traditional idea

of having the opposing forces on opposite sides of the room helps to polarise the positions taken, but "Couchman" is far more clever. It must be quite a shock to find that the person next to you, who you've been engaging in jovial conversation with throughout the soundcheck, is actually a fascist bastard who believes that all petty criminals should be hung by their pubic hairs over ravenous dingoes until dead.

One would also hope that random placement of audience members would mean that people's opinions would not be stereotyped before they start speaking, and

they would get a fair opportunity to state their case. This, of course, does not happen. In order to prevent conversation grinding to a cataclysmic halt twenty minutes before closing time, the studio is packed with people. The end result can be anything from a few people not getting heard to an all-in-brawl. Indeed, this is virtually what happened in a disastrous episode on 'Homeless Children' early in the series, which must almost have provoked David Hill to cancel the show there and then.

The trappings of the show also deserve a mention - the props and gadgets used to keep our attention are impressive, even if some of them border on flagrant advertising. The sets, designed by Jo Campagnolo, vary widely each week (obviously no budget shortage here) and display appropriate, if a little trite, pictures regarding each week's topic. But they must do something about the names - "Home Groan" for a show on the 'Buy Australian' campaign? Puh-lease! Even I wouldn't use that as a heading.

GARRY MAC INTOSH
FOR VICE-CHANCELLOR

While a resurgence in Norwood's fortunes has seen me watch significantly more footballing television, I won't dive in head-first and offer a critique on all of the ex-footballers cluttering our airwaves. I merely pose the question:

Would someone please put out a contract on KG?

Simon Healy

stage

LOST WEEKEND

The State Theatre Company
at the Space

New Australian plays have traditionally been problematic in the theatre (yes, even for Williamson, though no longer at the box office), so it is good to report of success in the field for both play and performance. Many Australian plays suffer by setting out to do too much or trying to be all-embracing while lacking commercial appeal. Australian audiences tend to be brought to Australian plays when they are not frightened of encountering themselves too closely.

"Lost Weekend", an entirely new play by Victorian playwright John Romeril, may not really know where it wants to go but gets there anyway and doesn't alienate large proportions of the audience on the way. The State Theatre Company has given it a great start to life, and the play may well be a classic of its kind.

It involves just a handful of characters and their goings-on in and around a large historical homestead in country Victoria, which the owner Margaret Risdon-Allyn and her husband Charles have just opened as a guesthouse. With names like Lola Montez, Paderewsky, H.H. Richardson, Mark Twain, and Alfred Deakin in the visitor's book, and family portraits by Dobell and Tom Roberts, the Risdons have a substantial history of social importance behind them.

Eric and Zelda, two refugees from

previous marriages, come to stay in Xanadu (name borrowed from Patrick White's "Riders in the Chariot") and look forward to a 'Lost Weekend' while Eric recovers from a stroke. Zelda is appreciative and enthusiastic, while Eric's left-wing reservations about the Risdon family history threaten to increase his discomfort. He is not pacified when waking up in the bed Dame Nellie Melba once slept in. Margie Risdon-Allyn serves breakfast and does Xanadu her stately pleasure-dome decree.

Romeril sets out poking fun, not at unsophisticated country cousins, but at the conventions of heritage-marketing and family pride (even the silver tea service has a written story attached) but some of these barbs miss their mark. Mrs R-A (perfectly captured by STC stalwart Daphne Grey) is the warm, friendly owner while John Gaden excels as her narrow-minded Farmers' Federation husband, Charles. Charles scents trouble in the air immediately and his xenophobic conservatism is provoked on hearing that Eric is a farmer trade union official waiting for worker's compensation.

Denis Moore is perhaps ideally cast as the lumbering, hard-boiled Eric, a curious mixture of cynical resentment and self-pity. Michele Fawdon sounds a little too refined to play a character with such a cosmopolitan, difficult background as Zelda, but her interactions with the other characters are convincing. The last character is the strapping young country teenager Therese (Claire Jones) who breathed life into her role with gusto.

The set, too, was original and versatile.

Functioning as a split stage for indoor and outdoor settings, it incorporated furniture, a hill, the front half of a car as well as a croquet lawn. It was designed by Mary Moore who designed the "King Lear" set last year and who seems to have a liking for stages with jagged splits.

The first half of the "Lost Weekend" is uneventful, an introduction to the setting and characters not really providing much to



write home about. We left the characters at interval sipping tea in the sunset without any trauma, and there seemed almost no reason to come back into the theatre to disturb them.

Fortunately, this lack of suspense was compensated for by a surprising release of the suppressed tension in the second half, but this violence, though nearly causing one of the characters to lose credibility, doesn't

really disturb the play's generally low-key atmosphere.

The play's initial sardonic humour promises a drily witty comedy about city and country, and to the extent that you laugh at lines like "How did you learn so much about dogs?" "I was a postman once", this works. Towards the end, however, it becomes evident that the play is in substance more a tragedy of right against left.

The formerly compulsory Australian themes of the isolation of the bush, attitudes to unions, and Australians at war, are touched upon by Romeril and used to motivate the characters, but these issues are discussed in isolation from the human action of the play (ie the characters reveal what made them what they are in a spurt of anecdotes) but no theme really emerges as the principal statement.

On the whole, this production achieves a lot as a first-run Australian play, without the self-conscious local and topical references of a Williamson or the universal relevance of a Shakespeare or Beckett. Romeril's aim is to tell a story and to entertain without a Big Theme getting in the way.

The play works well in the Space, where the audience is brought closer to the actors and intimacy is maintained. No playwright could wish for a better first run for his play than Romeril gets here, and John Gaden (with co-director Ian Watson) can happily notch up "Lost Weekend" as another of his theatrical conquests.

Geoff Griffith

ECONOMISTS AND GENERALS

Economists are like Generals, with their planning rooms and parties, conferences and strategies, walled in with maps and graphs.

Generals ask us to lay down lives, The individual is sacrificed, for The Machine, in its name, Economists do the same.

They both have a job to do, Philosophers of fine virtue, Dealing with the flesh, Condemning men to death.

(With words I don't understand, You murdered them).

Stephen Wait

ON THEOSOPHY

With consciousness abandoned renegades of the living stranded like cripples on crutches of a cross with eyes ideologically anaesthetised seize salvation from a sun lost in the riddle of the night, while philosophers teach no reason in their logic of life's logos

for epistemology always checkmates, but the bard of being still waits on a mountain to the stars for that messenger of truth in the bleak sinking dawn blinding the soul seeking seers with their spiritualist sooth that destiny is fixed when born, the meaning of fate still unclear clouding the mystic's crystal; I discover in transcendental meditation you meet the guru within your eyes the blank vision of the void stares from vast vacant skies and like the anguished addict we must inject being with meaning.

Juliette

PETER PAN

My angel is dead.
My mortal terror drowned him.

My angel is dead.
My broken bottle delusions lacerated his wings.

My angel is dead.
Aphrodisiacs of strychnine passed his lips.

My angel is dead.
My obsession infected his aura.

My angel is dead.
The notes he sang I hunted.
My angel is dead.

Stoned cold to I Medusa.

My angel is dead.
I hanged him with my insanity from the light fitting.

My angel is free.
He recedes behind a wall fashioned by a garrotter;
Demented fiend -
Who in memory
Mourns.

L.A.

ANTONYMS

She lies
Stretched out
A white bedspread
A white room.

He steals in
Paints everything
Black.

She watches
Helps
Darkness covers
And no one sees.

K A Mc Cormack



PROSH 1989

IT WILL SHOCK YOUR GRANDMOTHER!

SEPTEMBER 14, 15, 16

PROCEEDS TO THE CRIPPLED CHILDRENS ASSOC.

UNION ACTIVITIES WEEK

Monday, August 21st

9 am - 5 pm

Vytas Serelis Residency/Exhibition in Union Gallery Coffee Shop. On display will be paintings, models of flying machines and topographical models, photographs, light sculptures and other models. Your chance to get involved with setting up, layout or suggest concepts. Continues until Friday, September 8th.

Tuesday, August 22nd

7.30 pm

Cinematique Film Programme in Union Cinema with the "Powerhouse of Emotions" programme. "The Female Patriot" (121 mins. 1979). Season ticket is \$12 for nine more films.

Wednesday, August 23rd

1 pm - 2 pm

Annual lost property sale in Cloisters. Some great bargains. Proceeds to aid Child Care Centre.

Thursday, August 24th

1.10 pm - 2 pm

Inaugural Union Lecture with John Hewson, Shadow Treasurer who will present his views on the 1989 Federal Budget. Union Hall. Free.

Friday, August 25th

6 pm - 9 pm

Singer/guitarist in Bistro. Free for Bistro patrons. Try the new menu with main courses from \$4.50.

9 pm - Midnight

Free entertainment in Union Bar with "Just Kidding". Reggae/Ska band. A.U. Students free, Guests \$4.00.

Saturday, August 26th

9 pm - 2 am

On Dit Bar Night with *Exploding White Mice*, *Mark of Cain* and *The Johnsons*.

Special price Emu Lager. A.U. Students \$6, Guests \$7.

COMING ENTERTAINMENT

Swell Guys, G.S.D., Hoot McKlout, Festered Vestoons, Hot Tomatoes, Hey Daddy, and lots more.

CINEMATEQUE FILM PROGRAM

Tuesdays, 7.30 pm, Union Cinema

Lee Kersten, lecturer, German Department will introduce this week's film, "The Female Patriot" ("Die Patriotin") by Alexander Kluge. An amateur archaeologists "investigations transform contemporary Germany into an archaeological site whose ruins are sifted for the marginal, the idiosyncratic, the forgotten and the repressed." One of Kluge's favourite metaphors - the construction site - is conjured both visually and by the "fissured text" he uses in this film.

1979, B & W and Col, 121 minutes.

Cinematique is presented by the A.U. Union and the Media Resource Centre.

Cinematique Membership of \$12 (9 more screenings for this Semester) includes half price admission to all Greater Union Cinemas, Australian Film Institute Screenings and Festivals, bi-monthly newsletters and film library facilities.

IMPORTANT

CLUBS ASSOCIATION MEETING!

There will be a Clubs Association Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Monday, 28th August, 1989, at 1pm in the Little Cinema, level 5 of Union House.

AGENDA

1. Open
2. Minutes of the last meeting held 4/8/89
3. Business - Proposed closure of the Club Common Room on level 5
4. Close

Clubs Association Executive

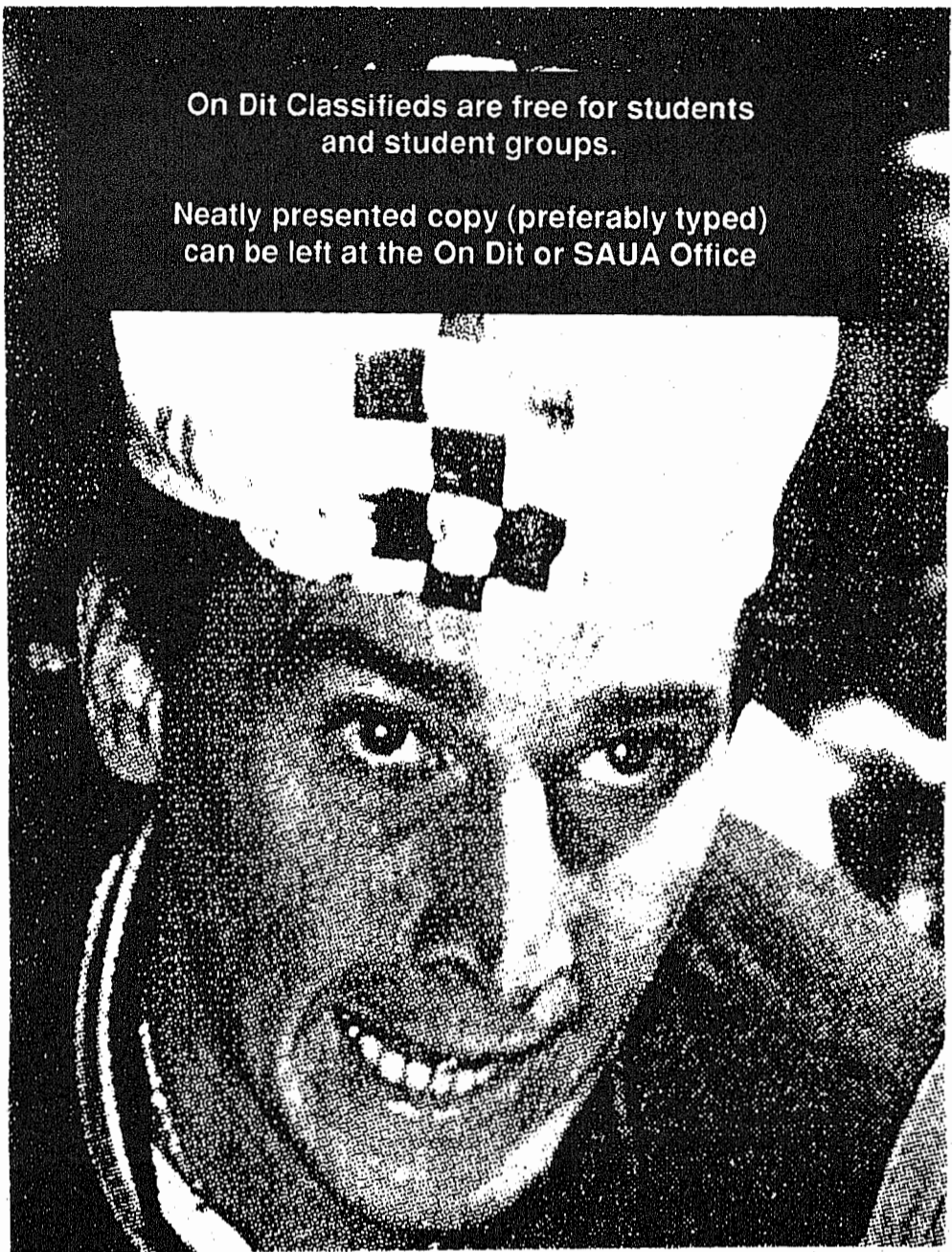
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, August 24th, 1.10 pm, Union Cinema.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

An open and relaxed forum for everyone interested in issues of peace, justice and faith. Bring your lunch to Meeting Room 1 every Monday at 1.10 pm.



On Dit Classifieds are free for students and student groups.

Neatly presented copy (preferably typed) can be left at the On Dit or SAUA Office

Coming Up:

August 21 - Rev. Lee Levett-Olson talks about feminist theology.

August 28 - Christian feminist perspectives on pornography.

AU SCIENCE ASSOCIATION AGM

Wednesday, 23rd August, 1 pm in the Jerry Portus Room.

INTERVARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Monday 25th September, 1989 - Saturday 1st October, 1989 (2nd week semester break). It will be held at Monash University. Female players needed. Training Friday 5.30 pm Uni Gym. Further details phone 235 0245.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Thursday 24th August, 1 - 2 pm, Meeting Room 3. Letter writing session. Be there to support the students in China. Contact E. Hunt (Law) via pigeonhole.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



Notice to Undergraduates

AN ELECTION OF

- a) Two undergraduate members of the Council, each for a two-year term commencing 18 October 1989; and
 - b) Four undergraduate members of the Education Committee, each for a two-year term commencing 1 January 1990
- will be held on Wednesday, 18 October 1989.

The following Undergraduate members retire:

From the Council on 18 October 1989:

John Edward Ridgway
(In addition a vacancy has existed since December 1988)

From the Education Committee on

31 December 1989:

Jeremy Edmond Dixon
Katherine Jane Edwards
Arna Eyers-White
John Edward Ridgway

None of the above undergraduates is ineligible for re-election.

NOMINATIONS of candidates for either or both elections are invited. A nomination must be made on the appropriate prescribed form, and must reach the Returning Officer at the University before 12.00 NOON on Friday, 8 September 1989. Nomination forms and further information may be obtained from the undersigned. (Please apply, in the first instance, to Room 744d, Old Classics Wing, at the University of Adelaide, or telephone 228-5207).

F.J. O'NEILL
Returning Officer

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Polling Dates:

4th - 8th September inclusive.

Nominations

Close - Friday 25th August, 5.00 p.m.

Nominations will be open for the following positions in the SAUA:

1. President
2. Education Vice President
3. Finance Vice President
4. Women's Officer
5. Environment Officer(s)
6. Orientation Co-Ordinator
7. On Dit Editor(s)
8. Bread & Circuses Editor(s)
9. Student Radio Director(s)
10. Eight General Members of SAUA Council
11. Four General Members of the Education/Services Standing Committee
12. Four General Members of the Activities Standing Committee
13. Seven NUS Delegates

Nomination forms and further details available at the SAUA Office.
Nomination forms will be lodged in the SAUA Office.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION

Polling Dates:

4th - 8th September inclusive.

Nominations Closed

Friday 18th August 1989 (4.00 pm Sharp)

Positions available: Union Board - 18
Activities Committee - 5

authorised by G.S. Karzis, Returning Officer

VALLEY OF THE KILLER DINOSAURS

EPISODE EIGHT

