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# ON DIT

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT UNION.



Com. FRIDAY, APRIL 16th  
**JACK BENNY,**  
with a mighty cast of Radio,  
Stage, and Screen stars, in  
**"THE BIG BROADCAST  
OF 1937"**  
and  
**"Three Married Men"**

Vol. 6

ON DIT, TUESDAY, 13th APRIL, 1937

No. 4

## Hail, President Bridgland!

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH

#### AND THE UNIVERSITIES

This, the fourth topic considered by the Student Conference, is reviewed here in the actual words of a speech made before the full Australian and New Zealand Universities' Conference by one of the student delegates. It was made on behalf of the whole Student Conference, so any criticisms it contains do not necessarily apply to Adelaide in particular, nor necessarily to Adelaide at all.

#### The Resolution.

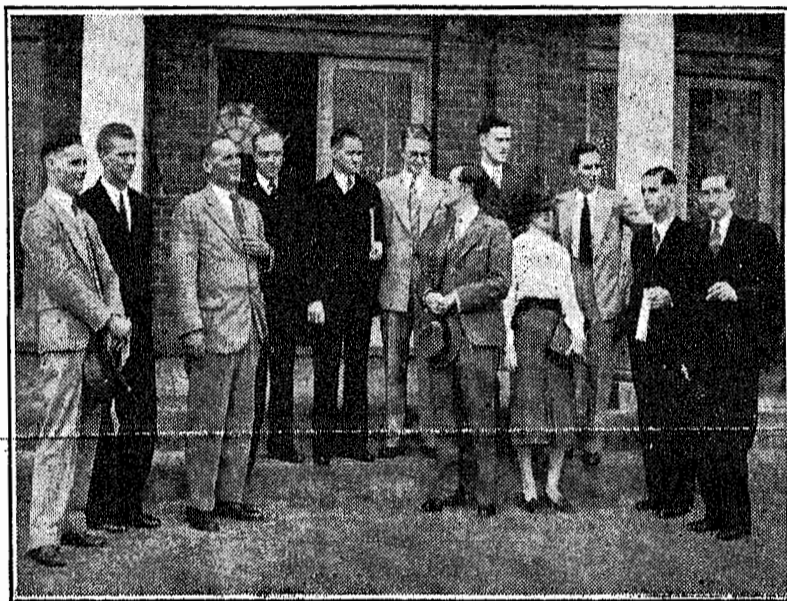
I have been asked to speak before the Major Conference to a resolution of the Students' Conference. It runs as follows: "That this Conference heartily approves the views of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne (Dr. Priestley) on the subject of freedom of thought. It regrets that there has not been uniformly in the past, and hopes that there will be universally in the future, within all the governing bodies of our universities, the same realisation that the maintenance of the principle of freedom of speech, research, and expansion (whether verbal or written) is fundamental if the universities are to serve faithfully the purpose for which they were designed. The principle of free speech advocated by Dr. Priestley does not result in the subversion of students by nefarious influences, so long as there is impartial treatment of controversial subjects, in the spirit of science, and not of propaganda."

That, sir, was the resolution. It refers more specifically, of course, to those opinions which come under one or other of the categories, political, economic, social, and religious. There is no need to reiterate here the very good and sufficient reasons which Dr. Priestley put forward why all members of any university should seek safeguards to such liberty of the mind. This is an age where three principal ideologies compete for the support of you and me, and it is an age where the arguments of religious, irreligious, and anti-religious groups are abroad in the land. Unless we are to be mentally moribund we must have some part and some opinions in these controversies. How else are university men to fit themselves for leadership?

#### The Financial Disability.

Now, it is at once apparent that our Australian universities are in a difficult position, and I would add that some of our colleges are even worse off. We are eternally in need of funds, even to maintain present establishments; and we are already, or would like to be, in receipt of some degree of State support—which it is very right and proper that we should be. Not only do the university authorities feel that they should obviate controversy which would offend a Government with Parliamentary representatives on the Uni-

At the first meeting of the 1937 Union Committee last night Mr. G. S. Bridgland, B.A., was elected President of the Students' Union, thus continuing the line of student presidents, started by Mr. M. F. Bonnin. Mr. Bridgland, who last year was President of the Arts Association, is at present studying for his M.A. degree. "On Dit," on behalf of the students, congratulates him most heartily and wishes him every success during his term of office. R. H. Elix is the new Vice-President.



For the last few weeks "On Dit" has published articles on the topics of the inter-Varsity Student Conference, held in Adelaide last March. Above is a photograph of some of the delegates who thrashed out these problems.

versity Council, but they further, perhaps, seek to conciliate the susceptibilities of the more affluent of our citizens, in the hope of benefactions and bequests. Yet it were better that we should hold our lectures and tutorials in the open, or under the shelter of hedges, than that we have magnificent buildings housing a system of university education devoid of intellectual integrity. It is better for thee to enter into true knowledge by the less comfortable way, rather than, having every material facility, to be held for ever in contempt by free and true men. With Oxford and Cambridge it is different. Secure financially, they can, if they wish, allow a maximum of really positive freedom.

#### The Staff—Leaders of Thought?

Consider first the matter of the academic staff. I put this in the form of questions, I hope pertinently. Why should lecturers fear to give, or be prevented from giving, expression to what, by their reason, they have made their deepest convictions, lest they incur official displeasure? Why should Vice-Chancellors have occasion to caution, or even interview, trained men who rouse what are admittedly commercial and propagandist newspapers, or any other interests or persons, by a declaration of what is documental and accredited truth? Why should conditions be such that a man who has applied for a university post finds it expedient suddenly to cease from the expression of opinions and convictions which previously he expressed freely, as being reasonable, for fear that the truth may prejudice or destroy his chances? Why should men chosen for intellectual maturity and capability be constrained to remain silent on what

they conscientiously believe to be true? Would this be a state of affairs—is it a state of affairs—likely to attract to or breed in this country men of the ability, yet of the views, of Mr. Maurice Dobb, of Cambridge, Mr. G. D. H. Cole, of Oxford, or Prof. Harold Laski, of London?

#### The Students—Future Leaders?

In the case of the students, whereas there has happily been little interference by staffs or authorities with freedom of speech on subjects other than themselves and their policies, there is a potent, and, it is held, a not altogether ungrounded fear in many directions that the expression of some conviction may lead to penalisation. Indeed, it is felt that some student clubs and societies have at times lost in quality, vitality, and worth as a result of these, shall we say, repressions. Take the concrete case of someone who, not so long ago, stood for Rhodes Scholarship selection. He held mildly radical views which, up till the middle of the year of his candidature, he had not hesitated to voice in debates and elsewhere at his university. The real problem then arose whether he was to ease up and lie low to avoid compromising his chances, if he had any, or whether he should show real frankness and strength of character at the risk of wrecking his career. The choice seemed to lie between what amounted to a betrayal of his reason, to at least temporary intellectual dishonesty, coupled with a possible Oxford training, or intellectual honesty and a circumscribed start in life. It must be admitted that conditions do not always make this so. Thus, here in Adelaide, we believe that the last two Adelaide Rhodes Scholars, and the

### N. H. WALLMAN New Chairman

#### MEN'S UNION OFFICERS

Chairman, N. H. Wallman; vice-chairman, O. C. Isaachsen; secretary, H. B. Holmes; treasurer, K. South.

At the first committee meeting of the Men's Union, opinions were expressed that the selection of magazines and periodicals in the reading room might be improved. A sub-committee, consisting of the chairman, secretary, and Mr. J. Stokes, was appointed to deal with the matter, and to make recommendations about rules for the protection of periodicals. In future, the Men's Union Committee is to have exclusive control over the reading room.

It is also to arrange lunch-hour addresses, and any organisation that wishes to have a speaker during the lunch-hour should first communicate with either the chairman or the secretary of the Men's Union. Evening addresses will be held only when someone of outstanding interest to the whole University is prepared to speak. The matter of speakers was left in the hands of the chairman and the secretary for the time being.

A hearty vote of thanks was carried for the retiring chairman, Mr. J. P. McFarlane.

latest Perth Rhodes man, have all been active workers in one of the Adelaide University's most maligned societies. The suspicion remains that where, as in at least one other of the Australian universities, big business and retired military elements are prominently represented, such candidates might start behind scratch. At least universities and their environment should be free of such narrowness.

#### Can We Look to a Brighter Future?

The Students' Conference looks forward to greater freedom from such doubts. We look forward, also, to the time when, on an attack by, say, a section of the press upon the alleged growth of, let us suppose, atheism in our universities, the six authorities of those universities will not say, apologetically: "Oh, we assure you such notions are confined to a very few hot-heads, and are not representative of the university as a whole," but rather that they will answer boldly: "Well, what of it? Are not universities places where hypotheses may be built up and demolished, or built up and sustained by logical, rational thought and speculation? What if there are atheists here? They are entitled to the free exercise of their minds on religious and theological matters."

Then we shall feel that we hold securely the freedom we of the universities admire, or profess to admire. Then, though materially we may be poorer universities, yet we shall feel that, besides their brains, our lecturers will not be selling their souls, too, for £500-£600 a year. And we shall feel that our universities measure far above the standards of Tennessee, and not far below those of Oxford and Cambridge.

## Light on the Rhodes Selection Problem

"On Dit's" article last week on Rhodes Scholar raised the following letter:—

Sir,—It appears that several of the speakers at the Australian Universities Conference were not aware of recent developments in England as regards the Rhodes Scholarship, developments which nullify much of the criticism levelled at some of the Australian selection committees. When I was in Oxford recently I took the opportunity of enquiring in authoritative quarters whether first year medical students would be eligible for selection, and, as a result, formed the following opinions.

When Cecil Rhodes made his will the universities of the Dominions, particularly of South Africa, were embryonic, and hence the early selection committees sent to Oxford a number of very young candidates, sometimes boys who had only just left school. This policy was not successful. Some students (we can fortunately exempt Australians) were of such low intellectual standard that Oxford colleges were reluctant to accept them, while the 28 weeks of vacation offered great temptations to very young men, who in some cases had no relatives or friends in England. After this experience, and with the development of the Dominion universities, the trustees appear to be adjusting the terms of the scholarship to changing times. They already insist on the selection of candidates who have had at least two years' university training, and they appear to be moving towards making the Rhodes a two years' post-graduate scholarship—a matter which, I believe, was under discussion when I was at home. It is already significant that, although a non-graduate takes three years to gain an Oxford degree, the scholarship is now awarded for two years only, and that claims for extension to three years receive special examination. The altered terms of the Rhodes will undoubtedly tend towards the stressing of character, of qualities of leadership, and of intellectual ability, in the selection of candidates, and to the minimising of those qualifications of popularity and athleticism which were so greatly stressed in the earlier awards that the public and certain sections in some universities still expect the Rhodes Scholar to be an all-round man. Overseas committees are, one imagines, directed by the policy of the trustees, and no matter what views are held on the alteration in policy, it is useless for the student body or any other section of a Dominion or American university to criticise the choice of a local committee unless they possess very full knowledge of ideas of the trustees, who are exercising their power to adjust Cecil Rhodes' conditions in accordance with a world of rapid change.

There is one other important point. In South Australia there has been comparatively little criticism of Rhodes selections; nor would criticism be fair. Some years ago the Rhodes Trustees collected and published statistics of the subsequent careers of Rhodes Scholars, and the South Australian list equalled the best from any part of the world. Of the last three South Australians to sit for schools in Oxford, two secured firsts, and one a double first in Classics. On the results of their selections, our South Australian Rhodes Committees deserve commendation.

I need hardly add that I am not a Rhodes Scholar, nor a member of the selection committee.

OXON.

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Editors: Miss HELEN WIGHTON, FINLAY CRISP.

Editorial Staff: R. A. BLACKBURN, D. C. MENZIES, Miss EDITH IRWIN.

Business Manager: E. F. JOHNSTON.

Tuesday, 13th April, 1937

### FRIGID-AIRE.

We congratulate the Swimming Club on attracting so many prodigal sons to their carnival last week, and hope that now they have made a public appearance they will not as suddenly vanish into obscurity.

Section (a) of "Objects in the Union Constitution" says that the Students' Union was formed "to provide a common meeting ground and social centre for students and members of the University." Has the Union (which, being interpreted, means YOU) fulfilled that purpose?

Insofar as we go to the Refectory for lunch, order a pasty and sauce, and shove on our tray, we would say yes. But, taking the meaning behind the words, the majority of us have failed dismally. To the average Fresher the very thought of entering the Refectory alone is paralysing; and even students of two or three years' standing become quite dithered if their usual cronies are absent.

If this grim atmosphere is typical of the centre of student life, of the 36 per cent. of students who are interested enough in each other as to join the Union, how much more so is it typical of the University as a whole. How often have you cut a familiar face merely because you have not "met"? Or, rather, we should say, how often have you spoken to another student without first being introduced?

The Conservatorium is an integral part of our University. The Chair of Music was founded in 1884. Yet very few of us ever go near the Elder Hall; and, vice versa, very few music students join our Union. When the mountain would not come to Mahomet, he, wise man, went to the mountain. The Conservatorium are holding their first students' concert at 8 o'clock on Monday week in the Elder Hall. Make an effort to go and hear what our musical brothers and sisters are doing. You will probably be most favorably impressed.

All we would ask you is that you do not waste your first two or three years at the Varsity being bashful. Remember that other people are just as nervous of you as you are of them, whatever else you may think. Let us first do our best to create a happier atmosphere between the members of the Union, and then we will gradually attract some at least of the other 64 per cent. of students who cannot be bothered to join up.

### SYMPATHY.

We sympathise most heartily with the Law Students in the loss of their library during the evening hours, when it is of most use to them, and wish them every success in their negotiations.

### THANKS.

Thank you "Honi Soit" for lending us the two blocks which enlighten our pages this week. They are much appreciated.

## OUR CARNEGIE GRAMOPHONE

The treasure hid in the field has nothing on the gift that was presented to the University two years ago. Hidden away in the South Hall, far from the rude intrusion of prying plebian curiosity, rests the Carnegie Music Set.

It was, indeed, a princely gift: 800 records of all shades of classical music, including in particular generous selections from Bach, Beethoven, and Wagner; an all-electric gramophone, with automatic turnover; innumerable scores, and a small but well-chosen musical library. The user of the gramophone presses the requisite buttons, piles the records on the turn-over (if he has the nerve!), and retires to the luxurious somnolence of an easy chair. The South Hall, incidentally, is the coolest room in the Varsity in the summer, and is provided with

a gas radiator for the winter—truly a haven for the weary, and a paradise for the musically inclined.

At present the set is wasting its fragrance on the more energetic Conserv. students, and about 20 Union members. Weekly recitals were held last year, but have been discontinued, owing to the poorness of the attendance. A full list of times when the gramophone may be used has been posted on the Refectory board. If you wish to become a member of the society, your first problem is to waylay Mr. W. D. Allen or Mr. J. W. Lillywhite in their haunts in the Physics Department. Your next is to persuade them to show you what and what not to do in the South Hall. Finally, you subscribe the negligible sum of 2/-, which covers the cost of needles which vanish into air, into thin air, and the gramophone's yours!

### GOLDEN GLORY CHOCOLATES

MacRobertson's

## AS WE PLEASE

### OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.

Dear Observer,—One more Easter has met its fate—once more we return to the grindstone we ought never to have left. And what great thought have we brought with us for inspiration through the term? I, sir, have met a cat—a colored animal of decided temperament—and intend to spend the rest of the term deep-sunk in contemplation of catology.

Wonderful creatures, and very proud, who must swallow their pride at certain times of day, and take the food human hands offer. Mind you, they'd far rather catch their own food, and always bring their rats and birds to the back door to prove their capability. Cats have a much greater self-respect than dogs. Why, just look at their phenomenally clean habits. (My Easter specimen even licked its enthusiasm in that direction on to me!) But a dog, now, is shockingly deficient in proper feelings, even to the extent of allowing humans to wash him—a thing no decent cat would consider. Even in his love life a dog shows that indelicacy, and has no sense of romance—a bitch is a bitch. The opportunity is now, and the place is here, and no matter what unsympathetic eyes look on, the oft-rehearsed performance runs its undisturbed course. But cats—! Only when the moon plays its intoxicating sheen over the old walls and the grotesque bushes, when all the world is a paradise of romance, do we hear their calls and see their graceful forms crouching through the garden; and we can but imagine their meetings when a high crescendo awakens the echoes.

A dog knows he is in the power of humans, and taking the easier path, tries to serve both man and dog. Cats know themselves to be creatures on a level with humans, and though at present they suffer the indignity of relying to some extent on us, they accept our help with befitting dignity, thank us, and go on their way in anticipation of the time when cats and humans hunt together under the rule of a new race.—Yours, etc.,

CAT WORSHIPPER.

P.S.—Any correspondent willing to give good, clean home to kittens of all colors, apply to "Cat Worshipper," this office.

(The sting of this unsolicited letter is in the tail. Why, my friend, must you write at such length when all you really want to say is in the post-script?)

### COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—Football, 'Varsity v. Saint's Old Scholars, on 'Varsity Oval.  
MONDAY, 19th.—Students' Concert in Elder Hall, at 8.

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**PEACE GROUP CALLING**

Mr. G. S. Bridgland chaired the large Peace Group meeting at the Lady Symon Hall on Thursday. We regret that Mr. Cuming failed to come with his message of warning.

Mr. Finnis drove home the fact that this question of peace is the most pressing problem of our time. It is essential for everyone to get a clear conception of the issues at stake, nor must we feel ourselves hopelessly involved in the huge mincing machine called "war," which can achieve but one end—viz., to mince us up. Fear and distrust are fostered by the suppression of free thought and speech, characteristic of Fascist Governments.

Yet out of this danger, in order to combat it, has arisen a more constructive philosophy of life than almost any before—a philosophy including an ideal of a world community, and a clear conception of the unity of mankind, despite superficial differences. Our world is not a final state, but a process, progressing and developing; there must be a progressive communising of the nations, and this is impossible so long as each nation of the world concentrates on its own fears.

The Peace Group has no platform, but is simply a means of getting together and talking quietly and frankly on this important subject. By discussion, reading, and the development of ideas, its members try to work out this ideal of friendship, or peaceful living with a common purpose. Unless we as individuals put into practice this idea of a world community, with the interest of the whole first, that of the individual second, we cannot expect our Government to do anything about it, for we are the leaders, training ourselves in working for this world community.

The activities of the Peace Group in the past year were reviewed by Miss Paine. She said that the visit to a dozen schools at the end of last year was highly successful, as many have already asked for more speakers this year. She explained that small discussion groups had recently been formed, as the main Group had become unwieldy. However, to preserve unity, the big Group will meet once in three weeks. The object of these discussion groups is to make each member capable of defending his or her views, usually based on the League and collective security, or on non-violence.

**COMMUNITY SINGING.**

Next TUESDAY, APRIL 20, at 1.30 p.m., in the LADY SYMON.

Conductor: MR. GEORGE PEARCE.

As the fundamentals of this work are based on commonsense, it is necessary that all members should be students and workers.

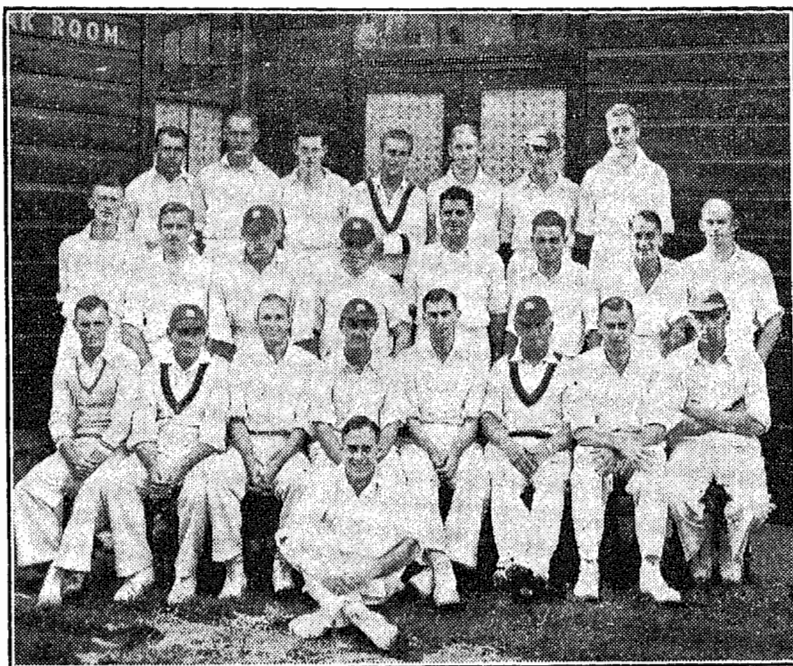
Mr. Crisp quoted "Sanders of the River" as being a parable of the world to-day. Are we powerless against the unintelligently selfish people who are beating the drums of war? Is the "way to peace" that of the accumulation of armaments, and the organisation and perpetuation of fear?

Surely the only "way to peace" is that of organised reason, that must start in thought and talk. Peace is a condition of contentment, physical and mental, not merely the cessation of the dropping of bombs and the firing of guns. With fear operating, all our thoughts are paralysed. Nearly 150 years ago Godwin said: "To terrify men is a strange way of rendering them judicious, fearless, and happy."

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Members of the M.C.C. and Combined Universities cricket teams. The short match, which was played last March in Sydney, resulted in a draw. The teams were as follows:—

England.—G. O. Allen (capt.), W. R. Hammond, L. E. G. Ames, M. Leyland, J. Hardstaff, J. M. Sims, G. Duckworth, H. Verity, W. Copson, W. Voce, L. B. Fishlock, T. S. Worthington.

Combined Universities.—J. M. Chapman, Sydney (capt.), I. F. Vickery (S.), T. G. Glashcen (S.), A. McMillan (S.), T. W. Walker (S.), S. Steele (M.), H. Zachariah (M.), C. McCutcheon (M.), J. Ray (Adelaide), G. Morrison (Adelaide), C. Loxton (Q.), F. L. Owen (S.) 12th.

**SWIMMERS SWARM**

**TO CRYSTAL POOL**

Last Wednesday night we went along to the 'Varsity Swimming Carnival at the Unley Crystal Pool. We were immediately struck by the imperious order emblazoned across the far wall: "Entering Pool Bathers Must Take Shower." And there were bits of wood hanging from the gallery on which were inscribed threats such as: "Ducking or Pushing In Absolutely Not Allowed. PENALTY, EJECTION."

The various garbs of the swimmers tickled our fancy. M. Jolly and I. Brown braved the icy flood in topless bathers, and when we looked on Mr. Brown's magnificent heaving chest we had vague recollections of Wordsworth, and a line of his which says: "Not in utter nakedness, but trailing clouds of glory," etc. The black rubber skull cap of Chairman Breaststroke Wallman caused many comments.

The styles of the swimmers were most diverting. Oh, readers! Would that you had seen Mr. Stokes, of the Men's Union Committee, lolloping through the calm as if he were fighting a raging seal. Or Mr. W. P. Goode bracing himself to dive, and then flinging his legs and arms to the four winds!

**Noveltics.**

The three novelty items of the evening were the obstacle races, the cork catching competition, and the slippery pole. In the first, each competitor had to eat a biscuit on terra firma, swim feet forward to a lump of timber laid across the baths, blow up a large mongrel balloon till it burst, cross the bar, and swim to the end of the baths. In the second we could only see a lot of usually sober, respectable men shoving each other, and trying to chew bits of cork.

Mr. Wallman and Mr. Skipper led their teams on to the slippery pole suspended several feet above the water. This was most exciting, especially when dear little Mr. Parkhouse nearly fell from his perch before he had arrived at his snail destination, and having hung like a fly on a ceiling or a bat on a balcony, was swiped off by Mr. Archibald, of the cave-man type.

We were very proud of Mr. Ligertwood for coming second in the State Backstroke Championship, and of Miss Black (whose many trophies Mr. Pilgrim bore off in triumph) for winning

nearly all the women's events. We thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition of diving by the State diving troupe, and more so because it came after, and not before, the 'Varsity diving. They did pancakes, and Boy Scouts, and frogs, and corkscrews.

And last, but not least, we congratulate the Conserv. Women's Team for winning the Women's Inter-faculty Relay.

Results. The prizes were presented by Mrs. H. Menz—

33 1/2 Yards Men's Freestyle Handicap.—Heat Winners—P. Shepherd, L. Bonnin, E. D. Boer, F. C. Archibald, C. King. Final—Archibald, Shepherd. Time, 17 2-5 secs.

100 Yards Women's Championship.—Miss B. Black, Miss M. Menz, Miss H. Ligertwood. Time, 1 min. 21 sec.

33 1/2 Yards Men's Freestyle Championship.—P. Harris, F. C. Archibald. Time, 18 3-5 sec.

Women's Diving Championship.—Miss B. Black, Miss B. Mills.

Men's Diving Championship.—N. H. Wallman, A. J. Fairweather, W. P. Goode.

Women's 33 1/2 Yards Handicap.—Final—Miss J. Ward, Miss J. Young. Time, 26 1-5 sec.

Men's 100 Yards Championship.—W. L. Ligertwood, C. G. King, N. H. Wallman. Time, 1 min. 34 4-5 sec.

Women's Long Swim Under Water.—Miss M. Menz (34 yards), Miss B. Black.

Men's Long Swim Under Water.—A. B. Robertson (74 yards), L. S. Wallman (72 yards).

Men's 66 2/3 Yards Back or Breaststroke Handicap.—N. H. Wallman, S. Kerr. Time, 48 1-5 sec.

Women's 33 1/2 Yards Freshers' Championship.—Miss M. Stewart, Miss J. Young, Miss M. Menz. Time, 25 sec.

100 Yards Backstroke Championship of South Australia.—S. Medwell (Crystal Pool), W. Ligertwood (University), W. Glaister (Port Adelaide). Time (State record), 1 min. 10 2-5 sec.

Women's 33 1/2 Yards Back or Breast Stroke Handicap.—Miss M. Menz, Miss J. Edwards, Miss J. Wallman. Time, 25 sec.

Pillow Fight.—Skipper's and Wallman's Teams (dead heat).

Men's Obstacle Race.—Final—F. C. Archibald, N. C. Ligertwood.

Cork Catching Contest.—J. W. Skipper.

Men's 200 Yards Freestyle Handicap.—W. L. Ligertwood, L. Bonnin. Time, 2 min. 33 1-5 sec.

Women's Obstacle Race.—Miss J. Edwards, Miss J. Cleland.

Mixed Relay Race.—Miss J. Ward and N. H. Wallman, Miss B. Black and W. L. Ligertwood.

**LACROSSE PLAYERS WANTED.**

How about trying lacrosse this year? Practices on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening on the 'Varsity Oval. Get in touch with K. Krantz (Med.), I. L. Nicholson (Eng. and Sc.), B. R. Macklin (Com.), R. Snow (Den.), or G. Formby (Arts), or V. L. Ryan (secretary).

**MILITARY NOTES**

By the kind permission of the editor, these notes will appear in "On Dit" each week. Their object will be:—

- (a) To let people know that there is an infantry company in the University.
- (b) To advise of current happenings.
- (c) To arouse people from their lethargy and to urge them to do something material towards the attainment of peace.

The University Company is B Coy, of the 27th Brigade. Parades are held at the University on Saturday mornings, and, for those who are unable to attend at that time, at Keswick on Monday evenings. The fact of the parades being held on Saturday mornings is the reason of object (a) of these notes; otherwise the great herd of students who are not at the University on Saturdays would remain tragically but blissfully unaware of the existence of the Company, for in spite of the various suggestions from time to time that the members of it are "raging" or else "militant persons," they are, in fact, merely placid and peace-loving, and some, perhaps, even rather likeable.

Each year a six-day camp is held. This year's camp was held just prior to Easter at Woodside. The business part of the camp,—there were many moments of relaxation of which more later—consisted of defence training and took place in typical Australian country.

When a person signs on the dotted line, he pledges himself to serve his King, country, etc., in Australia. The aim of the training is, above all else, to fit a man to defend his country, and this any person would surely do, whatever may be his views upon engaging in warfare in another country for a purpose, not primarily the defence of his homeland.

There are many persons who are content to sit back and talk of peace, but many have never thought of actually doing anything about it. To these and also to those who have not previously bothered to consider the subject, the cry goes out—"See Mr. Hamilton today and get the low-down on this militia business."

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**TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

A. Yule d. J. Homburg, 6-5, 6-4; S. J. Edmonds d. H. E. Zelling, 6-3, 6-0; J. M. Dicker d. R. P. McAskill, 6-1, 6-1; P. F. Cleland d. J. C. White, 9-5; J. M. Dicker d. R. L. Miller, 9-2; P. F. Cleland d. E. R. Schwarz, 9-4; J. C. White d. C. O. Semler, 9-6; N. C. Hargrave d. J. C. White, 9-8; R. H. Elix d. J. W. Fletcher, 9-7; E. H. Elix d. D. C. Menzies, 9-6; M. Hargrave d. B. Mills, 6-1, 6-4; J. Watson d. C. Ward, 6-3, 6-3; B. McIntosh and E. Salter d. J. Tassie and B. Warhurst, 6-4, 6-5; J. Ward and J. Hewett d. B. Mills and E. Irwin, 6-5, 6-6; R. H. Elix and M. Hargrave d. J. F. Moran and R. Hearne, 6-3, 6-5; R. F. Brown and K. Francis d. R. D. Hammill and J. Tassie, 6-5, 6-5; A. R. Magarey and M. Hodgetts d. P. F. Cleland and M. McLachlan, 6-2, 6-6, 6-3; G. S. Bridgland and N. Magarey d. H. M. Searle and J. Hewett, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; R. H. Elix and M. Hargrave d. J. M. Dicker and A. Rix, 6-1, 6-3.

**FINALS:**

Club Doubles Championship.—H. E. Wesley Smith and L. W. Parkin d. R. H. Formby and R. G. Plummer, 6-2, 6-3.  
Women's Doubles Handicap.—J. Ward and J. Hewett d. B. McIntosh and E. Salter, 6-1, 6-2.  
Club Singles Championship.—H. E. Wesley Smith d. C. G. Semler, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

## Correspondence

[The opinions expressed in letters to this paper do not necessarily coincide with those held officially by this paper. The Editors reserve the right to paraphrase or shorten any letters of over 350 words, without, of course, distorting their meaning.]

Sir,—As a law student, I feel compelled to complain of the attitude that the council has taken with regard to the Law Library. For years this library, which is a branch of the Barr Smith Library, has been opened at nights. This is absolutely essential for law students, who are nearly all employed in offices during the day, and consequently have only the evenings in which to consult the many law reports and text books necessary. About the 5th of November last an unruly element created a slight disturbance there one night, and since then the council has kept the library closed at nights. It was expected that the ban would be lifted at the beginning of this year, for most of the guilty have left the University, but the council, once annoyed, has become vindictive, and still law students are turned out of the library every evening at 5.

The A.U.L.S.S., on the understanding that the library would be re-opened, altered its constitution by setting up a disciplinary committee—although the very idea was odious to free-minded students. But the council would not make any concession. Long negotiations, in which it seemed likely that the Law Society of South Australia would intervene on behalf of the students, have resulted in this—that the library is never to be open at night without supervision, and, since the librarian cannot be there except on two nights a week, the library is still to be shut on more than half the evenings every week.

What does the council want?—No less than this—that one of the disciplinary committee—all of whom are busy and hardworking students—should always be in attendance at night and make himself responsible for the good

behaviour of his fellow law students. A petty prefect system among law students averaging 21 years of age! The idea is preposterous. We cannot agree. And so, during most of the week, the Library is still to close at 5 p.m.

Surely the students have gone far enough. There is machinery for the punishment of disturbers. If the council wants more it should pay for continual supervision. But that is unnecessary. The students have given the council an undertaking and a guarantee that in future the use of the Law Library will not be abused. The council will not trust them. Surely this is a most serious intrusion upon the rights of the students, and a studied insult to their honor. The council has recently shown itself to be reasonable, but in this matter it has taken an ill-considered stand. It is hitting at something the students cannot do without, and it will not trust them to use it. Surely this is unreasonable. Surely law students are being gravely wronged.

LAW STUDENT.

### DR. PRIESTLEY CALLING

Sir,—It was most unfortunate that Dr. Priestley had few student hearers when he spoke in the Bonython Hall during the recent Inter-Universities Conference. For he left us in no doubt that in the present urgent need for leaders in all spheres of life, the world was looking to the University graduates for that leadership.

In this far corner of the globe we students are in serious danger of mental stagnation by losing sight of our grave responsibilities, and correspondingly great and glorious potentialities. We run the risk of becoming a class apart from the world and its problems. We are in serious danger of losing that vital contact with the other sections of the community, of people less fortunate, maybe, than ourselves, but no less human—people who are worthy of our every consideration and help, and the service of whom alone justifies our existence.

Dr. Priestley calls us into action. Who, compared with ourselves, have such opportunities for sound learning, clear thinking, a steadfast vision, and purposeful action?

If we are to be truly successful as students, each of us must be prepared to do his part. It is useless for any to say: "I am in such-and-such a faculty, and therefore have no time for interests other than exams, passing and football." We have chosen a most difficult task. But unless we face right up to it, we fail, no matter what mere academic or financial success may indicate.

It remains with us alone to say whether we will make our generation foremost in making things better and happier for mankind.

E. LINDSAY BARR.

### ST. MARK'S COLLEGE NOTES

There is a rumour abroad in the land that one of our tutors is meditating upon a literary project. Should this essay ever come to anything it will be a real soul-stirrer—the probable title is "The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment of Teetotallers." He finds conversation in the band very dry. (W.C.T.U. please note). The band apparently is on the wagon.

During the past week we had Prof. Goldby to dinner in the hall, and on that occasion Sir Henry Newland and Dr. Jack, jun., were thrown into the line to stiffen our tutorial regulars. The following evening saw a old friend, in Captain Place (O.C. Varsity Coy., 27th Battalion), amongst us at dinner. Afterwards, he had a chat with members of the College on military service—which talk we all enjoyed, and hope he did, too.

An increasing fleet of nondescript cars and motor bikes seem to be leaving the College each day, with the proverbial "whine and whistle"—you ask our neighbors about it, anyway.

The College congratulates Magarey, Espie, Richardson, Cudmore, Harris, and Wighton on their selection for the Brisbane rowing inter-Varsity trip.

## Spanish Youth Appeal

This letter arrived at the end of last year, too late for publication in "On Dit" then.

Madrid, September, 1936.

Dear Sirs,—The Spanish youth are speaking to you, our friends and brothers across the frontiers, who share with us our cares and our anxiety. We are speaking in the name of the whole Spanish youth, and in the name of that heroic generation who are giving their lives on the battlefields of Spain for the defence of the Republic and of liberty.

We have been attacked! We have defended ourselves, and continue to defend ourselves, against this attack on the democratic republican regime.

We have taken up arms at a time when a decadent and reactionary minority, lacking all ethical or social value, has tried in vain to hinder progress and the advance towards a better future.

They treacherously attempted to destroy the democratic regime of the Spanish people in order to instil a Fascist military dictatorship.

But millions of voices cried in unison: "They shall not pass!" and Fascism, faced with the Spanish united front, faced with the front of the Spanish youth, has failed in its attempt.

And now Fascism is trying to prolong its death agony by the horrors of a civil war. It is sacrificing human lives, destroying the historic monuments of our Spain, hurling every kind of calumny and insult at the Spanish democratic republic. These false patriots, who have not hesitated to plunge the Spain that they claimed to love into bloodshed, who have already twice imported the bayonets of foreign mercenaries and Moroccan troops, these patriots are now calling for foreign intervention. In their frenzy, they hold up the Red spectre with the aim of turning our beloved Spain into colonial territory. This Red dictatorship is a lie. We want the youth of all countries to listen to us, to know that we, like you, are struggling for a full and happy life, for liberty, for our right to culture, for the defence of the peace of the world.

With this aim, which is so urgent that we, the younger generation of Spain, have taken up arms, we are struggling for the defence of the Republic, and for the liberty of our people.

In our peninsula, which is so rich in its magnificent traditions, we are living through the birth of a new life, the dawn of a glorious future.

This is the situation in Spain to-day. We are living through a decisive experience for the present-day world. On the one hand stands peace, progress, culture, and liberty—in short, the possibility to develop human life. On the other stands war, a step back in time and method to the Inquisition, destruction and sorrow, the will of a group of parasites.

It is in this situation that we, who by our collective efforts, by the sacrifice of our lives, are writing a decisive page in the history of humanity. We ask for your moral and material support.

We ask for your aid, from greetings and resolutions—to collections to help wounded and the families of those who fall in the struggle.

We ask you to act with the greatest energy, with an energy which is equal to our own; to prevent any further intervention of international Fascism.

Everything must be done to crush the Fascist generals, enemies of the people, enemies of liberty, and of the future of our generation.

Youth of every country! Bring your full solidarity to the youth of Spain, who are fighting victoriously for a democratic Republic.

ANTONIO MUNOZ GARCIA, General Secretary of the Youth Front of Spain, wounded in the fight on the front at Somosierra.

JOSE BERGAMIN, Chief Editor of the paper, "Cruz Y Raya," Catholic writer.

(Here follow the names of nine other young teachers and writers, and of fifteen organisations.)

## ENGINEER'S ELECTION

At the annual general meeting of the Engineers' Society the president declared that the society had accumulated a surplus of £31, and suggested that £10 10/ be donated towards the cost of equipping the new Men's Union building. After some discussion the proposal was adopted.

A vote of appreciation to Sir George Murray for his gift was carried, as was a suggestion for the committee to send him a letter of thanks.

### OFFICERS FOR 1937.

President—W. A. Harbison. Vice-President—S. W. Smith. Secretary—P. W. Hart. Treasurer—P. L. Elix. 2nd Year Representative—P. R. Nairn. 3rd Year Representative—F. A. Hamilton. Other Member—J. L. Nicholson. Freshers' Representative to be elected later.

It was then suggested that a black society blazer with purple braid be adopted. Some of the members recoiled from the color scheme, and after much heated discussion, during which the president admitted his lack of knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, some motion was adopted, the precise nature of which has escaped us.

The president then addressed the 29 freshers, and welcomed them to the University and the society.

Professor Chapman spoke and told us strange tales of Queen Victoria and a sum of money, also about men and fish in Japan. He said that the qualities of a good engineer had been defined as rectitude, willingness social qualities, and lastly, intellectual attainments. He stressed the need of a general development, and deplored the strict and narrow technical type of education.

Mr. Clark said the engineer did a lasting work, and should have a broad outlook.

Mr. Robin said that freshers (and others) must work and talk.

Mr. Gartrell told us lecturers were not our natural enemies, quoted freely from proverbs, and wished to lapse into Greek, but did not from consideration of the feelings of those present. He too told us to be educated and remember that the University was not primarily a technical school.

## Science Association Meets

At the first meeting of the Science Association for 1937, President Fenner took the chair, and after the secretary, Mr. Amos, had read the minutes, Mr. Fenner proceeded with a few cautionary tales for freshers. He reminded them that true University life could not be led within the confines of the lecture theatres, urging them to join their Faculty Society. The committee members are eager for the society to do some natural history research, of the type done for the past few years by the society of Melbourne. Mr. Fenner also asked members to make greater use of one another's knowledge and to bring to the meetings any "quaint and strange things we met in the country" for discussion. ("Conscientious but doubtful fresher—"But would the yokels come?") In addition to the evening papers given during the year the committee arranges excursions of scientific and gastronomic interest, and the president hoped to see as enthusiastic attendance at the former excursions as at the latter.

Members were then entertained by a very interesting film of a 1934 expedition in Central Australia, lent by the Anthropological Board, followed by "The Misfit Sailor"—which shook our faith in sailors ashore, in creamy cakes and in the sobriety of our scientific minds.

A generous supper was spread in the Refectory, after which dancing followed to the excellent music of Mr. Hann at the piano. The knowing secretary took advantage of the bewilderment that followed a vigorous barn dance by attempting to relieve the panting members of the annual subscription.

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