

Editorial

The justification for the existence of a newspaper is its audience. It prints what in the experience of its editors will be read by the greatest number of people. As with any consumer product, a newspaper must be able to sell itself, and if its material is considered indigestible by its proposed consumers, then it must either alter the material or go out of business.

A University newspaper can, however, escape this generalisation because it does not depend for its existence upon the profits of circulation and advertising which an ordinary newspaper contemplates, but on financial grants from the University Union as regulated by the Students' Representative Council. Its circulation to this extent is therefore irrelevant. But, such a newspaper still needs an audience, and because the audience is its justification, the newspaper is the mirror of the audience's taste. In this case, the audience are the students.

Last year the editors of "On Dit" appeared to ignore the neat theory behind the existence of their paper. Or it may have been that they were not sufficiently perceptive to interpret the nature of their audience. But whatever their excuse, they adopted a hopelessly sanguine approach and printed stuff which for the most part was regarded as rubbish by most students.

If the editors *did* realise their predicament they ignored it. Their attitude seemed to be: "You students are the product of, and live within, and largely take for granted an environment which is of the highest material standard. You have, in the few cases where you aren't supported by State and Commonwealth aid or by private enterprise, made small sacrifices to achieve a higher vocation which will in any case be rewarded many fold by your later profession and its potential income. You are catered for in every respect by our mediocre society. But *this* is the University and our standards should not be mediocre. Lord Haldane once said that it is in the universities that the soul of a people is mirrored—and if the soul of the students is mirrored in their newspaper, let us at least try to brighten up the image a little."

This attitude prove altogether too unyielding for the undergraduate body as the increasingly disgusted comments proved when the year wore on. Admittedly the circulation of "On Dit" showed an improvement on previous years, but the increase in student enrolment explains this to some extent. Be this as it may, the question whether much of "On Dit" was read by its buyers is left open. There are strong indications that the mass of material which it published was read fully by only a few.

It has been said many times that the University should not be regarded as a mere graduate-producing factory. It has been reiterated that an education includes more than qualifying for degrees and diplomas, but a broad perspective of knowledge outside the immediate sphere of a syllabus to boot. It includes the effort to take the world apart and put it together again no matter how erroneously. It is tiredly argued that students have little enough time to get through their formal studies, let alone to attempt to educate themselves, even if they wanted to. But time can be manufactured if the object of its spending is desired enough. And therefore the same apathetic conclusion appears: students do not wish to make the effort. They want their degree because that is the reason why they tolerate the privation of a university course, but to hell with controversy and to hell with "education"—which is a meaningless word anyway.

This is precisely the reaction which, from the majority of students greeted the efforts of Messrs. Cooper, Finnis and Baynes. "On Dit" had to be read and it had to be thought over. Most of its audience did not find the effort worth such trouble, and the loudly voiced complaint that it was not a "student" newspaper (i.e., representative of student interests) is true. The paper lacked the irresponsibility that is ubiquitous in most of its species.

For the minority who read it, however, its sobriety was effective. Controversy raged and feelings ran high. For example, the Education Week coverage created a rash of terse and angry articles, most of which were damn good stuff. The introduction of Robert provoked, *inter alia*, Max Harris (one of this State's poetic big wheels) to publish an invective-filled tirade of criticism in his book list of the month. The list of examples can be extended.

(Continued on page 8)



NEW GUINEA: An article on the problems facing Australia at present with respect to this primitive country appears on page two.

Walk through the London Philharmonic

"As the ninety-three members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra travel around the world by air they will carry ten tons of instruments. . ."

This remark, in the opening paragraph of the blurb on the L.P.O., in the official Festival brochure, is impressive to us statistically-minded Australians. The figures become less remarkable when we remember that (with the exception of the harpiste) it is an all male orchestra.

The one subject that the blurb studiously avoids is the artistic standard of the L.P.O. It might affect bookings if we were told that it is usually considered amongst the weaker of London's fine major orchestras. It would be further disheartening if we learned that of these orchestras, only the Philharmonic can be said to measure up to the standards of Continental orchestras and even the Philharmonic hasn't a hope when we consider the sounds made by the really great orchestras like the Concertgebouw or the Berlin Philharmonic.

But when all this is admitted, it still seems probable that the L.P.O. will produce the highest standard of orchestral playing yet heard in Adelaide. The Czech Philharmonic did not get this far, and The Boston Philharmonic performed appallingly for such an orchestra—obviously the result of a one-night stand in a hick town. A five-night season in a Festival atmosphere, with the orchestra

performing musically worthwhile works instead of the continuous stream of money making pot boilers they put up with in England, should produce the best from them.

And of course there will be the ethos of Sir Malcolm Sargent to bolster the atmosphere of the concerts. Sargent has successfully projected, to the concert-going public, the image of a fastidious, elegant, superbly dedicated musician. The obverse of this image, as seen by those who play under him, is not quite so beautiful. They have to live with him.

Unlike Sir Thomas Beecham (of beatific memory) Sargent has never inspired the devotion of his players. It was Beecham who coined the nickname "Flash Harry" which has ever since stuck to Sir Malcolm, and whose caustic rejoinder to Sargent provide some of the musician's most cherished beer-yarns.

John Pritchard, blurb-ed as "the musical heir to Sir Thomas Beecham," is competent and lively enough, but is embarrassed by the comparison with a conductor of far greater brilliance.

It remains to be seen whether the London Philharmonic will do justice to the acoustics of The Centennial Hall.

BILLBOARD

As most amateur productions during March will be catalogued in the Adelaide Festival of Arts programs, I think it necessary to mention only two plays in this issue. These are: "Fisher's Ghost" by Douglas Stewart, produced by the Adelaide University Theatre Guild in the sound shell on the 22nd of March from 12-1 p.m. and again from 1-2 p.m. This is the story of Australia's best known phantom, and "Charley's Aunt" produced by Theatres Associated in Willard Hall from 24th-31st March, in which a fake chaperone solves the problems of a young romance.

A. P. BROOKS.

TIMES

Tuesday, March 13, 8 p.m. The Jazz Club presents a wild night of swinging sound in the Refectory.

Wednesday, 4th April, 12 noon.

Thursday, 5th April, 12 noon: The Film Society presents two impressive French films: "The Red Balloon" and "Le Monde du Silence" (dir. Jacques-Ives Cousteau).

The Dyason Memorial Lecture, 1962, will be given in the Bonython Hall on Monday, March 12, 1962, at 8.15 p.m. by the Honourable Alistair Buchan.

His subject will be: "The balance of terror in the Northern Hemisphere: dangers and solutions."

Admission is free.

ON DIT

"On Dit" is edited by Richard Broinowski, Terry McRae, and John R. Slee.

"On Dit" is published by the Student's Representative Council of the University of Adelaide.

"On Dit" is printed at The Griffin Press.

The staff of "On Dit" at present includes Wayne Anthony, Tony Brooks, David Combe, Des Cooper, Michael Detmold, Neal Hume, Carl Meyer, Marian Quartly, Barry Warren.

The Editors will welcome letters, articles, and other contributions from all members of the University.

Copy for the next edition which will appear on Thursday, March 22, closes on Friday, March 16.

The Editors are also looking for more members for the "On Dit" staff, reporters and sub-editors. Even freshers are invited to apply for these positions. The editors will be in chambers between the hours of 12 noon and 2 p.m. daily.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Inserted in this issue of "On Dit" is a questionnaire designed to discover what the attitude of students is to the problem of student employment.

It is in no way a promise that such employment as mentioned will become available, much less an effort to put pressure on the University and the Union to provide part-time employment for students.

It is merely to ascertain what would be the best method of carrying this matter further.

It is in your interest to answer the questions asked. The results of this poll may lead to more concrete proposals on the subject of student employment.

Please return your completed forms to the S.R.C. Office by Friday, March 16.

—Educational Research Standing Committee.

AUSTRALIA AND THE HOLLANDIA HOT-SPOT

by Richard Broinowski

Recent developments in the long train of events in West New Guinea have made it plain that Holland will leave her territory, and Indonesia will share a common border with Australia, in the near future. Many problems both real and imaginary thus confront our territorial policy.

When the Round Table Conference that resulted in the unconditional independence of the United States of Indonesia ended in The Hague on November 2nd, 1949, West New Guinea was the only issue which defied settlement. The Indonesian Federalists wanted it. The Dutch insisted on retaining it. It was agreed that the matter would be settled by negotiation within a year of the Dutch transfer of sovereignty. Why the Dutch still insist on its retention after 12 years of friction allows only one answer: self determination. And in their attempt to achieve this they pay out 100 million Guilders a year.

However, assuming that Indonesia will continue to press her claim to the territory, the Dutch efforts cannot succeed. With an area of 151,000 square miles of swamp and jungle West New Guinea has an indigenous population of 800,000, half of whom still live outside Dutch Administration. Although Bahasa Malay has been claimed the *lingua franca* of the territory, 100 different languages (not dialects) are spoken. There is no effective transport system through the territory, areas of which are still unexplored. There is illness and hardship, and many natives move every year because the soil is poor.

The point at which any territory can safely be considered fit for self-government cannot be accurately gauged. But there must be at least a cohesive framework of governmental and administrative organisation upon which a newly independent State can grow. The Dutch cannot achieve this development before Indonesian pressure forces them to relinquish the territory. It is unprofitable for Australians to argue the legality of the respective claims of the Dutch and the Indonesians. When he visited Australia in April, 1961, General Nasution admitted frankly that Indonesia's claim is not legal, but political and historical. It is a political claim because the Indonesians want back all the territory politically occupied by the Dutch. It is an historic claim because, before the Dutch were in the Indies, West New Guinea was part of the Sultanate of Tidore in the Indonesian Moluccas.

Ethnologically, the Dutch have said that West New Guinea forms no part of Indonesia. Indonesia counters this by claiming her population to comprise a mixture of two parent races, Malays and Polynesians, and that the negritos of West New Guinea are connected to similar aborigines in the Indonesian Archipelago.

But whatever rational arguments are used, the contest is essentially a psychological one. The Dutch grew to love their Indies during the 350 years of their colonial rule, and many thousands of Netherlanders settled there permanently. They designed and built model cities and they developed the islands as their natives, and as colonisers waiting for the next boat home. By retaining in 1949, their sense of loss was gentled a little.

The Indonesians, on the other hand, were confronted after a five-year war of independence, with the bitter-sweet triumph of self-government in all but one of the areas in which they had been subject to the Dutch. "West New Guinea is part of Indonesia," they claim, "because it was part of the Dutch East Indies. We were Dutch, but are now Indonesian. West New Guinea was Dutch, and should now also be Indonesian."

But however all the arguments run, the experts assure us that very shortly we will have a common border with Indonesia. There are therefore two questions which must be considered.

Firstly, is it likely that Indonesia will claim Papua and the Australian territory of New Guinea as she now claims the West? Many allegations have been made (supported by the A.L.P.) that Sukarno is Asia's Hitler and that his territorial claims will be limitless. The evidence dismisses these allegations. Sukarno is a nimble politician in treacherous internal political waters. Indonesia has many parties with many ineptitudes. And Sukarno's national concentration on the issue of West New Guinea draws attention from internal divergences and incompetence. Moreover, Sukarno's thwarted plan to allow all Indonesia's pressure groups—not only political parties—into a central congress of internal government in 1958, could never be likened to Hitlerian dictatorship which destroyed opposition ruthlessly.

Besides, if Sukarno wants all that is contiguous to Indonesia, why has he made no claim to Portuguese Timor or British North Borneo?

The second question is: If Indonesia does claim Australian territory, are we justified in unconditionally rejecting such claims? Possibly not because of any military or strategic reason, because it is doubtful that our territories afford any such advantage. But on other grounds, yes, we are surely justified. After World War II, a provisional administration was established in October, 1945. This administration faced

disruption and devastation. It had to start almost from scratch. Yet it reconstructed and it rehabilitated and it stabilised a population unsettled by war. From 1945 until August, 1960, Australians and Papuans had built 5,000 miles of road, constructed 100 airfields, and built up an Administration service from nothing to a total of 3,623 Australian public servants, 334 native public servants and 7,500 Administration native employees. Out of a total of 2 million Indigenous people, 250,000 living in 1,000 villages were, in 1960, served by 36 local government councils democratically elected on an adult franchise. These people handled their own budgets for the management of local affairs.

And all this development is for the natives alone. Our policy is to bring the people to self-government without intervention from Indonesia. In October, 1960, the second Papua and New Guinea Bill which reduced the official majority and provided for native election to the Legislative Council was passed. It was a step closer to the target.

So Australia has done much. She has much more yet to do (witness, for example,

the Buka uprising). But she has already done enough to justify an intractable stand to Indonesia, should she ever claim our territory. Whether the Dutch have done as much to justify a similar stand begs the question. The Netherlands have been in New Guinea for three and a half centuries and have done no more than has Australia since the turn of this century. New Guinea is on our doorstep but the Dutch are thousands of miles away. They colonised Indonesia and retreated to West New Guinea in 1950. They justify withholding that territory, once an undeveloped front of their East Indies, because its 800,000 natives must have their rights to choose their future. But if they feel so strongly about it, why did they deny 95 million Indonesians the same rights? Why did they not resist the post-war Indonesian freedom fighters in their bid for premature independence so that they, the Dutch, could govern Indonesia until they felt she was well and truly ready?

However, maybe Holland doesn't feel so strongly about West New Guinea. The territory's destiny may still be formulated at the conference table.

THE GOVERNMENT AND BRENNER

by R. F. I Smith

On September 22, 1961, the Immigration Department refused Y. S. Brenner a visa to enter Australia. As the Minister, Mr. Downer, quickly pointed out, in no country is it customary for the government to give reasons for its exclusion of aspiring immigrants, and he did not propose to depart from this. Coupled together, the refusal to admit Mr. Brenner, and the further refusal to explain why, blew up quite a storm. It provided "The News" with several large headlines, "The Advertiser" with filler copy, the University staff with something to be righteously indignant about besides its salary, and the students with a protest meeting with which to occupy a lunch hour.

As far as the public was concerned, the reasons for Mr. Brenner's exclusion were that in his youth he had been a member of the Stern Gang, and had once applied to join the Israeli Communist Party. For many these were reasons enough.

But for many also, statements that were issued in the next few weeks by the University were confusing and contradictory. Nor were the reasons for the Immigration Department's actions made any clearer when the Minister issued a statement in answer to a speech by the Member for Yarra on October 5, 1961. Here Mr. Downer said, referring to Brenner's relations with the Stern Gang and the Communist Party: "But they are not the reasons which induced me to refuse him a visa. My reasons are of a much graver nature. They are so grave, in fact—I say this most deliberately—that any Minister with a sense of responsibility for the interests of his country, could not possibly grant Mr. Brenner admittance." But why was not this "grave reason" alluded to before? It took Mr. Downer a fortnight to add this postscript to his non-issuing an entry permit and to claim security reasons as the necessity for official silence.

If Mr. Brenner was a bad enough man to be excluded from Australia by the government, how did he come to be appointed to the staff of the History Department in the first place? Writing in the December issue of "Vestis," the Staff Association journal, the Professor of History, Professor Stretton, explains how he interviewed Mr. Brenner in London and found him acceptable as a university teacher. He writes: "It is not puritanism about political or religious texts, but hard practical experience in widely diverse universities, that compels the conclusion that the only way to judge a man's capacity for teaching and research is to make direct inspection of his teaching, his research and his personality. If these are defective, the defects will show, whether their causes are political or not. Such direct investigation of Mr. Brenner satisfied those responsible for recommending him." A communist is not necessarily a bad teacher and an upright democrat is not necessarily a good teacher. What is involved is the ability to lead students into a subject, to point out the necessary facts and to set them on their feet as students of that subject in their own right. Whereas it is clear that Professor Stretton is satisfied with Mr. Brenner's character and professional competence, Mr. Downer for a very grave reason decides that he is not the man a responsible minister could admit to Australia.

The Minister's information must have come from the reports of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organization. Without knowing the contents of its report it is impossible to pass final judgment but one can indicate some of the problems associated with information gained by security agents. In the first place it is picked up in all sorts of places from all sorts of people and some of it is incapable of verification. Secondly, the agent who passes it on is not always as highly trained as he might be and can pass through as fact what further investigation might reveal to be malicious fiction. Thirdly, the information is not put to use until it is passed through the channels of bureaucracy to a senior man in the service. Thus it is not hard to see that the information gathering mechanisms of security services can be defective at times, possibly allowing rumours to get sucked up

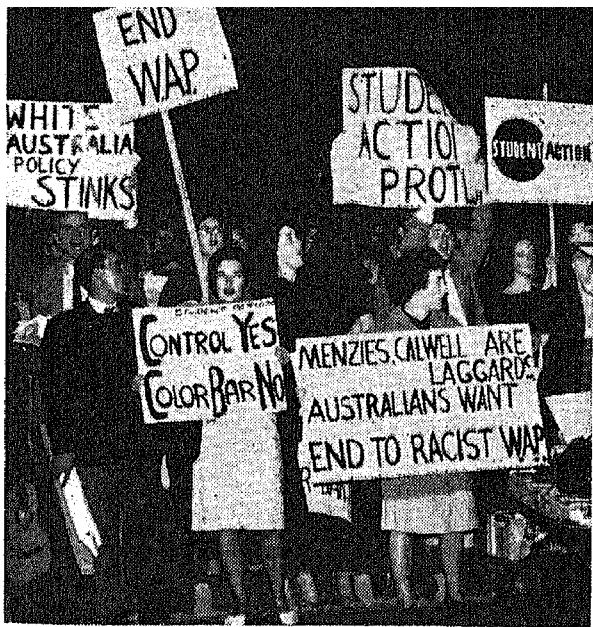
and treated as gospel. An indication of the calibre of some of Security's agents can be gauged from the articles in the "Sunday Mail" late last year by Mrs. Anne Neill, a middle-aged housewife obviously biased by her membership of the Methodist Church and the L.C.L. Through her association with the Peace Council in 1947 she began to spy on the Australian Communist Party in S.A. and reported regularly to a security contact. Since the articles in the "Mail" were no examples of objectivity, if her security reports were no better, Brigadier Spry has gained little more from her than a file of waste paper.

An indication that the Australian Security Service could be unreliable is that Mr. Brenner applied for admittance to Australia from the U.K. He was allowed into Britain yet was not allowed into Australia. Is this because the British are more lenient than the Australians in this respect, or is it because the Australians discovered something the British intelligence system hadn't? If something was discovered, why didn't the British government proceed to deport the man Mr. Downer found so objectionable?

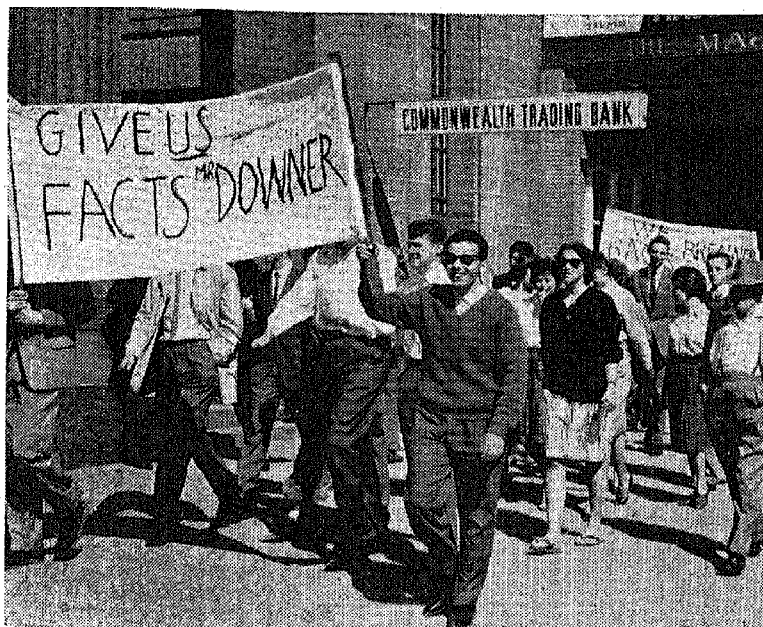
The chances of an enquiry of our Security Service are slim to the point of non-existence. As Mr. C. R. Kelly, the Liberal member for Wakefield, said in a letter to the writer, "It should be obvious to all that there could be no public enquiry held because, if it were held, it would jeopardise the efficiency of the Security Service." Because security services work behind the scenes they can't be subjected to a public scrutiny and remain effective. However objectionable the activities of a security service may seem to be in a democracy, their necessity given the contemporary international set-up is probably unarguable. Thus one is driven into the nasty position of having to support the existence of an institution which not only can make mistakes but can hide them as well. While Mr. Downer was still being pressed hard in parliament, it was suggested by Mr. Whitlam that a special closed committee should be set up to investigate cases like Mr. Brenner's. But this was rejected on the grounds that no other government does this. The argument from example is never very convincing and has little to recommend it here. Although at worst a committee could become just another arm of the security service at best its investigations could serve as a useful check upon an otherwise unchecked organisation. The knowledge that an independent committee has thoroughly reviewed a case although not as comforting as a true and public enquiry is less disturbing than having to take the word of a security service alone.

From the effect of the agitation in parliament, the student protests and the Staff Association resolutions, it is clear that nothing less than a formally constituted committee is likely to have any influence with the government. Although the sharp shooters from the Labor ranks provided some excellent radio entertainment they didn't flush Mr. Downer into the open. Similarly, the Staff Association protests have not borne fruit and the resolution of the Adelaide student body, tempered as they were for more effectiveness by the moderation of Messrs. Flint and Detmold, probably landed, as student protests usually do, in the appropriate ministerial waste-paper basket. With due respect to these statesman-like young men, it is unlikely that their suggestions carried any more weight than the banner marchers, who at least were a bit more colourful.

During the 1961 election campaign the Prime Minister made a very interesting statement that any committee would have loved to investigate. Speaking in Hobart to a questioner who had plenty of comrades in other states, Mr. Menzies said that Mr. Brenner had been excluded solely for his activities as a member of the Stern Gang and a communist sympathiser. He made no reference to Mr. Downer's "much graver reason" and left that gentleman hastily scrambling for cover. This little episode casts considerable doubt on the propriety of the way in which the government handled the affair. One can say that Mr. Menzies postscript to the affair does not help to increase confidence in the competence of his government.



"STUDENT ACTION"



"STUDENT" ACTION

STUDENT PROTEST MEETINGS — WORTHY OR NOT ?

by Michael Detmold

No one would doubt that if a person has a sincere grievance against the methods by which his country is being run he has a right to express his views; perhaps even a duty. Students are notoriously a particularly impressionable race and consequently very often find themselves with sincere grievances against men in high places. They have as much right as anyone else to express their views and to take (within reason) as effective action as lies within their means. This is of course trite ideology and generally is bandied about under the heading "freedom of speech," and still it cannot really be doubted.

The question then arises as to what sort of action a student is justified in taking against the objects of his grievance. The Victorian group known as "Student Action" provide a good working illustration of the problems here.

"Student Action" is a group of students who have a common grievance—colour discrimination in Australia. Their methods of action are as simple as they are effective: distribution of leaflets (10,000 leaflets were distributed during the last election campaign) and heckling, questioning and display of placards at public meetings (Mr. Calwell was goaded by this into swearing at a student, Mr. Opperman [of push-bike fame] into striking one, and even Mr. Menzies was slightly ruffled). But above all their method is disciplined and serious; and it is the result of bona fide convictions. "Mugga" in "The Bulletin" (Dec. 9th) severely criticised "Student Action" referring to its members thus:—

"Their mixture of holier-than-thou attitudes larrikanism and conceit (esoteric, in-group-jokes) did their cause more harm than good."

As far as an observer 450 miles away can judge, this appears particularly unfair

and a false appraisal of the fides and effectiveness of "Student Action."

A correspondent in "The Bulletin" (Dec. 23rd) replies to "Mugga" thus:—

"I ask 'Mugga' on this point merely one question, what other methods than placards, songs and handbills are available to students? We have examined the possibility of alternative methods and they are not available to students."

The "leaflet, placards, beckling" approach is then, the only effective method (short of assassination and the like) available to students. Surely then, so long as it is carried out in a disciplined manner and in good faith it is justified and desired.

Some people may remember the Brenner affair of last year here, to some students, particularly in Adelaide, was a bona fide grievance. Unfortunately the resulting action amounted to nothing more than a puerile, abortive rabble to which the words of "Mugga" quoted above can more justly be applied.

"On Dit's" reporter described the climax of the rabble thus:

"A grinning, slightly embarrassed, mob of students marched down King William Street carrying two banners: they appeared to be protesting about something. Approaching the Beehive Corner they were stopped by a police officer.

Policeman: 'Wadder yer think yer doin'?"

Student Spokesman: 'Oh . . . er . . . we're standing up for Brenner's rights.'

Policeman: 'Ooze in charge 'ere' (Girl student in sexy sweater giggles.)

Student Spokesman: 'Well, officer, I guess we all are.'

Policeman: 'Well yer better clear off or I'll take yer names.'

Student Spokesman: 'Certainly, officer, yes, officer.'

(Students disperse — end of 'Student Action'.)

One can certainly say that there was no

discipline in this rabble. But was there any good faith?

Look at this grinning monkey in the front centre of the picture on the right. Has he any idea of the principles involved in the Brenner affair? Does he even care? Or is he in the rabble just for laughs and to show the world that he is a University student? Looking at him one would be pardoned for assuming the latter.

The tragedy of it is, of course, that this kind of pantomime leaves students as a whole vulnerable to the scorn of the public and vulnerable to the scorn of any "Muggas" that want to attack them. It also prejudices the chances of acceptance and success of any sincere student action group that may perchance arise in Adelaide some time in the future.

Nostalgia

by Wayne Anthony

I remember the Union Buildings in 1957. There was only one refectory then, and no clock (sic) tower. The Union Hall was but half completed; the S.R.C. office and Mr. Borland's office were both in the refectory foyer; and there was no bank, no hairdresser, and there was no Union Shop.

I used sometimes to park my car where the Barr Smith extension now stands. There were neither parking regulations nor parking inspectors in 1957—these aids-to-exciting-living were instituted and engaged, respectively in 1958.

I remember the balmy days before old George Fowler was banned from the campus. Every year, soon after the start of the first term, George would appear on the lawn, take up his position under the tree opposite Mr. Borland's window, and begin to preach.

His gospel was an unusual compound of religion and geometry, somewhat akin to the pre-Galilean philosophy and the universe. He used to illustrate his theories with models made from plywood, wire and beads.

George's lectures were always incomprehensible and therefore excruciatingly funny. Much of his philosophy was based on the fact, known to himself alone it seems, that it is possible to measure precisely the angle between heaven and earth.

He was treated as a huge joke of course, and his coming was eagerly awaited by most. To hear George become almost apoplectic in his efforts to convince his audience that the earth is in fact flat, completed the day for many of us.

I attended George's lectures for three years. Then, in April, 1960, there was issued from the Front Office an edict which declared that he was to be banned henceforth from the campus, because he was causing an obstruction, or being a public nuisance, or something.

Nevertheless George arrived as usual that year as he also did in 1961. On each of these occasions, soon after beginning his sermon on the lawn, he was forcibly removed by the gendarmes. After being thus treated several times, he finally gave it away.

No one of my acquaintance knows exactly what makes George tick. He lectures at universities all over Australia each year, and does not confine his activities to Adelaide alone. Nobody knows where his money comes from (for money he surely must have), and nobody is sure whether he is sane or not.

Numerous angry letters were written to "The Advertiser" and to "On Dit" complaining about George's exclusion; needless to say, the Front Office paid no heed to them.

I do not know if George's spirit is broken by the harsh treatment meted out to him by the authorities in Adelaide. Perhaps he may still try to get in again this year; but even if he does, he won't be allowed to utter a single word, I am sure.

My heart is heavy with the realization that you, dear fresher, are denied the opportunity of experiencing the magic that is George.

N.U.A.U.S. COUNCIL — MELBOURNE

by Marian Quartly

Between February 10th and 18th, the 26th Annual Council of the National Union of Australian University Students met in Melbourne. The delegates were mainly concerned with dividing up the 4/8 membership fees paid annually and in many cases unknowingly by every student in Australia.

How will the money be spent this year? 2d. will go to the Editors' conference, to be held in Adelaide in 1962; 6d. to the Education Account, out of which will be paid £800 in grants to Education research projects in several States; 9d. to a new International Trust Fund which will be used to finance delegations and exchange schemes.

Of the remaining 3/3, about 2/- goes towards the actual running costs of the Union, and the other 1/3 will be distributed in meagre amounts between such activities as Drama Festival, Debates, Congress and National Faculty Association meetings.

The total to be spent on activities is less than half the sum allotted to them last year. The reduction is due to the fact that in one year under its new system of administration, with a paid administrative secretary and a permanent Secretariat in Melbourne, the Union has run through all its accumulated

reserves and is now almost in the red financially.

Activities are the only item of expenditure which can be reduced on a year by year basis. It is expected that a tight budget will restore the Union's financial health so that normal activities can be resumed.

How will the student benefit from his 4/8? The activities in which he can directly participate are those which suffer under the new budget.

The grant for Congress is a miserable £150, which will probably make the participation fee prohibitive to many students. Drama Festival is to be held in Perth this year, and the Union will be unable to give all the added assistance necessary for the larger fares. A healthy sum has been set aside to assist National Faculty Associations, but since many National Directors seem quite unaware that this assistance exists and, therefore, fail to apply for it, students may not benefit from these grants either.

But in a long-term assessment the students are getting reasonable value for their money. Once the principle is admitted that Australian students need to be represented internationally, it cannot be denied that the 9d. is being very well spent, mainly in convincing Asian students that we are not European colonialists.

(Continued on page 6)

IMMORAL LETTERS

My Dear Fresher,

Few will register surprise when others remark that of late a certain edge has crept into my writing. But no one need fear; no bastion of learning is to be attacked, for I am too cautious to join the van of able critics of the establishment. Only the rash are caught upon the horns of a dilemma of their own making, clubbed as it were, by their own staff, and with the verdict of history against them.

Pungencies aside, I ought, I feel, to exacerbate the grief of all those who must now be mourning for the death of that inscrutable old bitch, Aunt Edith, by telling them that she is in fact still alive. The rumour was, you remember, that she died when circumlocution struck her down from behind. Fearing death she chose, as her epitaph, "Though my beard is red, my column was not". The paragraph above, we flatter ourselves, shows well that she may have her imitators as well as her detractors. Doubtless, some will invest even these ambiguities with a meaning.

Indeed, Aunt Edith could be said to have pioneered a new art form: whereas in the past the art of the great writer was to invest the confusion of human affairs with an order of his own, Aunt Edith took the smart ordered features of life and invested them with such a confusion that only the great artists amongst her reaches could understand what she was talking about. And if even they were sometimes defeated, it was because the proof-reader was not always a great artist.

But now a new regime has arrived: in Uncle Vic's column, opinion rather than opacity will be found.

It might be asked whether such a column as this is necessary now that Mr. Slee and his friends have decided to resuscitate "Abreast of the Times". One answer is found in the last recommendation of the 1960-61 S.R.C. to its successor, namely, that it should approve a more popular, less chaste student newspaper. Perhaps Mr. Hyslop, who proposed the motion, can tell us how a newspaper may be more or less chaste. Or was Mr. Hyslop really thinking of the Editors, that it is they who should be more popular and less chaste? If this is so, I suggest that this S.R.C., if it is to carry out the intentions of its predecessor, ought to conduct an inquiry into the relative chastity of this year's triumvirate as opposed to that of last. It would be more diverting than most S.R.C. business, to begin with, their attention ought to be brought to the fact that Mr. Slee has achieved great success in a red nightgown, in full view, moreover, of a large assembly. However, the S.R.C. should not, in this matter, give undue weight to such showmanship over the quiet and steady workmanship of some of the rest. Possibly the idea could be taken up on a national basis by N.U.A.U.S.; it would stimulate interest in student journalists if not in student journalism.

It should be known that only the bias and prejudice of certain members of the S.R.C. prevented certain extremely competent journalists, Mr. Sando and Mr. Cooper, from dispelling any semblance of chastity from "On Dit." Their application, which was by far the best of any submitted for this year's editorship, was dismissed as being too good to be true. (It is now a well-established practice to abuse the S.R.C. for not electing the right editor.) Not to be deterred, these two sought other means of financing their production which would have succeeded if an unfortunate accident had not occurred half-way down the straight. I am now able to relate that Mr. Sando's best suit is happily at last out of pawn.

Delightful as it no doubt is, your introduction into the esoteric activities of this seat of learning must now be given over for my more frivolous activities. I shall write to you again when you have recovered from your surfeit of cold tea consumed at Freshers' Welcomes.

I am,

Yours academically,

Uncle Vic

W.E.A. BOOKROOM

Welcomes students to the University and to the Bookroom.

See us for all your text and reference books and Stationery.

Consult us about all book problems.

Any book from anywhere.

M'RAE'S CORNER

As I write, Her Majesty's first Minister in the State of South Australia is still Sir Thomas Playford. As you read this he may or may not still be so; nevertheless I can't resist starting this regular column with a few thoughts on that functionary and the State built in his image.

His term of office, as we are so often reminded by the vernacular press, has surpassed that of Sir Robert Walpole—and to this eighteenth century dignitary he has more than one resemblance.

Gerry-mander.

Number one; his use of the "pocket" (more bluntly "rotten") borough system of electorates, recently named the "gerry-mander" after a certain American State Governor Gerry whose personal electorate happened to be shaped like a salamander on the survey map and to contain mainly his family and retainers. As Whitlam, M.H.R. (a member of a party which I warmly support) said in Adelaide recently: "Ministers in a Government elected in such a system were involved in a fraud on the electorate." Cautel (Stockholm-style) democracy at the best, it is in fact closer to a dictatorship by the establishment.

Father-Image.

Number two: his conservative fatherly approach to an already half-strangled electorate. Quote (in reply to an election questioner): "Referenda do not achieve anything, they are merely expressions of opinion." Or again, "There is no Liberal policy as such on social questions because people think along different lines."

In other words, we need no policy—I will decide. The weak-kneed Liberal Party in S.A. was even humiliated to the extent of having to campaign under the shelter of the cult of the Playford personality; proclaiming itself the L.C.L.-Playford Government.

However, as far as political adroitness goes, Sir Thomas far surpasses Sir Robert. He has built up an image, not only of himself (not Uncle Tom) but of the alleged (in fact non-existent) bounding prosperity of the State he governs. (I hope it will now be necessary for the reader to substitute governed). Let us compare and contrast.

Rate of industrial progress: in fact the worst in Australia; from the regular TV progress: contrast the visible dreary wasteland of Port Adelaide and the much-vaunted, never-realised, re-development scheme; or the almost old-west style verandahs that haunt Rundle Street or the cheap and dirty succo fideles of the retaileries with the vision of what is supposed to be. And so ad infinitum. The conclusion is that so far he has succeeded in hypnotising a whole State. By saying with great publicity often enough that we are well off and moving ahead everyone is convinced. One is reminded of Hans Andersen's famous fairy tale of the King without any clothes.

He is a fascinating character, homespun, determined, hanging on in Parliament with very strong teeth and is at the moment a one-man-band of a government. Most of us have never known a South Australia without Uncle Tom at the helm.

Chaps.

The results of this situation are as can be expected, not good. No policy only a one-man discretion means chaos. Shall we mention the Public Works Committee bungles—the Royal Adelaide Hospital re-building plan, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital fiasco (e.g., heating in winter, no cooling in summer), the Magill Rectory mess and many others? Or social issues. They demonstrate the way South Australians, if possible, avoid or postpone solving a difficult problem. A State lottery,

off-the-course betting, late-closing hours for hotels all are questions characterised by a clash between the opinions of the more fundamentalist. Christians making up the establishment and the rest of the community. No decision dare be made on a majority democratic basis for fear of offending the entrenched few. In turn this can only engender a feeling of public frustration: truth can only be a minor part of any argument, power is the first consideration.

The Countryman.

In addition like a rat caught in a trap the city man, because of the gerry-mander has been forcedly ruled by the countryman for the last thirty years. Thus the countryman, in most cases too inefficient and incompetent to run his own small community (how many country towns have a home-bred town clerk, solicitor, doctor, police sergeant, school teacher and so on?) can force his notoriously conservative and vested interest view on all.

The newspapers reflect the community which buys and finances them. There is no competition and no choice between or in morning and evening newspapers. What we have are completely devoid of criticism except in minor issues; both think and write automatically. The reading fare available to the citizenry of Adelaide is therefore the most unappetising Australian has to offer.

And again in turn all of this behaviour and thinking is reflected in the University of Adelaide; its staff and its students—a collection as dynamic and progressive as a soggy wheat biscuit. As you slouch past the Bonython Hall (apart from cogitating on the architectural miscarriage) you can also attribute the motley junk yard of ill-planned buildings to the lack of any policy in education for the last thirty years.

In fact about the only reason why there is any progress therein at all is that Sir Thomas would never allow anyone to say that he was not spending proportionately as much as other States on his University. His personal preference is for a technical institute.

No Critical Faculty.

Sir Thomas made quite sure that no one on the University staff (not that they were likely to risk their comfortable well-paid jobs, bless them) would be able to criticise him in public on political matters by making sure that no professor of politics was ever appointed.

As you look at some of the other buildings around the University you can also ponder the interrelation of families in Adelaide and the very small number thereof who actually run the place. (Persons interested in more fully investigating this theme can purchase a pretty-well produced booklet from the "Peoples Bookshop" on who owns Adelaide.)

The facts so far can hardly be denied. I hope that the A.L.P. will be in office and changing them by the time you read this, but if not, only continuous criticism and public opposition will ever have any effect.

The Axis.

The recent Federal elections proved the terrific impact of a freely critical press (with fact-laden support) on the voters.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" was so damaging to the L.C.L. that Menzies (he who was jeered in Djakarta, white-washed in Whitehall and brushed off in Brussels) his only consolation being that he was praised in Pretoria and lauded in Lisbon) referred to the opposition as the "Tarfax-Henderson-Calwell" axis. What is meant by the S.M.H. may not necessarily be poison for the Adelaide press. Let us hope Rupert and Lloyd are not unconvinced.

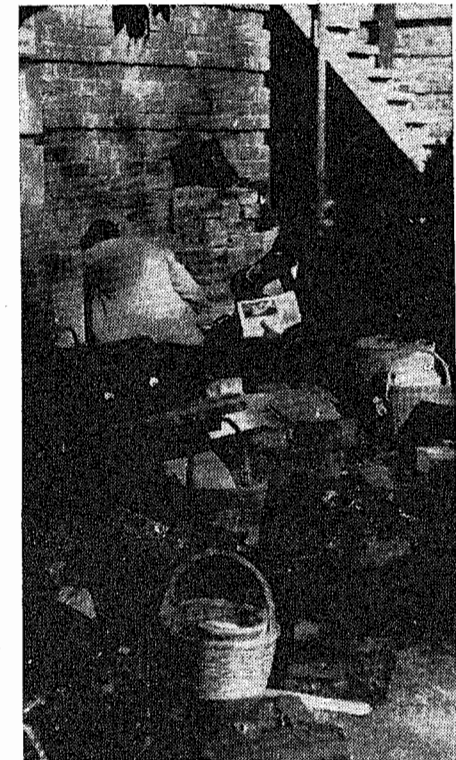
THE UNIVERSITY—AN INTRODUCTION TO FRESHERS

by an Observer

It is essential that every fresher be well informed on the intricacies of the various components of the University. To achieve this end we have taken upon ourselves the task of providing in a concise and digestible form a brief outline of the University.

We start at the top and work down. The University Council, through its standing committees, attends to the general administration of the University. Students know very little about what goes on up top. The Council is very far away from all of us.

The S.R.C. in 1961 sought representation, or if this was not possible, at least an observer on the Union Council. This application was rejected on the pretty reasonable grounds that there was already a member of the Council (Prof. P. H. Karmel) appointed as a liaison between the S.R.C. whose services had been scarcely made use of by the S.R.C. This almost suggests that in addition to not knowing much about the Council, students do not care much about it anyhow—they only see it as the all-powerful governing body, note that they are not represented on it, and complain of this fact with inevitable ineffectiveness.



LIBRARY SCENE, 1959

Based on misinformation. . . .

The students' general lack of interest in the Council is sometimes swept aside. Such abominations as the passing of the infamous clause 4C, which provides that students may be excluded from their faculty or from the University if they fail too many subjects too many times, have caused something more than a ripple of dissent on the placid waters of student apathy; but generally the University Council is far removed from the general student population and both the students and the authorities seem happy to allow this situation to continue.

The University Council operates through its various committees, the most important of which are:

The Education Committee, a professional board which deals with matters involving students which can be called academic; and

The Finance Committee, which attends to the general administration of the University finances with respect particularly to the buildings and grounds of the University and their maintenance and development.

The Library Committee, quite unjustifiably it would seem, suffers perhaps the most universal damnation from students of all the sub-committees of the Council.

Students in the past have indicated that in their eyes there is much to be desired in the services offered by the Barr Smith Library. In 1959, students complained bitterly about the inadequate provision for storing bags and satchels of library users. As a part of the general protest at this time the accompanying photograph appeared in

"On Dit" (June 26, 1959). This scene is of course identical with the situation today.

Apparently, however, these protests were based on misinformation, for it seems that the S.R.C. was consulted on this question and gave their approval of the set-up. They were short-sightedness in someone, that is certain, but apparently there was little ground for complaint with respect to the Library Committee.

All that was achieved by these protests in 1959 was a polite disregard for the requests and a period of strained relations between the Library Committee and the S.R.C. for several months thereafter.

As the examinations approached last year the S.R.C. made several alternative requests to the Library Committee, the general effect of which was to seek to have the Library open longer for the few weeks preceding the examinations.

In addition to the objecting to being hustled out of the Library at 10 p.m., complaints were also voiced about the disturbance caused by the staff who, eager to finish work, began to lock up ten minutes or so before the prescribed closing time.

Such complaints as this have always been met in the past with the cry "Not enough staff; not enough money." This latest protest was treated in just this way. At a point such as this it becomes impossible for the S.R.C. to press the matter further; they cannot now say what they would like to say: "then see to it that you get more money and more staff."

In actual fact, the Library Committee's attitude to this question is entirely reasonable when one considers the fact that to keep the stacks open at night it would require almost three times the present staff. The best concession that students can hope for is an extension of the weekend opening hours.

Among the bodies associated with the University, the most important are the Union, the Students' Representative Council and the Sports Association.

In addition to these there is the Graduate Union, various religious societies in students, and most of the student society societies. The other odd student clubs and societies are not directly associated with the University but are generally merely affiliated with the S.R.C.

The University Union and its functions defined in the Calendar thus:

"The Union is the social and cultural centre for those University activities not specifically included in the academic syllabus. It endeavours to provide a common meeting ground for staff, graduates and students.

The objects of the Union are:—

- (1) To promote the intellectual culture of its members;
- (2) to represent its members' interests, and to afford it recognised means of communication between its members and the University authorities;
- (3) generally to secure the co-operation of University men and women in furthering the interests of the University.

The affairs of the Union are conducted by the Union Council and various committees appointed by the Council, notably the Union House Committee, the Hall Committee and the Union Finance Committee.

The interests of the students were admirably served in 1946 when at the instigation of a few public-spirited doctors the Health Service was initiated and its control undertaken by a sub-committee of the Union. (For the present unhappy situation of the Health Service, see story right.)

The Warden of the Union, Mr. F. I. Borland (appointed in November, 1951), provides a useful aid to students in distress. He is at once a sympathetic personal counsellor and a general guide to students wishing to know which way to turn to solve their problems. Despite his value to students in these matters, Mr. Borland shares the hope of the S.R.C. that someday his function may be superseded and replaced by a more comprehensive student-counselling service.

For all practical purposes, from a student's viewpoint, the Union is chiefly the channel through which he receives the benefit of



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE, 1962

. . . futility by excellent example . . .

the money paid by him under the heading of Union Fee at the time of his enrolment. Often this money makes its way back to the student through a grant made by the S.R.C.

It also appears that it is through the Union, the "recognised means of communication," that students are expected to make representations on matters affecting their interest to the University authorities.

The promotion of the intellectual culture of students is the first function of the Union. It is creditable that in 1955 the Union established the Union Hall, an undeniably great contribution to the promotion of student culture. At present nearing completion is the new refectory-coffee lounge above the Wills Refectory—a worthy addition to the refectory service, but certainly not before time.

The Students' Representative Council has from time to time been variously labelled a social club, a dictatorial group of self-important egotists and many other things too abusive to print.

In fact, the S.R.C. is of little consequence in University affairs.

The main power it has is in the nature of economic sanctions which it may direct against such of the various clubs and societies as it feels inclined to discipline. This power may be only directed against the students themselves of course; it is a truism that the S.R.C. is of no import when directing its attention to the powers above it.

The S.R.C. does have three representatives on the Union Council; but the power derived from this is only in respect to those student activities which are not specifically included in the academic syllabus. Although the authorities consider students competent to attend to the organisation of their own extra-curricular amusements, it is certain

that in the more vital matters relating to their academic welfare, students are considered not even worth consulting.

For all practical purposes, the only functions of any importance carried out by the S.R.C. are the granting of monies (which are granted to it by the Union) to clubs and societies, the organisation of such functions as Orientation Week, and the Commencement and Recuperation Balls.

It is through the S.R.C. that the money to produce "On Dit," the Union Diary and A.U.M. is channelled from its source, the Union. This money all comes originally from your payment of the Union Fee at your enrolment.

(For details of S.R.C. finance, see official report this page.)

Membership of the S.R.C. has official significance only to the uninitiated, mostly freshers. However, it is remarkable that this delusion does in some cases persist even in members themselves.

The S.R.C. has just enough power to allow it to be branded incompetent, but never enough to justify it being accused of dictatorial conduct, much less despotic.

One of the most beneficial by-products of the S.R.C.'s annual bit of business is the instruction of some in the art of living on a powerless committee and enjoying it—the general futility of it all is taught by excellent example.

Without a doubt this presentation of the University is somewhat inaccurate in many respects. Sometimes this is the result of a misconstruction of the facts of a situation, often it is simply owing to omission.

But one clear omission is easily filled in, and it is certain that there is no misconstruction in its statement:

"You, dear fresher, complete this picture, and truly you are at the very bottom of it all."

What of the Health Service?

by David Combe

During the third term of last year without warning the Health Service was faced with an order to quit its premises in the Prince of Wales Building in order that the Department of Psychology could have extended housing. Accommodation was offered in the basement of the Zoology Department in the Benham Building. These premises were inspected by the Union's Medical Officers led by Dr. C. C. Jungfer and Dr. Gar. Home who had given thirty to forty years' service to student health through the Health Service. The proposed accommodation had previously housed rodents and other animals used in the experiments of the Psychology Department. The Health Service had literally been asked to exchange premises with them.

The immediate reaction of the Medical Officers who inspected the basement of the Benham Building was one of outrage. To them this appeared utterly unsuitable for the housing of the Health Service; at this point they proposed to resign as a complete body.

The University then promised that these rooms would be made adequate only as a temporary measure until permanent headquarters were found. With this the Medical Officers did not take the drastic step of resignation. Throughout this pandemonium, the University had negotiated directly with the Health Service and not through the Union Council as it should have done. Only at this point did the University seek the Union Council's opinion as to whether the Health Service should be situated on the main campus or eventually

it should be accommodated in the Physical Education Department Building on McKinnon Parade at the far end of the playing fields.

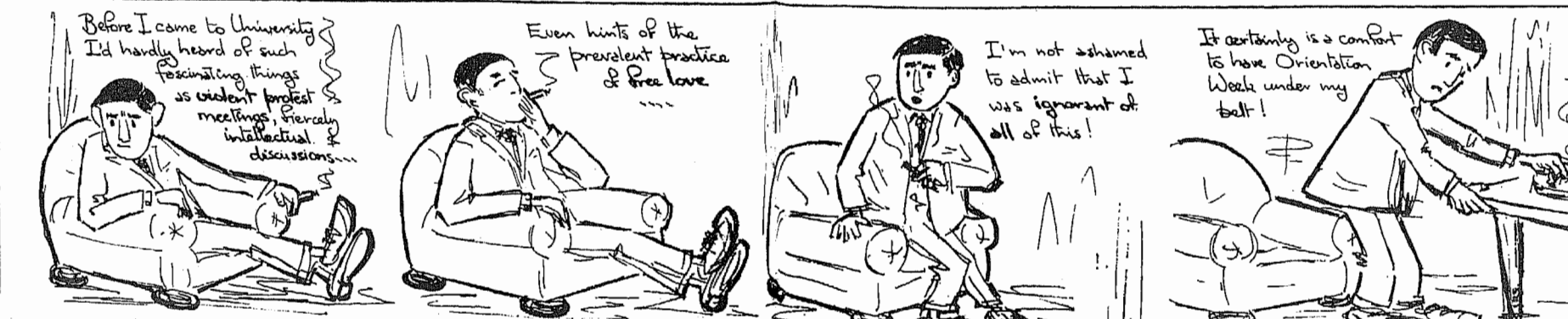
The Union Council has as yet made no firm statement since there has been a proposal that the Health Service should be taken over and administered by the University itself. This proposal is embodied as a recommendation in a report on Student

(Continued next column)



HEALTH SERVICE TODAY

To be or not to be. . . .



S.R.C. TREASURER'S REPORT

by Michael Porter



Most full-time students pay a £13/10/- fee to the Adelaide University Union (others pay £10/2/6, £6/15/-, or £5, depending on the circumstances).

This money is used to provide sporting facilities, to maintain and improve Union services such as the Union Hall and the Refectory, and to finance the operation of the Students' Representative Council.

Each year the S.R.C. presents a budget to the Union and later receives a grant (£7,346 in 1961). Thus in 1961 each student contributed indirectly 75/- to the S.R.C.

Where does this money go?

In 1960 it was distributed as follows:

S.R.C. BUDGET, 1961				
Item	Amount	Over-spent	Under-spent	Change from 1960
Clubs and Societies	1,502	124	—	+ 19%
Union Meetings, Hospitality	526	—	24	+ 146%
Administration	1,357	77	—	+ 4%
N.U.A.U.S.—				
(i) Levies	1,212	4	—	+ 1%
(ii) Accommodation Expenses of				
Delegates	269	169	—	+ 93%
"On Dit" (Subsidized)	1,767	493	—	— 7%
Union Diary (Subsidized)	83	92	—	unclassified
A.U.M. (Subsidized)	132	—	43	— 55%
Delegation Fund	25	—	—	—
Capital	60	—	—	—
Money given back to Union	407	—	—	—
	£7,346			

Points of Note:

1. Clubs and Societies.

Financial support to clubs and societies increased by 19 per cent. last year.

2. Union Meetings, Hospitality.

The S.R.C. expenditure on Union Meetings (such as "Birth Control—the Answer to Asia's Population Problem") and hospitality was 146 per cent. higher than in 1960, which indicates the importance the 15th S.R.C. placed on such meetings. It is to be hoped that these meetings will be held more frequently and supported more vigorously in the future.

3. Administration.

Expenses in this department rose by only 4 per cent. to £1,357.

4. N.U.A.U.S.

The expense of sending delegations to National Union of Australian University Students' Councils has been rising rapidly. This is due partly to increased accommodation costs and partly to the greater frequency of meetings. In addition, N.U.A.U.S. is in poor financial straits and is therefore passing many expenses back to the constituent S.R.C.'s.

Each student pays through the S.R.C. a levy of 4/8 per year to N.U.A.U.S. Such a rapid rise in N.U.A.U.S. expenses as has occurred would only be justified if the services rendered to the students by N.U.A.U.S. show a corresponding rise. Present indications would suggest that this is in fact the case.

5. "On Dit".

The estimated loss for 1961 was £2,200. In fact it was only £1,767. This increase in the financial efficiency

of "On Dit" was due to increased revenue from sales and advertising. Hence the effective cost to the student for each copy (i.e. the extent of subsidy) is now approximately 1/2d. This hidden cost is distinct from the "over the counter" cost of 3d.

6. Union Diary.

The estimated loss for 1961 was £175, but in fact only £83 of this was required. This means that the Union Diary is nearer to being self-supporting.

7. A.U.M.

Since many copies of the Adelaide University Magazine still remain unsold, the financial position in this department remains nebulous.

8. Delegation Fund.

For the past two years sums have been deposited in a separate account with the intention of financing an overseas delegation. At present there is £200 in this account.

Functions Account.

This is an account used exclusively for S.R.C. functions such as the Balls, the Procession, and the sale of ties and pennants, etc.

It is also used for financing loans to various affiliated societies and clubs. The moneys in this account are not subject to the same control from the Union as those in the General Account.

In 1961 all the proceeds of the Prosh Collection and Prosh Hop were distributed to charities, with the expenses (£263) being met by the S.R.C. It is a pleasure to record that the University Tie is self-supporting.

MICHAEL PORTER,
Treasurer S.R.C.

S.R.C. FUNCTIONS ACCOUNT, 1961

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Balance at Bank 1/1/61	£890	Distribution—Procession and Dance Collection:	
Collections—Student		War Veterans' Home	£1,721 5 0
Procession	£3,812 10 0	World University	
Dance	175 10 0	Serv.	1,377 0 0
	3,988	N.U.A.U.S. Abschol	344 5 0
Profit—Commencement Ball	462	Fund	545 12 10
Capital Items 1960	45	Procession Paper	—
Pennant Sales	39		£3,968
University Tie Sales	£755 0 0	Procession Expenses	263
Less Purchases	755 0 0	Grants, Donations, etc.	30
	—	1960 Recuperation Ball (Expenses held over)	62
Other Income	84	1961 Recuperation Ball (loss)	98
	—	Delegation Trust Fund	75
	—	Loans:	
	—	A.U. Dramatic Society	£198
	—	A.U. Economic Students' Association	100
	—		298
	—	Balance at Bank, 31/12/61	644
	£5,448		£5,448

What of the Health Service (Cont.)

Counselling which was discussed by the Union Council during its first meeting of 1961. The University Council, however, has only recently dealt with it.

Thus it may be seen that the future of the pioneer Health Service amongst Australian Universities is dependent upon whether or not the Council of the University of Adelaide intends to take away administration of the Service from the Union Council.

RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Russian Roulette!
Who'll lay a bet, and gamble?
Russian Roulette!
No need to fret, or scramble
I'll have first spin.
Who else'll come in, and play?
Russian Roulette!
Don't get upset,
If I blow my brains out today.

ATLAS.

PERSONAL PORTRAIT

Gordon Biley, first year Arts student (philosophy major), has been at the University since 1956.

During this time he has a degree in dentistry (of which he is not noticeably enamoured), a reputation as a revue script-writer (notably approaching notoriety), and lately has been elevated to the high office of President of the S.R.C.

It is only by hearing in mind these three major impingements on our President's personality in its recent formative years that a sensible understanding of the Definitive Gordon may be approached.

His experiences at the Dental School have given him a certain maturity; his comparative indifference to dentistry has prevented the formation in him of a professional man's outlook.

Gordon's interest in the theatre and in particular the end-of-year Revue has had a more apparent effect on his personality; for his charming manner has sometimes a suggestion of the theatrical, and his remarkable capacity for witty conversation constantly recalls his efforts at script-writing.

The third factor in Gordon's personality—



the presidency of the S.R.C.—because of its immediacy, denies an observer the opportunity to gauge its exact effect on his character. It is only possible to comment by way of description: he bears the title with a dignity befitting the office.

a question

Sirs,
I read with interest "On Dit's" contribution to Philosophical Theology ("Theology and Criticism" by J. M. Finnis, "On Dit," Sept., 61) and was left with the impression that the author did not find Dr. Martin's book, "Religious Belief," entirely without blemish. Many of my Christian friends who have read the article feel that Mr. Finnis has spoken the last words of Dr. Martin, and that his book has been discredited as an unscholarly mess. This surprises me. Mr. Finnis' "criticism-by-footnote" method may be valid, but his attempt to provide philosophical refutations of Dr. Martin's arguments often suggest a lack of acquaintance with the methodology of philosophical analysis.

Possibly one reason that "Theology and Criticism" has been accepted as authoritative by so many of its readers is due to the telegram sent to the Editors by Dr. Martin, and printed at the head of the article.

It read: "Returned vacation too late for reply. . . . Scholarship and philosophy . . . worthy of academic journal. Debating technique worthy of present high debating club standards of "On Dit."—C. Martin.

This certainly sets the seal of approval on Mr. Finnis' work.

However, a friend of Dr. Martin's tells me that the telegram should have read "Scholarship and philosophy not worthy of academic magazine."

This puts the article in rather different light.

I also understand that Dr. Martin has since sent a second telegram expressing his views on the article and the Editors somewhat more clearly.

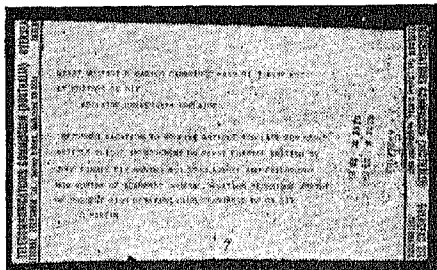
As Mr. Finnis and his colleagues were good enough to publish Dr. Martin's first telegram, could I call on them to comment on this rumour and publish any further correspondence received from Dr. Martin?

The importance of articles such as "Theology and Criticism" can often be overated especially when they bear such a seal of commendation as Dr. Martin's reply.

Yours,
DON McNICOL.

an answer

Mr. Finnis writes: It certainly would have been strange if we Editors of the 1961 "On Dit" had sought to bolster up our criticism of Dr. Martin's scholarship by relying on (or forging!) his approval. Indeed, we were even a little embarrassed by the expression in his telegram of such unexpected sentiments of commendation. But we had previously promised to print Dr. Martin's reply alongside our article, and so we published all those portions of the telegram which constituted a comment on that article. Mr. McNicol has accurately reproduced what thus appeared at the head of the article.



In fact the telegram, as we received it, also contained reference to an earlier draft of critique of Dr. Martin's book. But

N.U.A.U.S

(Continued from page 3)

The £800 granted to education research may prove useless, or it may bring invaluable returns—the field is almost unexplored as yet. A plan for student identity cards promises more immediate benefits; within the next few years it should bring student concessions on interstate transport and in nationwide stores.

The most important question is neither, what happens to the students' money, nor, how will they benefit, but—how far do they themselves direct these two considerations?

The first object of the Union as stated in its constitution is "To represent the students of Australia," and it attempts to do this through the delegates nominated by the constituent S.R.C.'s. It will be news to most Adelaide students that their money is being spent at all. The Adelaide delegates to the Council Meeting were forced to brief for Council the S.R.C. which should have been briefing them. And through the students' ignorance of N.U.A.U.S., that S.R.C. is in no way responsible to them for its decisions.

In Adelaide the National Union is representing the opinions of only a very small group of students, about ten at the most. The situation may improve with more N.U.A.U.S. publicity locally, and this will be attempted during the year—but in any case who cares, at only 4/8 a head?

MARIAN QUARTLY.

since that earlier work was never published in any form, and since less than one per cent. of it had anything in common with our article, we considered that Dr. Martin's reference would be both misleading and unintelligible to the readers of "On Dit." On these grounds, as well as for its lack of relevance to our article, we deleted that reference from the telegram as published, indicating the deletion by inserting four stops. As a necessary consequence of that deletion, we also deleted the purely conjunctive word, "now," from the following sentence, indicating the second deletion by inserting three stops.

The telegram which came to us is reproduced, at the request of the present Editors, in the photograph accompanying these columns, and the reader may judge for himself whether or not we left the meaning of its references to our article unchanged. I have entered on this long explanation because Dr. Martin, on receiving from us a copy of the relevant "On Dit," proceeded to send letters and postcards (I know nothing of any further telegrams between America and Australia) to a number of his acquaintances. These mis-

sives alleged that his telegram in fact (not "should have") read, "Scholarship and philosophy not worthy of academic journal." Since Dr. Martin at no time communicated with us, we have been unable to discover how many people received these missives, and we have therefore been unable wholly to counteract his damaging assertions. We prepared photostat copies of the telegram, and sent them to the traceable recipients of Dr. Martin's missives. We sent one to Dr. Martin, too, together with a letter expressing our regret that his sentiments had not been accurately conveyed to readers of "On Dit." In the absence of any word from Dr. Martin to us, I assume that the substitution of "now" for "not" (if substitution it be) occurred in the cable office.

I am grateful to Mr. McNicol for providing an occasion for these distasteful but necessary explanations.

The important thing is that Dr. Martin's views should be emphatically and correctly placed on the record. They are, quite simply, that the scholarship and philosophy of "Theology and Criticism" were unworthy of an academic journal.

"THE STUART CASE" — a review

The Stuart Case, by K. S. Inglis (M.U.P. 425, paperback 27/6), collects with notable thoroughness, and retails with a pleasing ease, a large number of facts which any historian of that cause celebre will have to take into account. Ironically, however, this collation of facts and opinions, displayed in chronological order, gives rise to a considerable doubt. Is a definitive history of the affair worth writing?

Certainly Dr. Inglis' book is not such a history. It is, rather, statement of the case against the Government and its officers—an able, detailed and moderate statement, but partial nevertheless.

Of course, there is a tendency for any reader with clear views to regard the mere presentation of opposing views as an unfair slanting of the truth. That tendency is itself inimical to the recording of historical truth. But the historian (as opposed to the advocate or journalist) has a correlative duty not to weight the argument by reporting only the comments and contentions of the articulate; it is his task (particularly if he is a contemporary historian and on-the-spot) to discover and record the views of those persons who remained silent because they could not catch the selective attention of the mass media, or because their dignity and office precluded them from making public justification of their actions, or because they simply thought the issue had been inflated for ulterior or inconsequential motives by "the other side." And it is easy further to misrepresent the justice of a conservative position by reporting only the statements of those conservatives who chose (usually extremists) or were obliged (usually politicians) to speak.

Dr. Inglis is aware of this. As he himself remarks: "The critics of institutions tend, almost by definition, to be more outspoken than the satisfied." It is the regrettable failure of his book that, being loth ever to stray from the public facts, he at once under-emphasises those facts, that were not public property in 1958, and omits to enquire with any seriousness whether it was the critics or the satisfied who had the balance of right on their side. The substantial charge made by the critics was that Stuart was, or seemed, to be, threatened with injustice. Everything else is comparatively irrelevant. Yet Dr. Inglis glosses over the rightness or wrongness of that charge. He is more concerned about the fact that newspapers, jurists and politicians made noises and counter-noises, than with the worth or propriety of the various elements of the cacophony.

This is not to say that Dr. Inglis is not very scrupulous in recording all the possible objections to every action and statement by the South Australian authorities. He is indeed. But he is short on evaluations of the justice and responsibility displayed by all the manifold critics of those authorities—critics whose sanctimonious and hasty commentaries make much of his chronicle unpleasant reading.

Dr. Inglis is normally careful not to appear to commit himself. Yet who can say that the collections of legal opinions or cross examination as to character, on judges and Royal Commissions, and on the advisability of confessions, do not amount to special pleading? And sometimes the true implications of his writing, usually muffled by the obliquely anonymous style, show through, as it were by accident. Thus the apparently non-committal remark:

"Even before a jury failed to agree with him, it could be agreed that the Premier was seriously confusing his political situation with his responsibility for the criminal prosecution." (Itals. added.) should be read with its footnote:

"On the day after Rivett's acquittal the government displayed a further confusion about the proper limits of its responsibility . . ." (Itals. added.)

The reader of *The Stuart Case* eventually learns to identify those occasions when "it could be argued" or "in Malaya, a newspaper said" really means "I think." It is certainly very rarely that Dr. Inglis is unfair

in any positive way: I should regard as one such instance the assertion that "[Playford] and his colleagues did their utmost to have Stuart executed on July 7." It is equally rare for Dr. Inglis to be positively illogical; but in his anxiety to condemn the constitution of the Commission he links contradictory criticisms with "moreover" instead of "on the other hand," and asserts that the peculiar features of the Stuart case could foreseeably elicit from someone like Lord Atlee the view that it was "unusual . . . to appoint two judges who had previously been concerned with the case." (Itals. added.)

It was difficult, the Commissioners wrote, "to see why any heat or excitement should have been injected into the agitation for further enquiry or re-hearing." Dr. Inglis calls that "an astonishing remark." But his book does not bear up his surprise. For while it shows in detail the prime cause of the heat and excitement, namely the ignorance and bias of most Australian journalists, it utterly fails to show that there was much valid justification for that excitement. As long as people like Dr. Inglis continue indulgently to suppose that "the popular press exists to shout, protest, expose and play hell," without any real qualification on such licence, so long will people like Sir Thomas Playford be "responsible for" (i.e. do things provoking) violent and general controversy. But that is not to say that the authorities will ipso facto be "responsible for" i.e. do things necessarily or justly provoking) violent and general controversy. Is Dr. Inglis, when he speaks of Playford's "responsibility for" the recklessness and

Sirs,

As a fresher early last year, I had the misfortune to compete in the University Sports Day. I say misfortune for never before have I seen such a pathetic meeting—it lacked enthusiasm, good competition and organization!

I am writing this criticism now in order that some attempt be made to prevent another such debacle.

In the hope of instilling some interest I submit the following suggestions:

Firstly, the sports should be organised on a faculty basis. This should ensure the holding of relays, greater spectator interest and, above all, added incentive and faculty spirit.

Secondly, the day should be adequately publicised. Last year very few knew of it and, after all, it could be a major event in the Varsity year.

My last suggestion could not be implemented this year. If the Athletics Club feels no popular or suitable day is available on which the University Oval could be used, steps should be taken to hold the Day in Orientation Week, preferably on Friday afternoon.

I feel a repetition of last year's afternoon would do far more harm than good.

Yours,
BOB HARRIES.

sentimentality of the campaign against his and his officers, aware of this ambiguity? In the absence of any demonstration that Stuart was ever in danger of injustice, or could ever have been reasonably thought to be, it remains difficult, as the Commissioners said, to see why any heat or excitement need have been injected into the agitation (in itself reasonable) for further enquiry or re-hearing.

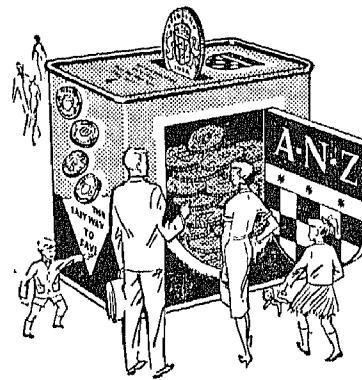
The claim in the blurb, that the Stuart case (and thus this book) exposed the judicial and political system of South Australia to a "penetrating scrutiny," is quite inflated. The whole affair was little more than an essay in superficialities and misunderstandings; no far-reaching issues were raised or clarified, though, as Dr. Inglis rightly says, the story strengthens the case against capital punishment—for capital punishment only exacerbates that sentimentality and sensation seeking which effectively obscured the real issue in the Stuart case.

Various peripheral issues, of significance either to the sequence of events at the time or to the future implications of the case, would need to be more adequately treated in the hypothetical definitive history. Dr. Inglis makes insufficient reference, for example, to the undoubted deficiencies in the police methods used in the original investigation leading to Stuart's arrest, to the true character of the early Howard League meetings, to the question of the bona fides of the appeal to the Privy Council, and to the conduct of Mr. Shand during the weeks after retriving from the Commission.

J. M. FINNIS.


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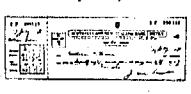
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THE VITAL SINGOCK

by Carl Meyer

No S.A. player in recent years has caused such widespread discussion and interest as 20-year-old David Sincock. The word, "Sincock's on," clears the Adelaide Oval bar in a trice, the most doughty raconteur in the Members' Stand is frozen to silence—further afield, sweaty enthusiasts in country pubs group round the radio in the corner.

"Who is the happy warrior? Who is he That every man in arms should wish to be?"

It would take a more restless poet than Wordsworth to adequately describe Sincock's coup-de-grace—the preliminary flick of the ball into the air, the determined lunge to the bowling-crease, the abrupt wheel-over of his arm as he rips the ball out of his left hand, the resounding snap of wrist and whirr of spinning leather . . . and what of the ball in mid-flight as it wickedly swerves out towards the slips only to break back viciously on hitting the turf . . .? What if it is a bosey? What if it goes "the wrong way"? . . . Such a skillful thrust is the poetry of cricket—it lasts less than a second. Who can pack it into a couple of hurried stanzas and conclude with a breathless peroration as the luckless batsman commits hara-kiri at the batting end? Art must be seen to be appreciated.

For the benefit of the uninitiated, dental student, Sincock, is a rarity in Australian cricket. "Rare" because he is an unorthodox left-hander (that is, his stock delivery spins from left to right, as the bowler sees it); because he is such a talented slow bowler so young; because he screws the ball so sharply off the hard Australian pitches, where so many toil but so few spin. His deliveries are loaded with top-spin so that they dip down disconcertingly towards the end of their flight and hurry through after bouncing. For the unwary, the mere straight ball of a Sincock is loaded with danger, as he proved in the Sheffield Shield game in Brisbane this season. This fact recalls that a similar ball was Grimmett's most dangerous weapon, as he exploited the shortcomings of indiscriminate back-play.

Sincock, however, is not yet a meticulous artist like Grimmett. Rather is he of the ilk of Fleetwood-Smith, the erratic left-arm genius of the 1930's. Indeed, the latter was the model on which Sincock's bowling was developed under the guidance of his father. Harold Sincock played for S.A. himself (as

a right-hand spinner) and it was his enthusiastic direction that led David to practise bowling at a handkerchief laid down on their backyard pitch.

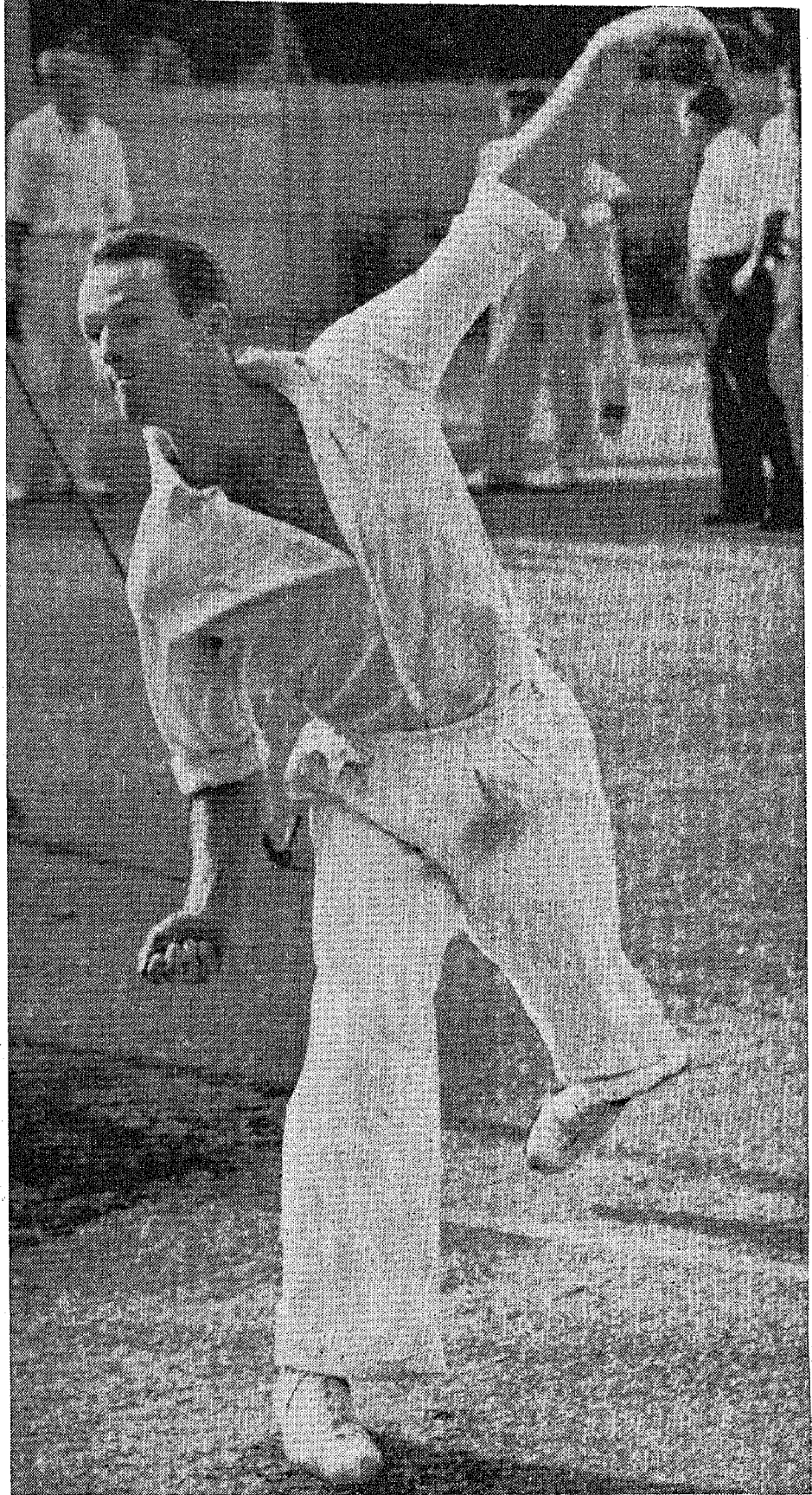
Sometimes his skippers must have wished that he had been schooled to aim at the proverbial three-penny bit, instead, for accuracy is his Achilles heel. Anyone who flicks so much spin on to the ball leaves himself a small margin for error, but let us not dismiss Sincock for his unruly length or direction. First, let us ask, "Could we do as well?" and, secondly, let us remember the gruff remark of the greybeards, "Give the lad time!" On top of this, inaccuracy has its uses. Look at Mailey, the Australian virtuoso of the cricket ball, who used to get batsmen out with double-hoppers, or worse. . . . For such explosive spin-bowlers, doubt—in the bowler's mind as well as the batsman's—of the exact nature of the delivery coming up seems to introduce a special dimension of uncertainty, which genius can exploit.

The charge was levelled at Kline, Australia's most recent left-arm spinner, that his bowling was too mechanical and predictable for him to really hit the high spots in Test cricket. Sincock, however, seems booked for prolonged stardom.

He burst into interstate cricket at the end of the '60-'61 season with a shattering 7 wickets in the N.S.W. first innings at the Adelaide Oval. No greater compliment could be paid him than the fact that, this year, he drew a record crowd of critical Sydney-siders to watch him bowl to Harvey, O'Neill, Simpson and Co. He was hit around during the afternoon, but only after he had stunned the crowd by taking three wickets in a matter of minutes just after lunch on Saturday.

Sincock was a schoolboy star at Sacred Heart as cricketer, footballer, baseballer and athlete. He first played district cricket for Glenelg, but it was a lucky day for the Varsity when he transferred to us at the beginning of the present season. In his first two games he belted the Port Adelaide bowling to the tune of 92 n.o. and 61, and then dismissed the luckless Sobers (Prospect) for 0 (first ball) and 1!

With his fiery red hair (tidier than his length?), engaging grin (in Van Johnson mould), medium height and quick athletic movements, he is an arresting sight on the field. Personal drive makes him a natural leader, for dedication to the game and boundless enthusiasm are his great personal assets. He leaves an overriding impression of vitality.



DAVID SINCOCK: leaves an over-riding impression of vitality.

BOXING IS A GREAT SPORT

by A.U.B.C.

Boxing is a sport with a tradition stretching back to Ancient Greek times. Over the centuries it has developed and changed, shuffling off its more barbarous forms, until the establishment of the present-day version with its padded gloves designed to protect the recipient as well as the thrower of a punch, and with the emphasis, in amateur ranks at least, on skill and science and fair play.

Intervarsity Boxing in Australia contains all that is best in the sport. It is participated in with a fine spirit and is strictly controlled in accordance with Olympic rules and something of the Olympic ideals; the weight limit of the divisions provide for minimal weight differences between contesting boxers and each bout is carefully watched, and in the event of unequal matching of ability, quickly stopped.

This year, in the second inter-term break, the Intervarsity Championships will be held in Adelaide, with university boxers coming from all over Australia to compete for the coveted Intervarsity Cup, won by the university obtaining most titles. This year when

those same boxers have returned to their home states, the A.U. Boxing Club is confident that the Cup will be held in Adelaide too.

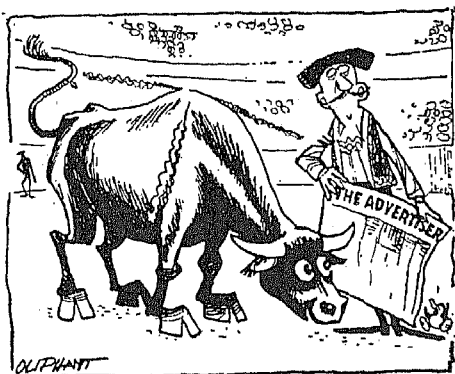
Have you thought of taking up boxing this year? The A.U.B.C. offers you the chance of taking part in a sport of many rewards. Boxing is the finest and most effective way of becoming really fit, and staying that way. It helps the development of better self-control. But most of all, it offers a thoroughly satisfying and enjoyable form of recreation and the opportunity to compete and make firm friends with students from other states.

The A.U.B.C. is lucky to have as its instructor in 1962 one of the state's best known boxing personalities, Kevin Vogelsang, who retired unbeaten as S.A. Welterweight Champion in 1957.

Although the spirit of competition at Intervarsity is keen, the general standard of boxing is not strict, with most competitors being relative beginners. Thus you, if you come along to the Hut in the evenings, as well as learning self-defence with much enjoyment under a capable and experienced instructor, will have a good chance of winning an Australian Universities title in six months' time and of helping Adelaide to secure the Intervarsity Cup.

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CRICKET'S NOT BAD EITHER

by Carl Meyer

In another end-of-season dash for runs and premiership points the Uni. A's sneaked into the final four in a touch and go decision. Of the ten sides, the Varsity won only three games this season—less than any other district team bar the bottom one. Outright wins in the last two games (against Glenelg and East Torrens) have put them in a good position to go for the premiership flag. Both of these wins were personal triumphs for opener Don Trowse. On each occasion the Uni. had to bat last and score at faster than a run a minute for victory, and each time Trowse steered the innings with a mature and well-executed assault on the bowling. It will be remembered that he played a similar role last season when his dazzling 60-odd in the last match of the minor round put his side in the finals by the barest possible margin. Whenever he has been required most, Trowse has responded with his best—and for sheer stroking delight this is hard to improve on. Only a few weeks ago, he ripped up a ninety against Mt. Gambier (playing for S.A.C.A. XI). Many at the Varsity wonder why he has not yet worn the State colours.

Geoff. Glover is another who can be accounted unlucky to have missed on interstate honours. Intense concentration and an appreciation of the niceties of flight have brought Glover into the front rank of S.A. spinners. Cricket's old war-horse, A. G. (Johnnie) Moyes, is calling for right arm leg-spinners. Let us hope that Glover is not left to stagnate before being given his chance.

"Doc" Clarkson is another to have asserted himself in the cricketing world in 1961-2. He already has taken 34 wickets and is among the leading bowlers in "A" grade. Who knows how many wickets he might have taken, or how far he might have gone as a state contender, if less chances had been dropped from his bowling.

Skipper, Bon Pearlman, must come into the warm light of praise for the dignified, yet dogged way in which he has led his side. It is to be hoped that he can find time to take the helm again next season. As this goes to press J. F. Sangster is being given his chance in the State side—he is the son of well-known sportsman, Dr. C. B. Sangster.

To think of the B's convincing minor premiers and certainties for the pennant—is to think of Dr. Jim Hyde, Tony Corbet and Rex Pearlman. Skipper Hyde has provided that balance of maturity and charming enterprise, so much a part of the Varsity Seconds. I have nothing but the greatest admiration for Corbet, who, for another reason, has held the bowling of this team together. There is no other bowler in the University club with the same reserves of personal determination under fire; nor any other who holds in check so many of his own club's best batsmen with puzzling flight backed by his keen appreciation of the game. Glamour boy of the side, of course, is Rex Pearlman, who has torn down the barrier surrounding the century mark. Brenton Paul, whether batting, bowling or fielding close to the wicket, has been as much a stalwart as ever. The whole club bids a sad farewell to the irrepressible "Rocker" Brien.

Sam Starr has ferried his "C" grade side into the finals. His greatest feat has been the channelling of Fred Bott's unbounded energy into damaging broadsides—which could well mean a premiership. Country star, "Keg" Ferguson, rejoined the club a couple of weeks ago with a power packed 170. I am told that everyone is waiting for a repeat performance.

Three cricket teams in the Four, then . . . All at Sports Association H.Q. are waiting for the "bacon" to be brought home. A feast of cricket will be provided at the Uni. Oval on March 9th and 16th, when the Varsity "A's" meet Prospect in the first semi-final. See you there. . . .

But this was the reaction of a small minority, and it is the majority that must be ensnared. We start the new academic year therefore, with a new "On Dit." It is your paper and you therefore deserve what you get. We trust, however, that the forced compromise will not be too divergent from last year's admirable production.

Who would have ever thought?

Rembrandt v. Engineers

The prurient appear as prudish, tamed by a seventeenth century masterpiece.

Rembrandt's Danae (1936) was chosen by the Adelaide editors of Torque in 1961 to grace the back page of the greasers' rag. So enthusiastic were they about their choice that a block was made in readiness, while the preparation of the rest of the paper went along smoothly.

It was not until the block was given to the printers that the charms of Danae began to fade in the eyes of these gentlemen of the greasy press: for the printers refused to handle the block.

"You get pinched for printing less than that," he said, eyeing the offending block, his expression a strange mixture of longing and fear.

The engineers had to make do with a photograph of a modern miss (clothed, slightly), while Danae remained a lady who had cost plenty, but who had given nothing.



Debating Debacle 1961

The angry fire of Debaters' Wrath still burns fiercely after four months; for it is quite that long since Wayne Anthony's article, "I do not apologise" appeared in "On Dit." For an insight into the angry response this otherwise entertaining article aroused in some, read on.

Our purpose is to rescue the prestige of the Debating Club from the effects of a libel perpetrated by Mr. Anthony in the last edition of "On Dit."

W. Anthony decided that the tour of the New Zealand University Debating Team last year was a flop—with this we agree. W. Anthony also decided that the Debating Club was largely to blame—with this we do not agree. W. Anthony referred to our glorious selves (The Debating Club) as rather a "nebulous organisation" to whom thanks "are not due for assistance with the trip."

Let's get the facts straight! The tour was supposed to be promoted and organised (?) by the S.R.C. Presumably W. Anthony was appointed by that body to promote and organise (?) the tour. Thus either the blame lies with the S.R.C. or it lies with W. Anthony. It does not lie with the Debating Club.

W. Anthony said that no-one in our organisation with the exception of our secretary (I refrain from mentioning his name) was interested in helping. To this we reply that it would have been quite useless for more than one of our committee to have trailed behind W. Anthony in an attempt to pick up droppings of intelligence from the bird of confusion as he winged his weary way round and round the refectory.

W. Anthony referred to a booze-up held for the New Zealand boys. The use of the term is amusing: the booze-up (I hesitate to use the word) consisted of:—One bottle of Cooper's (supplied by the S.R.C.), one slightly used packet of potato chips (supplied by the S.R.C.), one half-empty bottle of wine (supplied by Badenoch's woodshed), and sex from the Children's Hospital (slightly used)—which was indeed the only adequate quantity in the whole affair (supplied not by the S.R.C., and not by W. Anthony, but by the Debating Club).

W. Anthony concluded his libellous screed thus: "The result was a badly organised, uninspiring tour for which I do not apologise!"

The only thing that requires to be said now is "why not?"

Our very own Little Rock

A new warning against generalising from inflexible positions on racial problems has been provided by the incident at Elliott in the Northern

OPINION

Territory, where white children were withdrawn from the school by their parents as soon as several aborigines attended. Neither primitive radicalism nor primitive conservatism seems to be able to give a just appraisal of the situation. Reports of the facts have been confused and incomplete, but it does seem clear that everyone involved in the white boycott of the integrated school denies that his action is based on racial grounds, and says that he is only concerned about the aborigines' lack of hygiene.

Another objection to the aboriginal children was not brought forward until their teacher's explanatory letter reached "The Advertiser": "The objections to these children are not based on their colour—very dark half-castes are readily accepted—but on their way of life, which is very primitive, and on the fact that they have their own native school at Newcastle Waters. White children, with the background of these natives, would be just as unwelcome in the school as companions for our children." This passage does, I think, give the primitive radical a mite more justification than the primitive conservative, for it is the only segregationist comment in the whole controversy which

hints at a social and not purely hygienic objection to the natives. Now it may well be that the behaviour of these native children would have caused such psychological stress for the other children, that they should in fact be sent to Newcastle Waters.

However, the promptness of the parents' action certainly seems to add weight to suspicions that prejudice was a fairly strong motivating force, and that there was little genuine desire to try out integration. What is more, the reference to white children with the same background shows remarkably little recognition of how unique the general problem of aboriginal assimilation is.

The juxtaposition of a stone age culture and a highly sophisticated modern one is bound to produce emotional pressures, and to use European standards by which to judge these children is not only unreasonable but also tend to begin the snowball effect which makes it so difficult for aborigines to

adapt themselves to the strange culture which has swamped them.

There is no doubt that the parents of Elliott chose very ill-advised methods of protest, but the case of racial intolerance against them remains unproven. The limited sociological surveys which have been done in this field in Australia indicate that racial prejudice depends not on a moral decision so much as on the economic, geographical and social structure of the particular mixed community. After all, assimilation proceeds happily enough in many areas.

The problems are different in each case, and to generalise theoretically about the illogicality of racial feeling by quoting the United Nations Charter is fruitless since people very much involved in racial tensions will go to great lengths to prove that they are not racials in principle. The current of opinion is now so much against people in such situations, that our first duty is not to condemn them from afar, but to try to understand and remedy those material features of their community which engender social tension between them and their aboriginal neighbours.

However, for the benefit of our reputation in Asia, we must show our official disapproval most clearly.

The primitive radical may with justice point out that since views of innate racial difference have become so socially unacceptable, openly avowed racial prejudice has in large measure given way to pinpricking tactics directed towards specific difficulties associated with integration, of which hygiene is a prime example. However, it is equally clear that no sinister and rigidly doctrinaire racialism is being codified by the citizens of Elliott, and that their objections have some basis in fact.

The parents' reasons for the boycott were variously reported: the aborigines suffered from ringworm, they spat, they did not use handkerchiefs, they defecated in the bush instead of in the toilets, and let flies gather about their eyes. According to their teacher, two of the white children had already "proved" that they caught bad eye complaints from the natives.

Now, I well remember when ringworm did the rounds of my own Adelaide, suburban, all-white primary school, and the obvious answer to all these objections is that the disease and lack of hygiene must be eliminated, not ignored. Whether on the community or governmental level (and special government action is justified) proper instruction and material aid should be given to the natives involved.



"Really, Sir, I hope they are aware that examinations are just thirty-seven weeks away."