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Library Note : Supplement edition of On Dit produced independently of S.A.U.A., October, 1977 [PROOF]





COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

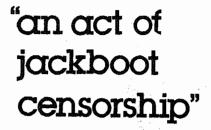
SENATE

Daily Hansard

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 1977

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE CANBERRA 1977

Editorial



This is not 'On Dit', nor is it Rather, this small publication, 'Pirate On Dit', has been produced by the Editor and staff of 'On Dit' in protest at the arbitrary, unjust and politically motivated decision of the Students' Association to destroy the last (and almost completed) 'On Dit' for 1977. edition was due to my legal challenge Most of this 'Pirate On Dit' Editorial is devoted to canvassing the amazing series of events leading to one of the most reprehensible decisions of the

SAUA Executive; for it is apparant that the SAUA is reluctant to fully inform students of the decision to destroy, and hence censor in the crudest fashion, an edition of the students' newspaper.

The brief history of the Executive's decision is this: on Thursday Nov. 3rd, the Executive decided to halt productionin printers' wages, \$200 in layout (of 'On Dit'. The edition was almost completely laid out, and over half the pages printed, \$700 had already been spent on the edition, with only about \$150 needed to complete it (more on the economic lunacy of this later). The Executive's decision was ostensibly 'based' on (a) Cost reasons (b) It was 'too late' in the year to distribute 'On Dit' (c) That an article on the SAUA had to be deleted for alleged defamation (although only a fraction of it had been printed).

It is my belief that the reasons given produced by the Students.Association. by the Executive to halt the edition are demonstrably shabby, being little more than an attempt to justify an act of Jackboot cansorship.

The claims by the SAUA President in the Murdoch press ('The News' Nov. 7 '77), that the abandonment of the (Which has only affected payments to AUS) is as misleading as it is ludicrous. surely they could have planned in time to save \$700 of your money on an edition that was scrapped.

This hollow excuse can be seen for what what it is worth in view of the economic facts of the scrapped edition: *over \$700 has already been spent in producing most of the edition - \$150

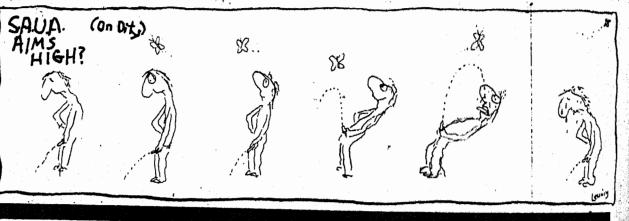
costs, \$350 in paper costs, not to mention my wages, typiste's wages, etc. *only about \$150 was needed to complete the edition.

*\$120 in advertising revenue has been forfeited.

Therefore, at the most, only another \$30 or so was needed to complete the edition; Yet the SAUA stopped the edition to 'cut costs'; false economics indeed

(SAUA President G' Adam has further maintained ['Advertiser 8/11/77] that 'continued production cannot be justified in a cost benefit analysis'. Talk of cost-benefit analysis by a person who has taken 10 years to complete a law degree [let alone an economics] degree] seems to have little foundationto say the least()

I believe that the real motive to suppress the edition is an article (due to be in the suppressed 'On Dit') investigating claims The writs were served over two months by Senator Tony Messner (see Hansard ago! If cost savings were really necessary extract) that there have been attempts



to 'fiddle our funds' (Hansard). After this article was typed and laid out it was submitted to the SAUA President G. Adam (as publisher) for vetting. Also present was SAUA Vice- President (and President of the campus ALP Club) T. Connolly. After some hassles, the article was approved, with only slight amendments. These hassles consisted of a day and a half of negotiations.

Mitorial

Subsequent to this, I believe T. Connolly contacted the State Secretary of the ALP, H.H. O'Neill, at Trades Hall, informing him of the contents of the article. The following morning, after conferring with T. Connolly, G. Adam was in contact with O'Neill and discussed the article. O'Neill, I believe, expressed the opinion that the article was a piece of 'gutter journalism' was defamatory, and should not be published.

The article was then referred to the Union Solicitors, who gave the opinion that it could well be the subject of a defamation action.

The Executive adopted the view that the whole article should be deleted. Incoming and politically neutral 'On Dit' Editor for 1978 John Sandeman asked whether the issue could be raised in a non-defamatory manner. Executive members rejected this as 'impracticable'. In particular, T. Connolly said the article 'should be nipped in the bud', and M. O'Brien (ex-SAUA Vice-President and past President of the ALP Club) stated words to the effect that 'you can't take on the ALP'. (Or is it 'you cant' take on Big Brother?)

Discussion then proceeded to the stopping of the edition, Several other objections were raised:

*according to M. O'Brien the Vice-Chancellor D. R. Stranks was upset at the cover of the edition (his photo with glasses and a mustache added

as reproduced on the cover of this 'Pirate On Dit'). Beleieve it or not, folks, this was a serious point raised by M. O'Brien for not proceeding with the edition.

*Several Union and SAUA officials expressed concern over the tone of the student sackings article.

* T. Connolly found a letter criticising him 'objectionable'. And, to top it all off, a motion to sack me by Executive action was considered at length by the meeting (some people are sore losers, folks!) but was lost 4 to 2. Another aspect integral to the contr-

oversy over Executive control of the Editor is 'Non Dit'. By now, many of you will have seen this publication, produced by the Executive of the SAUA, and 'dedicated' to myself. Flattered though I am that the SAUA Executive has seen fit to immortalise me in a 12 page publication, there are several disturbing aspects of 'Non Dit'. Firstly it should be pointed out that 'Non Dit' cost several hundred student dollars (unlike this publication, or the Pirate Editorial). Was it worth it, in

light of the fact that litigation based on the grounds of defmation is almost certain to commence, which could potentially cost the Union many thousands of student dollars, due to the irresponsibility of some SAUA office-holders.

Another disturbing aspect was that 'Non Dit' just didn't get its' facts right. Two examples were the claims that Peter Andersen and I have not. attended any AUS Regional Conferences since our election (wrong), and that I never spoke at AUS Council (wrong - I successfully moved a policy motion during the AUS media session) COVER: etc., etc.

More importantly. 'Non Dit' raises the issue as to who should be the real Editor of 'On Dit', G' Adam in the 'Non Dit' editorial claimed that an 'On Dit' Editorial is merely a functionary of the SAUA, and that an 'On Dit' publishers powers can go beyond just merely vetting copy for libellous

or illegal material. I strongly disagree with this; such a notion is a relic of past eras when the Editor was not elected by the student mass, but by an SRC governing body, and hence the Editor was directly accountable to that body. Surely, if the 'On Dit' Editor is directly elected and account: able to students e.g. by a sack referendum, then he or she should enjoy greater editorial freedom from the Executive.

With great irony, I repeat what I stated in the Editorial that never went to Press: it is my belief that the freedom of the Press on this campus is an utter and absolute farce; the status quo quo needs change and reform. Needless to say, recent events have borne this out with a vengeance.



CREDITS..

This 'Pirate On Dit'' was produced by members of the 'On Dit' staff. in protest at the arbitrary decision of the SAUA Executive to destroy the last issue for 1977. Edited and published by Nick Xenophou. Sub-Editor is Gordon P. Laverick. Design for the excellent cover and "Year In Review" pages was by Allan Coop. Thanks to J. Glynn

(A) SAUA Vice-President Terry

Connolly.

(B) SAUA President Adam. (C) Secretary of the Union, David David Muir.

(D) Vice-Chancellor Donny Stranks, who sent us lovely Christmas message..

19 October 1977 SENATE 1535

1536 SENATE 19 October 1977

The PRESIDENT-Order! I must point out to you, Senator Georges that painful repercussions can ensue if there is persistent interjecting and I have to call for order consistently. Please cease interjecting.

Senator MESSNER-These issues are of widespread concern to a large number of independent students in the community who do not wish to see their funds used for political purposes. I see from the Australian vesterday that further evidence of this has become available. There has been a mass desertion of AUS by students at the New South Wales Institute of Technology. This has reduced the fees which would otherwise have gone to AUS by some \$7,000. Obviously those students-there are 7,000 of them-are concerned at the way in which AUS is directing the funds which it has forcibly taken from them and used for political purposes. Obviously, these people will do something about their condition.

I return to some of the matters that Senator Baume mentioned. He said that the AUS Travel Service had been mismanaged. I have evidence that it is quite possible and highly probable that the telex, telephone and other office facilities belonging to the AUS Travel Service have been used by the Australian Union of students for its activities, including political activities. I have a letter dated 27 February 1976. I ask honourable senators to note that date. It is three months after the election in 1975. It is signed by Margaret Osman, the office manager of the South Australian Union of Students. It is addressed to the President of the Association. The first paragraph reads:

I wish to bring to the attention of the Executive that, during my absence on annual leave, an account for \$2,128.51 was incurred by people connected with the ALP election campaign.

The second paragraph reads:

Despite repeated attempts on my part to make some satisfactory arrangements regarding the collection of this amount, to date no money has been received.

I am not asserting that that account was not in fact paid. Indeed, I have reason to believe that it probably was paid. The point is that by undertaking that activity the Australian Labor Party was able to avoid sales tax in respect of that printing and satisfactory because the AUS is in fact a sales tax exempt company. One wonders whether there was some positive move to save money through the use of this activity. I make the point that the AUS Travel Service is the body which is in fact incurring these costs. Indeed, it seems to me that unless they are properly. accounted for in respect of the AUS itself and the

charges are raised properly by the AUS Travel Service they would have contributed to the losses that the AUS Travel Service has suffered and that have lead to a great deal of hardship and concern on the part of a great number of people.

There are other matters that I would like to mention in that regard. There is a Telex which I understand was sent on a Telex machine owned by the AUS Travel Service and which was addressed to Mr Phil Jackson, the National Secretary of the AUS. It asks Mr Jackson to send details of publication debit notes-these are numbered—³ for \$70 and \$47 as requested on 11/12/74 quickly as they are needed so that we can fiddle our funds'. The Telex is signed by Rob Bray for Mrs Osman-the same Mrs Osman we spoke of earlier in respect of the AUS office in Adelaide. I believe that these sorts of matters are of a great deal of importance and interest to students, who must require the AUS and the AUS Travel Service thoroughly to investigate them. For that reason I support wholeheartedly the point that Senator Baume has been making that we need a thorough-going investigation of the AUS Travel Service to ascertain the reason why the AUS Travel Service became insolvent, as has been indicated, and why it is going to find it extremely difficult to come back into business as a result of its latest scheme of arrangement.

I believe that the central issue in this whole matter is that the ordinary student must know where the funds that he is contributing to his organisation are going to end up. Under the present arrangements, with the political distributions and the obvious political control of the AUS, there is no guarantee that that can happen. That is a most dangerous situation in which to place any person who is a member of any organisation. I support wholeheartedly those students who are taking action in respect of seeing that their funds are handled by a properly managed association.

Senator McLAREN (South Australia) (10.54)—I take the opportunity of debate on the motion for the first reading of the Oilseed Levy Bill to rise to make some comments. It was quite noticeable when Senator Hall spoke this evening that he was once again launching into his campaign speech and endeavouring to defeat the sitting member for Hawker, Mr Ralph Jacobi, who has served that electorate so well. On every occasion that the proceedings of the Senate are being broadcast in the future before the next election we can expect Senator Hall to take the opportunity to get upon his hobby horse and try to convince the electors of Hawker that he is the man who should represent them. In his speech

After serious allegations in the Senate on Wednesday October 19, and requested details of some "On Dit" investigated the "Hansard" report, which appears on pp. 1535-1536 of the Senate "Hansard". The original article, after a curious sequence of events, was deemed defamatory by the Union's Solicitors, and the edition of "On Dit" in which, it was to appear was scrapped at a meeting of the SAUA Executive on Thursday November 3.

In the Senate, Senator A. J. Messner (Liberal, SA) quoted two documents allegedly originating in the Adelaide University Student Activities Office, and asked whether or not the Australian Labor Party had been making use of SAUA facilities to avoid the payment of Sales Tax on printing.

Senator Messner quoted a letter said to be signed by the SAUA Office Manager, Mrs. Margaret Osman, which was reported as saying, "I wish to bring to the attention of the Executive that, during my absence on annual leave, an account for \$2,128.51 was incurred by people Act, and subsequently fined \$75, connected with the ALP election campaign.

"Despite repeated attempts on my part to make some satisfactory arrangements regarding collection of this amount, to date no money has been received."

Senator Messner also read a telex message, which he said was sent on the Telex machine in the Adelaide University office of AUS Student Travel Pty. Ltd. This message, he said, was addressed to the National

Secretary of AUS, Mr. Phil Jackson, numbered debit notes, "... for \$70 and \$47 as requested on 11/12/74 quickly as they are needed so that we can fiddle our funds,"

Fiddling?

ON DI-INVESTIGATES FUNC

The telex message was signed "Rob Bray for Mrs. Osman", Senator Messner said.

During the 1975 Federal Election, Mr. Rob Bray, the AUS Regional Organiser, was appointed by the SAUA to sell idle machine time for the printing machine used for the SAUA. SAUA officials said that the amounts referred to by Senator Messner were for printing done for Staff and Students for Democratic Government.

In December 1975, a bogus Howto-Vote Card appeared in the electorate of Sturt, purporting to set out the Liberal Movement how-tovote recommendations. This card had printed upon it, " Authorised by J. R. Bray, SAUA. Adelaide Uni ." In 1976, Rob Bray was convicted under Section 121 of the Electoral

A check of SAUA records by officials of the SAUA has shown that accounts for almost exactly these amounts (\$47 and \$70) were received from Telecom. The Vicepresident of the SAUA, Mr. Terry Connolly, said that the amounts referred to by Senator Messner would have been for these accounts. He said that the that time the AUS Regional Officer's office was in the Student Activities Office, and the telephone he used was an extension was undertaken, he said.

of the SAUA telephone, for which AUS was subsequently charged. Student's' Association officials said that nothing sinister could be ascribed to the use of the words "fiddle our funds", since they were commonly used in a locular manner to mean "clear up our books".

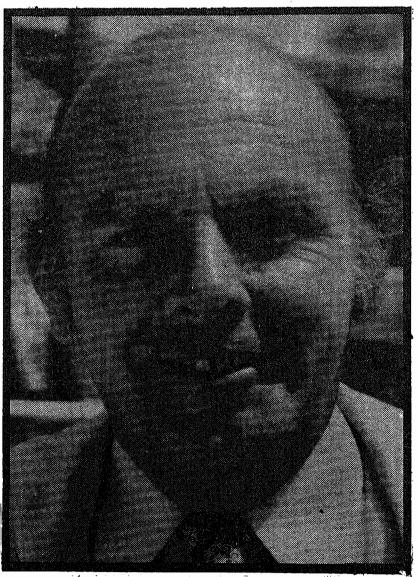
A check of the Students' Association receipt book has shown that there are three receipts, apparantly for portions of the amount referred to by Senator Messner, in respect of the debts allegedly incurred during the 1975 election campaign. One, for \$325, is made to the Australian Labor Party, SA Branch, Hindmarsh Division Campaign Committee, and the other two, for just over \$1400, are made out to the Sturt ALP Campaign.

It has been confirmed that Senator Messner's allegations regarding the non-payment of Sales Tax are substantially correct. However, this is because the printing involved was ordered by a campus group called Staff and Students for Democratic Government, and as a student organisation, they appear to have exemption from Sales Tax.

The Secretary of the Union, Mr. David Muir, said that two years ago, the audit of the Union with respect to the SAUA had been considerably expanded. Prior to this, he said, the extent of the audit with respect to the SAUA was the verification of receipt by the SAUA of disbusements from the Union. Prior to this, no systematic audit of the SAUA

Student Sackings

The Starkest Facts



In the last issue of 'On Dit' it was reported that 10 casual student employees of the Union had been retrenched from the Bistro Bar section of the catering facility, Having attended a meeting of the Catering Management Board, and interviewed most of the people involved, 'Pirate On Dit' is now in a position to fully report to students on the issue (despite the bureaucratic obstructionism of the SAUA Executive).

Over some months, it has become apparant that the labor component of the Bistro Bar tumover has been abnormally - and, to the management, unacceptably - high, peaking last September at 46%. There are three reasons for this, all entirely beyond the control of the retrenched student staff. There is the practise of employing, almost exclusively in the liquor area, 100% student labor, which is policy laid down by the Union Council, which costs approximately 30% more than employing permanent staff. Liquor prices in the Bistro, although marginally higher than in the Main Bar, do not reflect the high labor costs associated with table service. Finally, there has been yearlong failure to achieve budgetted sales targets, partly attributable to a general down turn in the retail liquor industry.

The situation came to a head when the trading figures for September became available. Faced with a potential annual loss of \$10,000 from the Bistro Bar, about 42 hours' work per week was made redundant, and 10 student casuals retrenched, at 24 hours' notice. It was proposed to retain three of those affected, although upon a greatly reduced basis.

At the Union Council meeting of October 14, the management's decision was reaffirmed, but on the basis of concern for the welfare of the affected students, the original 24 hours' notice was amended to three weeks. The Secretary of the Union, Mr. David Muir, subsequently received a letter

from the Liquor and Allied Trades Union. requesting a review of the decision, and particulary that Union principles relating to 'first on last off' be applied to the redundancies.

The sacked students mostly depended upon their casual employment for their livlihoods. They say that the decision, coming only weeks away from the final examinations, put them under great strain. A spokesman for the sacked students said that no inquiry was made into their financial positions prior to the decision.

Management is not entirely to blame for the situation which has developed. The policy of employing 100% student labor in the liquor areas is laid down by the Union Council, and as such is beyond influence by management. The downturn in the retail liquor industry is general throughout the community, averaging about 18% in the area of bar sales. The price structure in the liquor area, however, is solely at the discretion of management.

One thing, however, is abundantly clear. Management have reacted in a precipitate and insensitive manner to a situation that could have been handled sympathy and tact.

Other solutions were available. There could have been intensive promotion of the catering facilities as soon as the problem became apparant; attempts could have been made to period as budget inaccuracies become inupgrade the Bistro generally. At least one campus club refuses to consider the Bistro or the Union catering facilities generally, for its' functions. The menu could have been expanded, items on the menu put on special and promoted, competitions run, or greater use of the facility made during the vacation stand-down period, such as booking it for conventions, etcetera. None of this has been done.

At the Catering Management Board meeting on October 20, Student Representative Monika Antal tried to raise the question of the level of student employment in the catering facility generally, without much SUCCESS.

Miss Antal pointed out that out of over 60 people employed in the food catering area, all casuals, only 4 were students, while Union Council policy clearly states that as many students as are practicable should be employed in this area.

Miss Antal also pointed out that vacancies in the food department were advertised by notices put up inside the working area, and students were thus not made aware of the employment opportunities available.

There is considerable resistance on the part of management to the employment of students. According to management, they are difficult to train, and often inefficient

and unreliable. Even so, more could be employed, and are not, despite Union Council's policy.

There has been no reply to the LATU proposal that the principle of first-on last-off be applied, nor to the request that if more staff are laken on, then the retrenched students be given the first opportunity to get their jobs back. Since the Union has a closed-shop agreement with the LATU, this is inexcusable, and reflects either a profound ignorance of the basic principles of industrial relations, or (more seriously) a possible desire to provke the LATU into some confrontation.

Management has been remiss in not exploring the diverse marketing opportunities available before the layoffs were undertaken. The problem lies largely in poor budgetting and unrealistically low liquor prices in the Bistro Bar, BOTH OF WHICH ARE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. Also, an enlightened approach to industrial relations would acknowledge a management responsibility to employe welfare, not just profits.

Since management first raised the question | GORDON P. LAVERICK. of efficiency, it is both pertinent and fair to examine management efficiency.

Is it efficient to budget unrealistically, and fail to respond throughout the trading creasingly evident?

Is it efficient to fail to respond to market dissatisfaction with the service offered, or even not to be aware of it?

Is it efficient to ignore market opportunities and thus allow expensive paint and equipment to operate at less than optimum capacity?

And what of the management structure itself? Is it necessary to have three managers in the one catering facility? If cost savings must be effected, then let them be effected across the board.

Further, it is rumored that in light of the decision to retrench, the level and quality of table service in the Bistro will decline significantly, or may even be entirely eliminated. The Bistro is neither designed, nor caters for a clientele who wish to queue at a bar for drinks.

If this does happen, and trade falls off even further, then the management decision will stand deservedly condemned...

RECORD



MUSIC SERVICE KNOWLEDGE

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT

223 5478

GRENFELL STREET END OF ADELAIDE ARCADE





McKenzie Speaks Out?

effort to get 2 views to the events which occurre at St. Marks, ON DIT visited St. Marks College and aterviewed the master - the Reverend Malcolm 1.11.

"Interview" however might be too strong a word to lescribe our talk with the master of St. Marks. The everend McKenzle insisted that, for most of the nterview, the ON DIT tape recorder be turned off: he even insisted that notes not be taken when he was aswering a "sensitive" question. Furthermore, when question became too contentious, the Reverend deKenzie refused outright to answer it. This all rather contradicts what the good Reverend told ON DIT at the eginning of the interview, namely that he would ttempt to answer questions "as openly and honestly"

erview was not a complete loss, however, ON DIT did wring out the following points from the good (1) he insisted that the invalidation of the SCR election

constitutionally proper. 2) Ho was "quite alarmed" that the

enior Common Room were contested; Malcolm said that had he known beforehand that Mesars, Fong, Mitchell and Reynolds were going to stand for the SCR ecutive, they would have got the positions uncontested.

he little that Malcolm McKenzle did tell us showed up mistancles. It was common knowledge in the College several weeks before the election that Cliff Fong as goint to stand for President. In fact, Ken Pudney ched Professor Don Nickolas, a close friend and lviser of Reverend McKenzle, to nominate Cliff Fong or President. Professor Nicholas refused outright to inate Fong

ther little inconsistency was McKenzie's high praise or the past SCR President, the Reverend Dunkerley. N DIT left the interview thinking that the Reverence skerley was all an SCR President at St. Marks could hope to bo. However, after further investigation ON DIT learnt of Dunkerley's past performance as SCR lent. One of Dunkerley's most classic efforts was an "open night" at St. Marks, when many



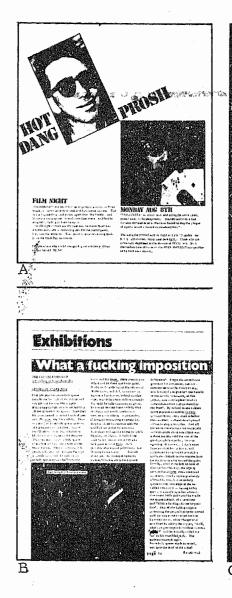
Year In Review

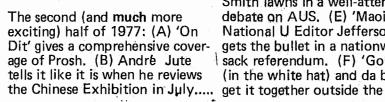
The 'first half' of 1977: (A) In 'On Dit' 3 we broke the story of the St. Marks' College scandal. The Master of St. Marks' College, Rev. McKenzie, has since resigned (but not for that reason, of course). (B) Militant leftist student activist mobilises for AUS did we know that the 'Cleancut in 'On Dit' 5. (C) During the AUS Wide-eyed and Innocent' 'On Dit' Direct Elections debate in May,

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brutally bashed - reprted in a feature in 'On Dit' 6, (D) Also in May, Australia decided not to follow Mal on the 4 referendum questions. (E) During June. Bryan Ferry arrived, and our sleuth reporter Ferdinand Lopez got to interview him for 'Spunk Dit'. (F) The First Issue; little would have its' pages 'corrupted' student leader Michael Danby was with scandal, intrigue and polit-



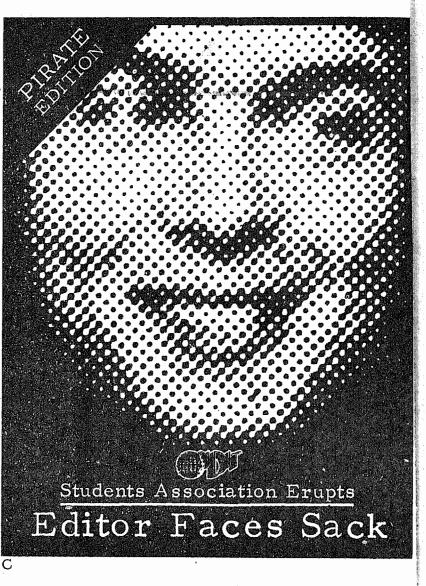




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TR. TO MER MILLERY

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of 'On Dit' by some of the more Student Activities Office...... 'enthusiasic members of the community'. (C) The cover of hundreds of copies are confisca- (H) The SAUA ('sewer') ted. (D) AUS President

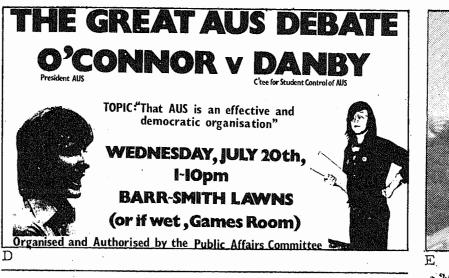
O'Connor and moderate leader Danby battle it out on the Barr- on the way. Smith lawns in a well-attended debate on AUS. (E) 'Maoist' National U Editor Jefferson Lee gets the bullet in a nationwide sack referendum. (F) 'Goldy' (in the white hat) and da boys

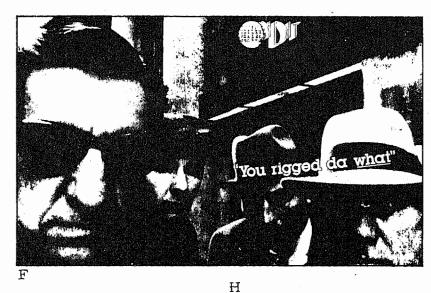
better luck next time, fellas..... (G) AUS Travel crashes, and then the infamous 'Pirate Edition, revives, but questions still remain. /dedicates' a 12-page publication

to yours' truly and staff writs

QUOTES OF THE YEAR

On the Monarchy..... "Queens tend to leave a nasty taste in the mouth."





-Terry Connolly, Vice-President SAUA, President Labor Club, President Republican Society.

On Gays.....

"Have you got anything about us deviants in the next issue?" -Steven MacDonald, AUS Local Secretary, President Gay Society to the 'On Dit' Editor.

On Violence.....

"He deserved more than he got." --Geoff Adam, President, SAUA, on the brutal bashing of student leader Micheal Danby.

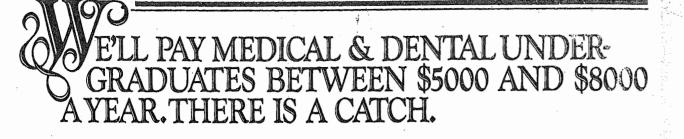


S.A.U.A





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The catch is we expect a lot from you in return. First of all, to join us you must have completed at least the 2nd year of your course. You will'also need to meet our selection criteria.

What happens before you graduate? Once you are accepted you'll get around \$5,000 in the third year of your course, to continue your studies. It increases to about \$8,000 in final year — and full officer's pay from then on. We also give you book and equipment allowances. While you're at university we don't expect you to walk around in uniform — but we do expect you to pass your exams. That's all until you graduate.

How do you pay us back? You will become an officer on a "short service" commission of from two to five years — depending on how long we've been paying you as an undergraduate.

A medical officer is responsible for the medical care of service men and women. You may also expect to practise in specialised areas such as underwater, aviation or preventive medicine.

For a dentist, there is the opportunity to perfect your skills in a wide range of dentistry. You can give your patients the treatment they need without having to worry about the financial cost.

At the end of your commission you'll probably be a lot fitter, you should have some money in the bank, and you'll be a lot more confident about the direction you want to take in your profession.

If you would like to know more about the undergraduate schemes offered by the Navy, Army or Air Force, write to Box XYZ in your state capital city — be sure to tell us which of the three services you would prefer to join. Or you can give us a call at —

Adelaide 223 2891; Brisbane 226 2626; Canberra Navy 66 4697 Army or Air Force 47 6530; Hobart 34 7077; Melbourne 61 3731; Perth 322 4355; Sydney 212 1011 — but do it soon!

Rodent

Fishy?

On what must have been a very slow day for Seattle's Finest, a police department spokesman released this item to the press": It is unlawful to carry a goldfish on public transportation unless that goldfish is lying down".

Dole Bludger?

Actually, she's a philatelist specialising in food stamps. A Madison, Wisconsin, woman told a judge that she spent \$14,000 in six weeks on a car, a stereo, a television, a whirlpool bath, a clock and an assortment of furniture so that she would be poor enough to get back on welfare. She succeeded.

Abortive Issue?

Speekitthu-

That's what they told Liz Ray: The 'qualifications listing for the position of Senior clerk typist with the city of San Francisco advises applicants that "proficiency in English may be basis for disqualification".

Emergency!

Good thing he didn't have heartburn. Plagued by an infected big toe, a World War Two veteran went to a Miami Veteran's Administration hospital and asked to be admitted as an emergency patient but was refused on the grounds that his injury was not serious enough to warrant emergency treatment. Undaunted, the man calmly left the hospital, walked back into the hospital and announced that it was now an emergency. He was admitted.

Well Pitched

An insurance salesman in Raleigh, North Carolina fell 20 feet into a dry well while trying to sell an accident - insurance policy to a farmer. It didn't stop the intrepid salesman's pitch. "This is a good example of why you need this accident policy, "The Salesman yelled up from the bottom of the well. "This could have happened to you."

Martians?

Yes, and it got a five on the Richter Scale! Several readers around the U.S. claim to have heard this rather unusual radio broadcast concerning the mission of the Viking I spacecraft. "Early results of tests conducted by the Viking I landing craft indicate that the Martian soil may contain life-like orgasms".

Sneeky

An unidentified sneak thief entered the University of Olclahoma's Bizzel Memorial Library and, using a razor blade, cut from an encyclopedia an article on ethics.

Poor Track Record?

And now he's holding up the trial because he won't testify: Italy's Government-owned railroad system has filed suit against a dead man. According to the newspaper "II Messagero", the suit charges the deceased Lorenzo Castelli with holding up three trains for periods of up to 29 minutes by "crossing the tracks incautiously and being hit by the train".

Busy Statesmen

Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger have recently been named fathers of illegitimate children in Washington, D.C. There's a rule in the U.S. capital that mothers of illegitimate babies who want to put them up for adoption have to name the fathers. If the mother won't name the father, weeks of bureaucratic redtape slow adoption proceedings. Rumour has it that if you drop a famous name, the adoption judge won't press you for details and will allow the baby to be adopted right away.

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