



VARSITY RAGGE

Vol. I., No. 5.

Thursday, June 28, 1928.

MATTERS OF MOMENT.

1. COLOURS. Correspondence on this pressing question has been allotted special space in this issue. With the consent of both parties, contributions received were submitted to the rival factions for reply until 6 p.m. on Monday, for this is the last issue before the great decision—to be made in the Union Room on **Monday Week!**

2. CONVERSAZIONE. The hour of commencement has been altered to 7.30. As further attraction, there will be the production of a play in the Union Room by the C.U. Concert Party.

3. COUNCIL of the University meets this Friday to consider the proposed alterations to the Constitution of the A.U.S.A.

4. CONSTITUTION of our Union is to be put before students at a general meeting in the Physics Theatre on Tuesday, July 10th, at 1.15. Don't fail to be there.

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LACROSSE.

June 16th: 'Varsity, 5; West Torrens, 5.

Goal-getters: Cook, 4; J. Davis, 1.

June 23rd: North Adelaide, 17; 'Varsity, 3.

Goal-getters: Cook, 2; Muecke, 1.

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BASEBALL.

June 23: Goodwood, 9; 'Varsity, 1.

Unless its members soon manifest some enthusiasm, the B team will pass out of existence.

We congratulate Colin Alexander on being selected for the State team against the Japanese Fleet, and Dwyer, who has been selected as reserve pitcher.

Averages for First Round.

Batting—Alexander, .435; Bayly, .428; Greene, .412.

Fielding—Dwyer, .937; Alexander, .917; Reid, .903.

The call on the sports subs. had its desired effect, and now the A.U.B.C. is 100 per cent. financial.

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RIFLE CLUB.

Inter-'Varsity Shoot.

First Range—Adelaide leads Melbourne by 10 points.

500 yards—Melbourne leads by 2 points.

600 yards—Melbourne leads by 3 points.

700 yards—Adelaide drops to third place.

800 and 900 yards—Adelaide keeps third to Melbourne and Sydney, with Perth fourth.

B. A. Saddler created a record for 300 yards with 49/50.

H. H. Wright and J. Corbin were our representatives in the combined match. They finished fourth and sixth.

Bevan was our top scorer with 272/300.

June 30th is the last day of the shooting year on which members can become efficient. Practice will be at 600 yards. All who can, meet at the station at 1 p.m.

All interested in shooting are wanted at practice, as the Metropolitan District Rifle Union matches start next month, and the British Imperial Universities' Challenge will also be fired this term.

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MEN'S HOCKEY.

A Team.

June 16th: University, 5; Kenwoods, 2.

Goal-hitters: Barbour, 4; Turner, 1.

June 23rd: University, 10; Adelaides, 4.

Goal-hitters: Barbour, 7; Beauchamp, Turner, and Worth.

At the conclusion of the first round the team is fourth on the list, with four wins and four losses.

B Team.

June 16th: Spartans, 12; University, nil.

June 23rd: Ramblers, 3; University, 2.

Inter-'Varsity will be held in Melbourne on August 14th, 15th, and 16th.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following members of the crew who have just received Blues:—

- D. Scott-Young.
- S. J. Douglas.
- J. Hayward.
- C. H. Smith.

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SOCIETY NOTES.

Literary and Debating Society.

Debates on

- 1. The Colours.
- 2. The Union.

This evening in the Union Room.

July 5th, Annual Dinner at the Piccadilly. Tickets 6s., from any member of the committee.

Dental Notes.

First and foremost, we would like to say that, in connection with the proposed change of 'Varsity colours, the Dental Faculty is solid for the retention of the good old black and white.

Dental students will be taking a prominent part in the forthcoming conversazione, and our display will be well worth a visit.

Things are going to happen at the Hospital on July 14th. A dance will be held upstairs in the surgery, to which students and staff will be invited.

Science Students take notice:—

To-morrow there will be a meeting of the association in the Union Room, when Mr. Bosworth will give a paper on "Radiation in Relation to Evolution," and Mr. Gallus a paper on "Germany during the War."

N.B.—On Monday, July 9th, in the Prince of Wales Theatre, at 7.45 p.m., Professor Hicks will deliver an address on "Noxious Gases," illustrated with experiments. Members from other faculties who may be interested are invited to attend.

On Friday, July 20th, the Science Association will hold its Annual Dinner at the Grosvenor. Tickets, 8s. 6d. each. Science men, roll up and help make this function a real success!

The Commerce Students' Association

is holding a debate with the W.E.A. Economics Class some evening next month (yet to be fixed). Let the secretary have your nomination as early as possible (Box N). Trial debates will be held very shortly to select the team, and the committee wants everyone to have a try. The subject is "That piece work is the most satisfactory wage system." Rally up, Commerce!

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ST. MARK'S COLLEGE.

St. Andrew's now has St. Mark's on its visiting list. Since our first attentions were not received with that open-handed generosity and cordiality for which Scots are world-famous (indeed, we were most inhospitably treated), we launched a punitive expedition. Early one morning (just after midnight) four fully-laden motors sped through the empty streets and went by devious back roads to make as undisturbing an approach as possible.

All points of vantage in the building were reached and held, and the men of St. Andrew's were then dragged forth from their beds and introduced to the laws of bodily hygiene practised so diligently at St. Mark's. Meanwhile each bedroom was drastically overhauled and liberally disinfected. The beds were taken outside and thoroughly aired. All unsightly places were decorated.

We trust that St. Andrew's has well and truly learned its lesson, for we were deeply grieved by its glaring misconduct.

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THE CONTROVERSY.

W. M. Morgan Replies.

To the Editor of the "Varsity Ragge."
Dear Sir,

With your permission I should like to criticize the letter from Mr. Mervyn Evans on the proposed change of colours. He seems to be labouring under some misapprehension as to why it has been proposed to adopt azure blue, silver, and gold as the colours of the Sports Association.

In the first place, these colours are the registered colours of the University, and cannot legally be copied by anyone. Secondly, the colours are distinctive. Thirdly, black and white are the colours of other sporting bodies in Adelaide. Fourthly, that black and white may be, and is, worn in the shape of blazers and sweaters by a large number

of people who have nothing whatever to do with the 'Varsity.

His digression on Melbourne's colours raises a debatable point, but it has not the slightest bearing on the matter. Melbourne may choose to appear in top hats and frock coats, but there is no reason why we should follow their august example.

The proposed colours will not in the least resemble those of Sydney, azure blue and royal blue being quite distinct in themselves without considering the remainder. To anyone who has seen the Sydney blazers, and has also seen the recommendations, it is at once evident what a vast difference there is between the two.

Concerning the graduates, they should certainly be considered; but because they have been afflicted with these colours for 30 years, why should they continue to suffer? The spirit of "what was good enough for our fathers is good enough for us" is too prevalent.

It is essential for us to remember that the Association is still a young one, and that it is we who are making, or should be making, its traditions. And the present University colours have been considered unsatisfactory by some members of the Sports Association for at least three years to my knowledge. The present movement then cannot be attributed to any meteoric genius, but is the direct outcome of the University having recently obtained registered colours.

The badge is admittedly a good one. The magpie, always supposing it is recognised as such, may stand for anything South Australian, the lamp for any school or University, and the wreath for any sport. But anyone may copy any one or all of these if he chooses. On the other hand, the new badge is the badge of the Adelaide University, of which the Sports Association is part, and this registered badge cannot legally be copied.

His remarks on the pecuniary aspect of the three blazers are very true and equally unlikely. Firstly, how many freshers buy a blazer in their first year? Very few. Secondly, as he is presumed to have obtained his Blue in his second year, he must normally have played in the Inter-'Varsity in his first year as well. He would, therefore, have to be remarkably quick and very short-sighted to have bought his first blazer, if not his second as well. We may deduce, therefore, that his only excuse for committing this indiscretion of buying "at least three" (more, we presume, if he desires) blazers can be attributed to ignorance, stupidity, or surplus cash.

Looking forward to the future and not back at the past,

I remains, yours sincerely,

W. M. MORGAN.

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Mr. Evans Again.

The Editor, "Ragge."

Dear Sir,—

In Mr. Morgan's letter in this issue of the "Ragge" the outstanding fact is the comparative absence of criticism on the 'Varsity uniform. He devoted a major portion of his time to the adoption of kaleidoscopic blazers—blazers for the ostentatious—without giving due thought to the sporting

uniform, a point I mentioned in my previous letter.

The faith which is being centred in the registered colours is very much misplaced: any two colours may be copied, and although it is proposed to adopt the three colours of the University, only two (azure blue and silver) are being utilized as foundation colours for the Blue and Half-Blue blazers. In these two cases the alterations as far as registration is concerned is not going to improve the position one iota, I believe, with the exception of the pocket one has every right in copying them.

If any colours are to be claimed as distinctive above all others, surely they are the black and white.

After all is said and done, it is not the blazer, but the pocket—the badge—which is the distinguishing mark. To-day the tendency in blazer design is towards simplicity in most important sporting bodies throughout the world. Experience is a good guide—others have been through the mill—others have fought out this problem, and with what result? Simplicity in design! The English XI have given up the striped blazer for one of single foundation colour; the Australian XI and Rugby teams of England likewise. Is there any reason? There are two. Firstly, simplicity in design tends to accentuate the significance of the badge, and, secondly, the multi-coloured stripes are more in keeping with amateur parklands tennis clubs, Gleneig sideshow paraders, or something of that calibre.

Let me now state the two main objections to the substitution of the present badge by that of the University. 1. The Sports Association—strong body though it is—is not representative of the whole of University student life: under 30 per cent. of those enrolled at the 'Varsity are members of this Association. 2. That when the Union comes into being, and standardizes a blazer, it will, by virtue of its compulsory subscription, be representative of the whole of the University student life, and accordingly would be far more entitled to the University crest and colours than the Sports Association.

Re Mr. Morgan's remarks on the pecuniary aspect of these proposed chromatic changes, I consider that the position was clearly defined in my previous letter. If one blazer, with suitable foundation colour and with pocket variation, can successfully be made to fill the breach, then in the contest between variegated arrangements on the one hand, and simplicity of design and colour on the other, the latter would invariably win the day.

MERVYN W. EVANS.

:o:

A "Ringleader" Retaliates.

Dear Sir,—

In the last number of the "Ragge" Mr. M. W. Evans was moved to express his views on the proposed new colours for the A.U.S.A. He evidently spent much time and effort on his letter, for he makes many statements which, on the surface, appear of some import. In this reply I will take his statements in their order and endeavour to show the superficiality of thought and lack of knowledge which characterizes them.

First, there is the appeal to "the ringleaders of the colour movement to get together and devise some means of improving the spirit beneath the present colours." Now, it is generally granted

that stagnation, conservativeness, and opposition to change signify decadence and lack of spirit. Thus Mr. Evans is arguing against himself. This strongly-supported movement towards a change in the colours is clearly a sign of an improved and improving spirit amongst members of the A.U.S.A.

In his next paragraph Mr. Evans is speaking from an incomplete and incorrect knowledge of the facts. Our proposed new colours are azure blue, silver, and gold. In the recommendations, azure blue and silver are the foundation colours of all the uniforms. Thus the colours will be nothing like those of Sydney, and will surely be an improvement on those of Melbourne.

Next, we are asked to "consider the unnecessary work thrown on the shoulders of the Sports Association officials." We all know that Mr. Evans is secretary of the A.U.S.A., but he need have no fears on that account. There are numerous other officials of that body who will cheerfully undertake all this "unnecessary work." (I must apologize for this lapse into "argumentum ad hominem," but the opportunity was too good to be missed.)

Then we are asked to think of the graduates. And in this paragraph, I know from his remarks elsewhere, the author means to include an impassioned appeal to those twin dieties, tradition and sentiment. I would be the last to deery the value of tradition, especially in Australia, where almost every phase of life suffers sadly from lack of it. We must remember, however, that we are the members of a young University, and the A.U.S.A. has been in existence only thirty years. But it will still be in existence a thousand years hence, we hope. And we, after a mere thirty years, are asked already to fetter ourselves by tradition. Why, the A.U.S.A. is still in its infancy! It is we who are making its traditions and sentiment, and we should see that they are worthy ones.

Next we have the matter of the honour crest. The official recommendations merely suggest an alteration or standardization of the present crest. It is left to the committee and members to decide as they wish.

Mr. Evans's final argument is interesting, but quite unconvincing. Can one imagine anybody, when first coming to the 'Varsity, straightway buying a blazer, then another, and finally a third in the course of two years? It provokes alternative replies. Either the person would have more money than sense, and therefore need not be considered; or, he would be so simple as to be classed as sub-normal, and it is beyond our scope to legislate for such people.

B. W. HONE.

:o:

A "Bright" Scheme.

To the Editor of "The Ragge."

Sir,—

Now that certain members of the A.U.S.A. have set a limit of twenty-five years to the retention of the same 'Varsity colours, I feel that this is the right place to express the opinion that they have not gone half far enough, and that five years at the most should be the period of usefulness of any combination of colours. The azure blue with gold and silver stripes (these might be improved with luminous paint) would delight the eyes of the thousands who every Saturday follow our matches,

for the modern conception of sport appears to be the evolution of new and wonderful colour combinations as the players of the two teams flash across the field or form a heap of radiating beauty. Black, of course, mars any such intellectual enjoyment.

With the materialization of the union, too, it is up to all of us to cast aside anything marking us as members of a University, so that it is only right that our present "funereal colours" should go the way of the black gown, the black-and-white hat-band and (quite probably) our characteristic black notebook.

Time limits themselves might be abandoned and each could synthesize his own colour scheme. At all events, whatever we do must have as its glorious aim the stamping out of tradition in the 'Varsity; there is little enough of it left, and it is up to us to get rid of that little, too.

The chief reason for the proposed change is, of course, the appearance of the present blazer. A number of blazing youths finds that their complexions do not show up to sufficient advantage with it, and anyone will tell you that a loud personal appearance is the best recommendation nowadays.

S.D.

:o:

Aesthetic or Athletic?

The Editor, "Varsity Ragge."

Sir,—

Quite a sound reason, it seems to us, for retaining the old colours is that as yet no sound reason for changing them has been put forward.

The idea that we must abandon our old colours because other sporting associations wear the same is faulty, to say the least of it. In the first place, although the colours are the same, the arrangement of them is different; our V of black or white on a white or black ground is a different form to that adopted by bodies with the same colours.

Furthermore, the fact that the colours of other organizations are the same as ours is not sufficient to warrant changing ours. If this similarity is so repugnant, let them, being our juniors, change their colours and let us retain ours.

The plaintive protest as to the offence to aesthetic eyes by the existing colours is very pitiful.

It is sad to think that all our pretty athletes suffer this dreadful clash with their schoolgirl complexions. It is our belief, however, that some of our complexions would clash with anything. The only solution to the aesthetic problem would be to allow each individual to select his own colours and so enable him to appear to best advantage.

Strict instructions, however, would be necessary to a player whose colours clashed with those of another player, and a warning would have to be given to keep a stipulated distance apart and so avoid aesthetic offence to spectators.

Think also of the mental anguish of a composer trying to bring our anthem up to date and evolving

something like this:—

"The azure blue and gold and silver and any other colour or colours that may be added from time to time"—(a long breath here)—"upheld shall proudly be."

And to uphold the burden of the song and of the kaleidoscope at the same time is no mean feat in these or in any other days.

So we repeat, Mr. Editor, that there is no necessity for change, and may we be stricken azure blue and gold and silver and other precious metals if we like the idea of cavorting around in colours suggestive of a hybrid resulting from a very singular mesalliance between a zebra and the Bank of England.

I am, etc.,

S. BROOKE BATEMAN.

:o:

I was very glad to see Mr. Evans's letter against the change of colours advocated by so many well-intentioned gentlemen. It was about time that a protest was made, for too often the efforts of such iconoclasts to overthrow any idol not set up by themselves is unopposed, and their reforms are tamely accepted by the mob, as usual, too spineless to resist.

The new system, in addition to its pecuniary disadvantages, has very little to recommend it from the aesthetic point of view. The agitators complain of the funereal appearance of the black and white, but are mild new bizarre Joseph's-coats more pleasing to the eye than the chaste simplicity of the black and white? The "inch stripes, silver and blue," etc., remind one rather of the posts supporting the barber's verandah, or the camouflaged sides of a battleship.

But the most asinine suggestion is, of course, that of exchanging the present rather satisfactory badge for the University crest, that dyspepsia-producing parody of the Clarendon Press badge we see on our text-books. As for the objection to the magpie's presence as being the emblem of the State rather than that of the University alone, that is merely half-witted. Soon some conscientious objector will protest against the rampant lion on the Scotch College badge (to take a ready example), claiming that it is an emblem of Scotland, and should appear only on the Scottish flag.

I am, etc.,

"OPTIMAS."

:o:

Barb Leaps into the Breach.

Before coming to the 'Varsity in 1923 I remember seeing University teams in action, and being much impressed by the uniforms, and thought how well the white V acted as a factor of distinction.

Perhaps you consider black and white too common. Admittedly there are several clubs whose colours are the same, but since we do not meet teams with the same design of uniform as our own, it should concern us little. There is no other Australian University whose colours are black and white, whereas Sydney has two of our proposed colours.

"BARB."