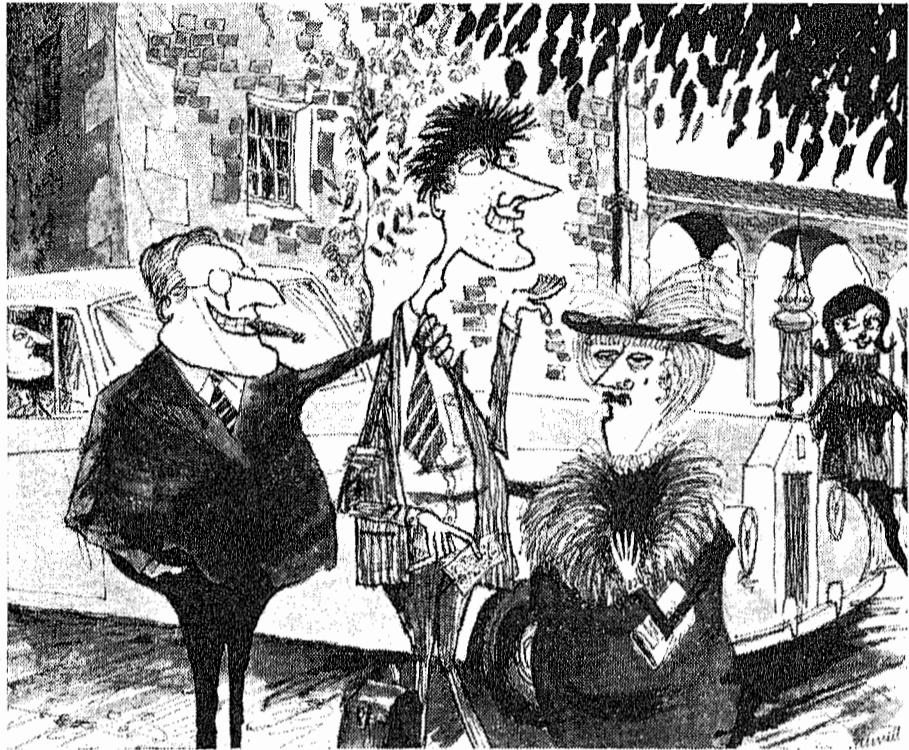


# on dit

## THE STUDENTS PROGRESS



### 1 ADVENT

*Born of poor but dishonest parents. Enters Uni. with blessings and five bob postal note from Gran.*



### 2 RECOGNITION

*Found asleep in law lecture. Invitation to cards in the George Murray.*



### 3 RISE

*Plays 27 roles in Uni. Revue. Mentioned in On Dit. A.L.P. club.*



### 4 SUCCESS

*Elected to S.R.C. committee for impoverished Mongolian students' scheme. Famous for all night sittings.*



### 5 DOWNFALL

*Graduates. Prominent in Bowden Citizens' Advancement League. Votes L.C.L.*



### 6 DEGRADATION

*Adelaide Club and University Council. Christmas card from Tom. Publicly boed by students.*

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of orientation week, The Footlights Club and A.U.D.S. combine under the direction of Wayne Anthony to present the first ever orientation week revue from 1.10 to 1.50 in the Union Hall.

The Adelaide University Masquers' Dramatic Society will present John Osborne's "Look Back in Anger" from Wednesday, 27th to Saturday, 30th March inclusive, in the Union Hall, at 8.00 p.m.

## times

Monday, 2.00 p.m.: S.R.C. official welcome in the Bonython Hall.

Tuesday, 2.00 p.m.: S.R.C. Paddle Boat Derby on the River Torrens. For further information call at S.R.C. office.

Thursday, 2.30 p.m.: Commencement Service in the Bonython Hall.

Friday, 8.00 p.m.: S.R.C. Commencement Ball in all Refectories and Lady Symon Hall with Four Bands, Free Drinks, etc. Tickets £1-0-0 double at S.R.C. office.

## tides

## on dit

On Dit is edited by David Grieve and Lyn Marshall.

On Dit is published by the Students' Representative Council of the University of Adelaide.

On Dit is printed at The Griffin Press.

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, 28th March, closes on Friday, 15th March.

## elections

Students' Representative Council.

Nominations are hereby called for position of Editor(s) for On Dit.

**Nominations close Friday, 29th March**  
J. O. Willoughby, Hon. Sec.

J. O. Willoughby, Hon. Sec.  
General Students' Meeting for purpose of amendment of constitution:

Section: ELECTIONS.  
LADY SYMON HALL

J. O. Willoughby, Hon. Sec.

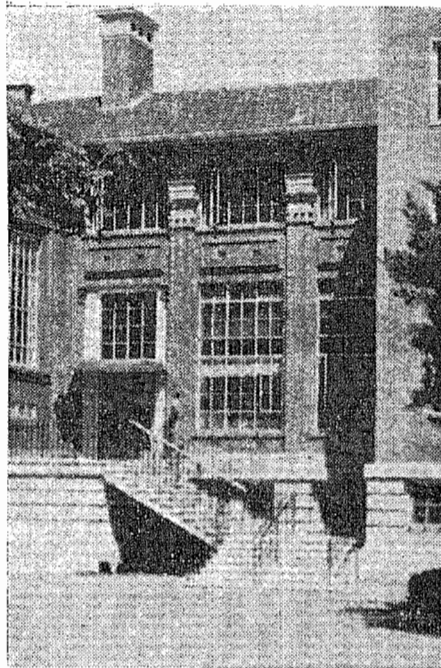
**Monday, 25th March, 1.10 p.m.**

Nominations are hereby called for position of Editor(s) for Adelaide University Magazine.

**Nominations close Friday, 29th March**



The S.R.C. is losing Joan, one of its overworked typists who has helped the battle of bringing On Dit out on time in other years.



## THE BARR-SMITH LIBRARY

The Barr Smith Library is the main University Library, and it caters for various fields of the humanities and the sciences. However, each of the Faculties of Medicine, Law and Music has its branch library, and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute has an independent library. The students in these Faculties may borrow both from their Faculty library and from the Barr Smith Library.

Though not large by the standards of the Library of Congress and the State Library in Moscow with their ten and fifteen million volumes respectively the University Library has about 300,000 volumes of which about 200,000 are in the Barr Smith Library. Like other university libraries it is a fairly complicated organisation and sometimes difficult to use. Give yourself time, therefore, before the full pressure of the academic year is upon you, to become familiar with your library, with its contents and their arrangement, with its services, its facilities and its rules. Take a copy of the summarized Dewey Library classification scheme, a copy of the plan of the Barr Smith Library and of the Library rules from the Reference Desk counter in the Reading Room. Come on Orientation tours which are arranged for freshers and for students of specific subjects. Study the author and subject catalogues to see what information is given about each publication and learn how to find the book you want.

Many classes in the University have so many members that the single copies of books named in reading lists cannot be left to circulate freely but are held in a reserve collection to give all students a chance to read them. To ease the pressure of demand on these copies, the University has, this year, provided funds for a collection of multiple copies of books in Arts and Economics courses. These books are housed on open shelves in the south-western quarter, of the main Reading Room of the Barr Smith Library. The volumes are distinguished by special markings and may not be removed from the Reading Room except overnight and at week-ends when they may be borrowed like other reserved books. Whether or not this scheme can be extended to other courses depends to a large extent on the way the present collection is used.

The Library relies on the goodwill and good sense of the students not to abuse the free access they have to the collection. Unfortunately, a small but growing number of students has abused these privileges. For example, books have disappeared at crucial periods in the work of a class, only to reappear later when they were no longer of use to other students. To try to overcome some of these abuses which have penalised the majority of students who have respected the rules, two new measures are being introduced this year. First, all borrowers are asked to hand the volumes they are borrowing and the completed loan vouchers to the Assistants at the Circulation Desk for checking. Secondly, you will be issued during the first term with Library borrowers' cards showing that, as a bona fide student, you are entitled to use the University library and to borrow from it. To help users who are uncertain about the borrowing procedure full directions are posted both at the Circulation Desk and at the Reserve Desk where you can also ask an assistant to explain any point you are uncertain about.

In your own interests as well as those of other users, it pays to be punctual in returning loans. Fines are a necessary evil imposed solely to keep the book stock available fairly and equally to all students.

There are rules for the enforcement of discipline, but the Library Committee prefers to trust that you yourself, will create in the Library the conditions most favourable for study. It asks you to be considerate—considerate in your treatment of the books, and considerate of the needs of your fellow students.

## GAUDEAMUS

Beloved Fresher, you embark on a new life in this university in a year of golden opportunity, with a golden record of achievement behind the student body to which you now belong, and golden promise in front. To you we say, as President Kennedy did to his nation, and with as much good reason, "We have a lot to be pleased about this Christmas".

Let us examine, best beloved, your general position, in your new category of "students".

Last year you reached the pinnacle, beloved, of political power. Among other activities, you banned the bomb, booted Mr. Eastick, blocked Rundle Street on Prosh Eve and laughed at the gerrymander. You made headlines in both Adelaide papers on Prosh, and actually in the News on another occasion ("Students Boo, Hiss Ridley, M.P."). You exercised your franchise when approached in the refectory by your candidates, and voted by secret ballot for the one looking over your shoulder. Beloved, the resultant S.R.C. handled your money, ran your balls, decided not to congratulate Mr. Meredith because Mississippi was too far away, and in glorious climax, elected more representatives, who went to a Council in Canberra, who elected more representatives, who wrote to "The Advertiser" for you, declaring for you, in your mass of 50,000 voices, and in a far longer sentence than you could ever write, that you condemned the tactics of the R.S.L. Beloved, you spoke for Democracy.

You spoke then as one body; you were led by eloquent speakers, applauding their

eloquence as they dramatically revoked the last argument you had applauded: you were led each time by the same eloquence from the same people. Beloved, the university, like all universities to my knowledge, has its self-appointed and self-perpetuating elite. Like the power of the Kremlin, its membership is by cooption; like the fat of boiled milk, it rises inevitably to the surface. Good dictators and good cream, beloved, are the luxuries of physical and political life, but skim milk and proletarians are the necessities. Beloved, you have always realised the moral; You have never been ashamed to be a skim-milk prole.

Gaudeamus igitur.

Judging from the comments of critics, an Orientation Issue has either to be excused or explained away, and to follow past example a new On Dit under new management has at least to be excused. Both these tasks involve a general credo of the paper, an apologetic both humiliating to the editor, who after all is going to print what he likes anyway, and annoying to the discriminating reader, who must realise this.

It would be better to ignore this distasteful duty, but judging from the comments of critics, a statement is necessary to be taken down in evidence against. The above is a brief summary. Briefer still, here is the conventional: it is your paper and its standard depends on you; it will print what you want, so long, we must add, as you write it. Best beloved, you have always before been promised a paper for the proles, and offered one by the cream; if that is what you want, you will go on getting it.

## VERITAS EX LIBERTATE

## (or How to Write an Editorial)

One heads an editorial with a doubtful Latin phrase, opens with a horrified gasp, dashes forward some half-baked facts, meanders with a gentle illustrative interlude, moralises with a fiery blast from samie, and then retires in hopeful suggestion.

Now the opening statement must sound surprised, hurt and slightly jarring; a warning note of the righteous brimstone that lies ahead. Such as, "If twenty selected students were suddenly inactive in their official posts, then all planned student activity would suddenly cease".

This is usually followed by a biting rhetorical question; "What has happened to the other 7,480 students?" Perhaps an answer; "They are inactive. Are YOU one?" Needless to say YOU are now brought sharply up in your tracks, and are suitably conditioned for a subsequent parable or example (coz., as our Lord found, people are much more impressed by a story, true or false). Thus:

"The story is told of Archimedes and the seventy goats. Archimedes was sitting on a

rock gazing contently at his goats when he became aware that one goat was becoming overheated. Archimedes was hurt by this and said as much to the goat. The goat replied that he saw no virtue in merely being like the other sixty-nine. Archimedes pondered this and eventually addressed the world with,

"It is better to be a goat in need,

Than like the others, a goat indeed."

The moral may now be drawn with deft ironic touch; "Every student must, in some sense, strive to separate himself from the herd, and arrogate to himself the right to attain responsibilities amongst the undergraduate membership." Next, a corrective exercise is hinted at (this is vulgarly known as the plug).

"Do something down at this big, beautiful university. Join a club. Remember the starving Asians. Don't become apathetic. Contribute your WUSfivebob, beanactive-membergetwithit, joinactnow. . ."

Which is a familiar ending.

## REDS, TEACHERS, R.S.L. &amp; STUDENTS

The controversy which has been raging around the efforts of the recently honoured life member of the R.S.L. (Brig. Eastick) to secure the dismissal of several members of the Public Service, received an added impetus in late February when the National Union of Australian University Students passed this motion expressing concern at such an action:—

"That the N.U.A.U.S., in reaffirming its belief that academic freedom and the rights of political association are fundamental to the Australian community, condemns the action of pressure groups which have the effect of prejudicing academic freedom, and while it would condemn the abuse by a teacher of his position to propagate any political policy, has viewed with concern the statements made by the R.S.L. in 1962 which called for the dismissal on the grounds of their alleged political affiliation of certain teachers in the S.A. Education

Department without proof having been adduced that such alleged affiliation was influencing their teaching, and further condemns such statements as irresponsible and designed to undermine the basic freedoms of the Australian individual."

The subsequent correspondence to "The Advertiser" on the publication of this motion accused the N.U.A.U.S. of not representing the views of the students. In particular a letter signed by three leaders of students' organisations made this claim. It was found that two of the signatories were not university students and that the bodies included students other than university students.

The meeting of the 17th S.R.C. on 27th February passed a motion endorsing the N.U.A.U.S. motion and called for a general student meeting to be held early in First term to give students every chance to air any disagreement they might have with the principles expressed in the motion.

## 1962 INTERVARSITY BOAT RACE

HELD AT PENRITH, NEW SOUTH WALES

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Inserted by THE UNIVERSITY OF N.S.W. BOAT CLUB



## STUDENTS IN ACTION 1962

*Snap goes the trap-door, snap, snap, snap, Measured is the drop so his backbone cracks, Cut him down and bury him in Pentridge Prison yard, Egg and bacon breakfast for the execution guard.*

(Tune: "Click Go the Shears"—Student Action Song.)

"How," said the bearded theological student, "can we just sit here doing nothing while a man's going to be hanged?"

On the following morning students of Melbourne University were making preparations which were to help prevent the hanging.

The occasion: the hanging of Robert Peter Tait for the murder of Mrs. Ada Ethel Hall in the Hawthorne vicarage of All Saints' Church of England on Tuesday, 8th August, 1961.

The people: that diffuse collection of University students that go to make the varied ranks of Student Action, a political and humanitarian Phoenix that reappears at intervals to express student opinion on social injustices.

Student Action made its debut during the 1961 Federal Elections as protesting students flocked through the streets with banners and heckled political candidates about the White Australia Policy. The sceptical Melbourne press was finally convinced that it should take this political action seriously instead of treating it as another student rag, and snippets of information about this new movement began to filter through even to the Adelaide papers.

1962 saw Student Action fighting a somewhat different case—capital punishment. The Bolte Government's decision to hang Tait came as a surprise to Victoria, as the gallows had not been used for eleven years in that State, in which time no less than thirty convicted murderers had been reprieved. Moreover, it was difficult to see why Tait so richly deserved hanging more than previously reprieved murderers, for although he may not have been legally insane under the old Act, there was an abundance of evidence of grossly abnormal behaviour resulting in the diagnosis "sexual psychopath."

The announcement was the spark to vigorous action throughout the community. Immediately the churches condemned the decision, closely followed by the press, the University (both the staff and students), and the Labor Opposition. It was not long before a Citizens' Anti-Hanging Committee was formed, at a lunch-time meeting in Melbourne University during the vacation, four hundred students voted to form a Students' Anti-Hanging Committee under the leadership of David Hirt, the bearded theological student.

The Committee decided to collect ten thousand signatures for a petition of protest, distribute leaflets putting the case against capital punishment and hold a number of public meetings. Hirt, in a one-man campaign, had already been handing out roneoed pamphlets at the entrance to Flinders Street Station and was soon joined by other students intent on collecting signatures for the petition. On applying to the Melbourne City Council to set up petition points in the city, students met with solid opposition. The Council offered the excuse that permission could not be granted as this would contravene by-laws concerning the prevention of obstructing footpaths. At the same time Mormons were interviewing people in the street. An application to collect signatures at the showgrounds was also refused by the Royal Agricultural Society. At the same time another organisation was already collecting signatures for a petition concerning the treatment of horses. Despite the opposition by the civic authorities, 7,500 signatures were collected in ten days and the total finally rose to over 14,000.

Mr. Bolte was asked to receive the petition. Six days later there was still no written reply, but a phone call was received from the Premier's Office, "You may leave the petition at the Premier's Office."

The Premier did receive the petition about the horses personally.

The distribution of pamphlets and the petition were probably the most valuable tasks performed by Student Action. We heard little of these activities in Adelaide, perhaps because the collecting of signatures is an undramatic activity. But the demonstration at Melbourne University was news even here. On October 11th 2,000 students booed and jeered the Premier as he arrived at the University to open the new Secondary Teachers College building. Students wore black armbands and a muffled drum was beaten during the opening ceremony. This demonstration evidently had some effect on Mr. Bolte as he cancelled the Cabinet's annual visit to the University a few days later.

The picketing of Parliament House by students and staff from Melbourne and Monash Universities was also a thorn in the Government's side. The leader of the Country Party, Sir Herbert Hyland, was provoked to say, "The performance of these long-haired persons who are parading up and down outside Parliament House in such a stupid fashion carrying lanterns, is belittling to the University and the decent people who are studying there." (Parliamentary Debates, 16th October, 1962). Not unaffected himself, Mr. Bolte said later, "It is easily understood why more than 40% of University students fail in their examinations. I suppose those participating in the parade outside can be called students, although they are not really very studious at the present." (Parliamentary Debates, 17th October, 1962.)

The student protests were effective as a part of the general campaign by the press, the Churches, and the community at large. Tait was not hanged, and this can only be attributed to the weight of public opinion thwarting attempts of the Government to hurry up the hanging before all legal possibilities had been explored. Many Jeremiahs have doubted that the students could ever act decisively and effectively in political and humanitarian matters. Melbourne University seems to have shown that this brand of cynicism is now old-hat. Adelaide students might advantageously re-examine their traditional pessimistic conservatism towards student action on social injustice.

## DEGREES FOR SALE

BY MARIAN QUARTLY

Adelaide University was founded in 1874, by the passing of an Act of Incorporation. This act was prepared by a small and influential pressure group, and pushed through Parliament with the minimum of public interest being shown. And Adelaide University has remained the concern of a few people, attracting very little public interest ever since.

The University has looked upon itself as an elite group, "a corporation of society which devotes itself to a search after knowledge for its own sake", to use Bruce Truscott's definition. There are two aspects of this search for knowledge; a University must both create knowledge, in the sense of original research, and also develop a desire for knowledge in its students. It is as a guardian of disinterested knowledge that the University claims its special position in society.



The only time that university authorities emerge from their academic seclusion and seek the public's attention, pointing out the utility of the University to industry and the professions is when they require a commodity which can only be obtained from the general public—money. They require this commodity more often than they used to. Today the University depends almost entirely on the public funds which it receives in the form of grants from Commonwealth and State Parliaments. The average undergraduate's fees pay for only 10 to 20 per cent. of the total cost of his course to the University, so each student is subsidised by the State at least to the extent of 80 per cent.

It was not always thus. When students were fewer and universities smaller, fees and private donations went much further towards paying for their upkeep. A leisured class could be educated at leisure in the University of the last century. Undergraduates were not exclusively concerned with getting a degree which would enable them to start earning their own living. University staff were not overworked by a press of students, and could devote themselves to a search for new facts and theories. Before 1900 Universities could really be the guardians of disinterested knowledge, and they had no need to look for support amongst the general public.

Today, however, the universities are being forced into an ambiguous position. They are attempting to maintain their academic isolation and their dual cultivation of know-

ledge, but in fact outside pressures are turning these aims into empty phrases. The growth of Australia's population and the spread of secondary education have worked together to fill the Universities to overflowing, overloading both lecture rooms and lecturers. The need for funds has made the universities eager for any kind of support, so that even when lecturers have time for research, the money for it often has strings attached.

Thus the creation of new knowledge is becoming increasingly difficult; the creation of a desire for knowledge is almost impossible. For most students today, financial pressure means that the University is a place to get a degree, and as quickly as possible. The sooner one can start earning a weekly wage, the better. And despite the speeches in Orientation Week, courses are designed almost entirely to this end. Even in the Arts and Science faculties, long upheld as the least "vocational" courses, the bulk of students require, and are getting, a professional training as teachers.

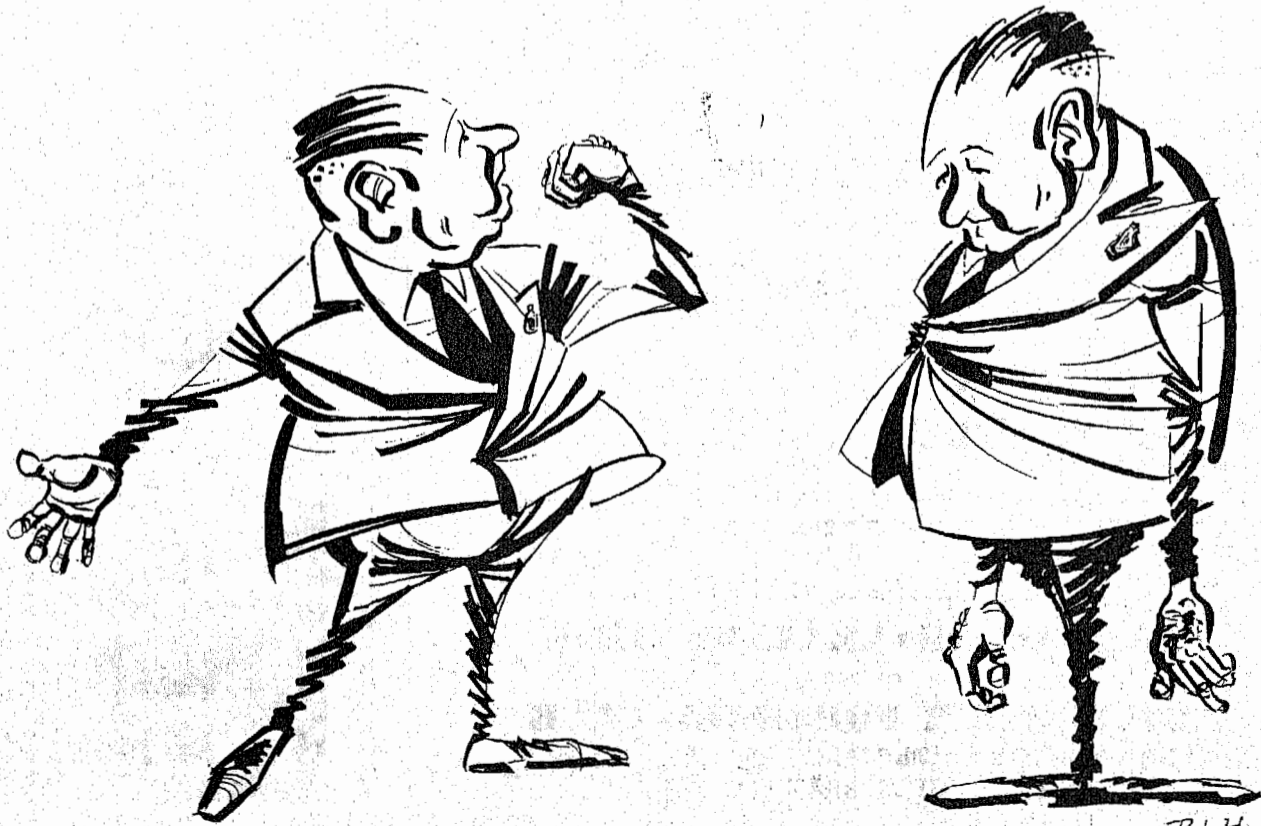
It has to be accepted that for most students the University is a degree-factory and little else. Despite their talk about the value of a complete university education, the authorities in Adelaide have tacitly accepted this state of affairs in their attitude to student welfare and facilities. In the old-style universities, tutors and lecturers had time to become personally acquainted with students, to assist in those facets of University life which have been categorised as "student counselling" and "extra-curricular activity" today. In this University it is left to the Students' Union to provide anything beyond the bare necessities for study, anything more than lecture theatres, tutorial rooms, laboratories, and a library.

So for most students, mass production is the rule. There are a few, however, who get more than a rubber-stamp degree, for whom a university is really a place of knowledge. These are the students who attempt an Honours Degree. Such students receive common-room facilities offering opportunities for both study and intellectual discussion. They have the benefit of close personal association with lecturers and staff. They even undertake some original research in their final year. Altogether, they receive the kind of education which should be available to everyone attending the University.

But the Honours students form a very small proportion of the undergraduate population, and the vast bulk receive no such privileges. Most pass students would get as much from a smaller, cheaper, purely training-type institution as they do at present from the University. One solution to the problem of overcrowding is possibly the formation of such tertiary institutions, whose function would be purely to train for the professions, leaving the University with its primary task of developing knowledge in the abstract. However, one must bear in mind that public finance is channelled into the University with such bread-and-butter tasks in mind, that pass students are effectively supporting the Honours schools. It is hard to imagine Parliament supporting an English Honours School once the pass course, and the Teachers' Training College students, were catered for elsewhere.

In pursuing an ideal, and at the same time compromising with reality and hard financial facts, the University is doing wrong to the great bulk of its students. Yet it is hard to see how, without more governmental support, the pass student's lot can be improved without completely prejudicing the ideal of disinterested knowledge and academic isolation.

### EASTICK IS EASTICK AND NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET



I believe in Democracy . . . but I can't stand Communists . . . or University students.



# letters to the editor

## THE PRICE OF LIBERTY

Dear Sir,  
Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a reply by Mr. C. R. Cameron (M.H.R. for Hindmarsh) to a letter received by him on the subject of Communism, from the State President of the R.S.L., Mr. T. C. Eastick.

As Mr. Cameron states, "... There isn't a daily press in Australia that would impartially publish this letter." But it occurred to me that you may be interested in publishing the letter in your paper. If you do print it, you will be instrumental in allowing another point of view on a topical and vexing question to be discussed by a much wider cross-section of the community than it might have been.

IAN R. MILNE.  
Commonwealth Parliament Offices,  
C.M.L. Building,  
King William Street,  
Adelaide, S.A.  
24th December, 1962.

Mr. T. C. Eastick,  
State President, R.S.L.,  
Angas Street, Adelaide, S.A.

Dear Mr. Eastick,  
I am in receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, concerning the question of communism in Australia and contents of which were previously published in the daily press.

You ask me whether I agree that communism is unwanted in Australia. Why do you ask this when you should already know the answer?

Aren't you aware that I am a Labor Member of the National Parliament? Or do you believe that a pro-communist can secure Australian Labor Party endorsement for Parliamentary honours and be elected into the Parliament of the Commonwealth?

This is a most pertinent question because a lot of people (including R.S.L. members) are beginning to form the opinion that certain Liberal leaders of the R.S.L. are attempting to use communism for diversionary purposes and to bolster the fallen fortunes of the Menzies Government by attempting to smear its opponents as communists.

As I say, I think you know that I am not a pro-communist. At the same time may I also take this opportunity of telling you that I am not a fascist.

Some of the methods you would employ to combat communism were the methods

of Adolph Hitler. Millions died to stamp out such denials of natural justice.

What do you achieve in your fight against communism if you adopt communist or fascist principles? If there is no evidence upon which the Government may act to proscribe the Communist Party under the Crimes Act (and the powers are very wide) then I say that you should respect the democratic voice of the Australian people who, in 1951, rejected a Referendum to do the things you now advocate.

If a person is advocating the overthrow by violence of the elected Government of this country, he can, and should, be dealt with under the Crimes Act. But otherwise, it is not a criminal offence in a democratic country to hold unpopular political views. To make it so would be to take the slippery road to totalitarianism of another kind—and all forms of totalitarianism (whether of the right or the left) are abhorrent.

Everyone — even communists — should have the democratic right to change the Government by constitutional means. Whilst I hope they will never succeed, I shall, nevertheless, fight for the right of even communists to put their point of view to the electorate. It is for the people of Australia to decide what is good for Australia. Neither the R.S.L., the A.L.P. nor the Government of the day has the right to dictate what it considers to be best for this country.

The mere fact that a school teacher or some other public servant holds an unpopular political view is no reason in itself for depriving him of his livelihood, unless it can be shown that he is projecting his political views on to his public duties. That goes for Liberals and for members of the A.L.P.

So far as I am aware, you haven't shown that any communist school teacher has used his position to inject communist philosophy into his teaching. Or, if you have evidence that this has occurred, would you mind telling me of it, so that I may join you in your demand for disciplinary action against the person concerned.

The mere fact that some teacher has suggested that his pupils write to the various Embassies for information on their respective countries is not necessarily a reflection upon the teacher's loyalty. As a matter of fact, I would consider it to be an indication of commendable initiative.

Of course the Soviet Embassy would jump at the chance to disseminate their propaganda! But why doesn't the Government of the U.S. and of the U.K. and of other Western democracies do the same?

And when the West faces up to the task, let them not become guilty of double talk and deception practised by our opponents.

For example, when you use the words "the free world," do you include military dictatorships like Spain, Portugal, Thailand, Pakistan, Korea, South Vietnam and the Argentine? Do you also include the corrupt and despotic oil kingdom of Saudi Arabia? Do you include the evil and totalitarian Sheikdoms of Muscat, Yemen, Kuwait and other Middle East countries? What about Brunei, Sarawak, North Borneo, the Central American States, and many of the African States where the right to vote is unheard of? Are these to be also bracketed with the Western Democracies to form part of the so-called free world?

I hope not. Because if they are, our "free world" propaganda will have a pretty hollow ring. Surely you don't suggest that Australian men and materials should be used to defend military dictatorships and other corrupt forms of Government. Or do you subscribe to the view that dictatorships are acceptable so long as they are not communist dictatorships?



BRIGADIER T. C. EASTICK

It doesn't surprise me that the people in communist countries become victims of

brainwashing propaganda when I hear people in Australia unblushingly use the term "free enterprise" to describe what in reality is the very antithesis of the term. Also, the term "freedom of the press" has grown to mean freedom to suppress, because although wide publicity has been given to your case, there isn't a daily press in Australia that would impartially publish this letter. There are also some who would say that Playford's gerrymandered electorates give South Australians a "democratic" right to change the Government. See what I mean?

Your pamphlet is merely engaging in D.L.P. McCarthyism against the hundreds of thousands of decent loyal trade unionists when it suggests that a whole union is "communist-controlled" just because one or two of its officials are communists. The pamphlet then aggravates the offence by the utterly reckless suggestion that the Communist Party is likely to gain "a dominating influence over the entire trade union movement in the next four or five years." This is nothing but Goebbelsism run riot. Your case is not helped by extravagant assertions of this kind. It is a slur on the intellect and integrity of other officials and of the rank and file who constitute the membership of the Australian trade union movement. It would be just as logical to say that the R.S.L. is controlled by the L.C.L. just because most of its leaders are anti-labor. You don't help your case by making extravagant assertions like this.

We live in a rapidly changing world in which ideas become more potent than bullets. The days of gun-boat diplomacy are over. The contending parties are now using ideological warfare to win the battle for the minds of men.

We will not win this new conflict unless we first of all discover what it is that causes men to turn to communism. And when we have found the answer, we must remedy the cause regardless of any consequential loss that may be suffered by those who now enjoy a privileged position in society.

Men don't willingly adopt the philosophy of communism.

Thirty-six per cent. of the Italian electors recently voted for communist candidates. Why did they do it? Why did Italy—the cradle of Christianity—reject the status quo and reject the plea of their Church? They did it because the people of Italy had grown tired of being homeless, destitute, illiterate and unemployed. They wanted the right to work and the right to properly feed, clothe and educate their children. They were tired of enduring poverty in the midst of plenty. They were tired of seeing fabulous wealth on the one hand and misery, disease and hunger on the other.

cont next page

# UNDERGRADUATES

Join the  
**ADELAIDE  
UNIVERSITY  
SQUADRON**  
and gain a

# COMMISSION

## IN THE RAAF RESERVE

VACATION EMPLOYMENT WITH ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, CLOTHING PROVIDED • TRAINING DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH UNIVERSITY STUDIES • FREE ISSUE OF UNIFORMS • TRAINING AT RAAF BASES

The Adelaide University Squadron, a Citizen Air Force Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force, trains students attending the University and The South Australian Institute of Technology to Commission standard for the R.A.A.F. Reserve. Admission to the Squadron is subject to medical fitness and interview by a selection committee. Successful applicants then serve with the Squadron as Cadets for two years. During each year Cadets complete 28 days' training, 14 days of which are taken up by continuous training, usually at an interstate base during the May or August Vacation. The remaining 14 days are made up by Home Training Parades (6.30 p.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday evenings) and a five-day bivouac during December. Pay is at the rate of £1 14s. 5d. per day plus fare and meal allowances. Successful graduates are granted a Provisional Commission and placed on the General Reserve of Officers. On the attainment of a degree or diploma the Commission is confirmed.

Application forms may be obtained from Squadron Headquarters, 156 Barton Terrace, North Adelaide. (Telephone Number: 69282)

or from the S.R.C. Office.  
APPLICATIONS FOR 1963  
ENTRY, CLOSE ON 5th  
APRIL



Participation as an Active Reservist or enlistment in the Permanent Air Force is encouraged. Squadron timetables and training commitments are arranged to eliminate interference with the University Course. Preference will be given to applicants from the second year courses (particularly in the Medical faculty).

An "At Home" Evening will be held at 156 Barton Terrace, North Adelaide, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 2nd April. A Film will be screened and all male students are cordially invited to attend. A series of films will be screened in the Lady Symon Hall at 1.15 p.m. on the 25th March, at noon on the 28th March and 7.30 p.m. on the 25th and 27th March, 1963. The Squadron would be delighted to welcome all persons who care to attend.

They wanted a change. Monopoly capitalism wouldn't give them a new deal, so in spirit of desperation—sheer desperation—they turned to communism.

What else could they do? They could have supported the Social Democrats, I suppose; but they chose instead to give communism a chance to remedy their injustices. "We can't be any worse off," they said, and so a great Christian country started its democratic march to communism.

Only the new prosperity that has come to Italy from the European Common Market saved Italy from the avalanche.

The same is true of other countries that have adopted communism. Russia, itself, would never have become the centre of world communism but for the corrupt, greedy and selfish reign of the Czars.

China's 600 million illiterate coolies would never have adopted the philosophy of communism but for the wickedly corrupt Government of Chiang Kai-shek. These people had never heard of Karl Marx, much less read "Das Kapital." They didn't understand the theory of surplus value or the principles of dialectic materialism. They simply accepted communism as a possible alternative to the degradation, poverty and disease which was their inevitable lot under capitalism.

Cuba is yet another example of how Christians will turn to communism when there appears no other alternative to hunger, illiteracy and disease. Even Castro, himself, was forced into the communist camp by the greedy American companies which persuaded the United States Government to foolishly impose an economic boycott against Cuba. Their purpose was to force Castro to make enormous compensation payments for their Cuban assets that had been nationalised.

Not only did they fail to achieve their objective, but they gave the Soviet a tailor-made situation for exploitation.

I could go on and on.

But when are we going to learn that you simply can't beat communism by banning and driving it underground. The Czar of Russia was the first to prove that point. When the Emperors of Imperial Rome banned and burnt the early Christians, they didn't destroy Christianity. The Christians simply went underground into the catacombs and from their persecution and belief in their own ideas, grew the greatest religion the world has ever seen.

I agree with the opening passage of your pamphlet on communism in Australia. It reads—"The greatest of all dangers in communism lies in the faults of its opponents."

Your fault is that you think that you can fight communism and at the same time hang on to the status quo. The status quo, even in Australia, is not good enough for the thousands of pensioners trying to exist on a miserable £5/5/- a week. It's not good enough for the three million wage and salary earners who are trying to make Court-controlled wages keep up with the uncontrolled prices and profits of Australia's wealthy monopolies. Neither is it good enough for the 250,000 ex-servicemen and their dependents who are crying out for repatriation justice. The status quo is not good enough for the thousands of people who are homeless in this country. And last, but not least, the status quo is not good enough for the 100,000 Australians who are refused the right to work in this country.

And yet there are R.S.L. leaders who will defame everyone who wants to change the status quo. They pretend that democratic socialism is, in essence, the same as communism. These are the men we must



CLYDE CAMERON

watch; for they seek to hold back a decent alternative to communism. They are either mad, bad, or just simply ignorant.

I repeat that we are now fighting for the minds of men. We can only beat bad ideas with better ideas.

As I said earlier, there is a better idea than communism. It is the democratic socialism preached by the Australian Labor Party.

It is an idea that will not only correct the injustices of monopoly capitalism, but will preserve and greatly extend the rights of the individual. It will guarantee all of the material advantages that communism offers, and at the same time, completely and at all times respect and preserve the principles of natural justice. It is, in fact, the only permanent solution to the problem of communism.

Your proposition for combating communism does neither of these things. You reject such fundamental principles of demo-

cracy as the right to hold minority views. You would even deny to Australian born citizens the right to travel abroad.

Your proposal would ultimately lead to "thought control" and place every public servant in a mental straight-jacket made to the order of the ruling clique.

You say nothing about social or economic injustice. You appear to be quite unable to distinguish between cause and effect. For example, you utter not one single word against the evils of monopoly capitalism or against the Liberal Party which props it up. In fact, you defend the status quo. The rulers of Russia, China and Cuba tried to do that. They failed as you will fail. The old order is finished.

Since you have presumed to ask my views on certain political questions, may I now ask yours?

Do you believe that monopoly capitalism is wanted in Australia? Do you believe that every means should be invoked to eradicate its evil influence? Do you believe that it is feasible that a person who supports a system that causes people to turn to communism can be at the same time a loyal Australian?

Finally, it seems that some leaders of the R.S.L. are more interested in playing politics and in carrying on their McCarthy-like smear campaign than in fulfilling the real objectives of the R.S.L.

For example, can you give me the date of the last letter you wrote to the members of the Parliament on the Menzies' Government's failure to observe the spirit of Section 47 of the Repatriation Act which requires that the onus-of-proof shall in all cases be discharged by the Commonwealth?

When have you, for example, ever bothered to write to me on the question of placing ex-servicemen suffering from cancer in the same category as those suffering from T.B.? I have been advocating the change for years without ever receiving any word of encouragement or support from you or your league.

Do you feel satisfied with what the Menzies Government is doing for ex-servicemen generally, and if not, what do you intend to do about organising a national campaign for a better deal for ex-servicemen and their widows and dependents?

By now you will have gathered that I am not only opposed to communism but to the status quo (monopoly capitalism) which you seem so bent on preserving.

You ask for my advice as to the best way of combating communism and I hope that you will not resent it.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd.) CLYDE CAMERON,  
(M.H.R. FOR HINDMARSH).

## WORRIED

The Editors,  
"On Dit"

I am worried about the effects of the letter written by John Slee and Gordon Bilney and published in "The Advertiser" for Monday, 25th February. It was a reply to the comments of Mr. J. H. Thyer on the N.U.A.U.S. resolution concerning the R.S.L. anti-communist campaign and was couched, I think, in rather unfortunate language.

The comments of supporters of the R.S.L. on criticism of the anti-communist campaign are often uncharitable and emotional, but this does not mean that they must be answered in kind. The strongest possible protest must be made but it must be made in reasonable terms. Given the emotional commitment of professional anti-communists it is useless to call them idiots publicly. Their views are sometimes outrageous but an outraged reply will only add fuel to the fire.

Thus I regret that Messrs. Slee and Bilney used phrases like 'we read with concern and growing amazement', 'a campaign of distortion which it is hard to think was not deliberate' and 'we find his arguments specious, and not surprisingly, we find his conclusions false'. These are unnecessary frills which add nothing to their case and which tend to annoy even some people who dislike the R.S.L.'s activities. People who have not thought much about the case and who incline to view that since Communism is bad, every Communist should be crushed, are more likely to appreciate Mr. Thyer's extremist language than that of Messrs. Slee and Bilney. To get it across to readers of a daily newspaper that people should not only be allowed to hold unpopular political views but that these views should be allowed to include the advocacy of revolution it is insufficient to talk about first essentials of democracy as if they were already understood. People just don't know what democracy entails. It must be carefully explained, not airily referred to.

The case against the R.S.L. is a good one, but it must be ably and moderately presented. Facts about the prosperity of the Communist Party during its period of illegality in World War II and about the pre-requisites for successful revolution are likely to be of more use than slugging it out insult for insult with R.S.L. supporters. It is probably a good thing that N.U.A.U.S. has declared itself on the matter but it will not be a good thing for its spokesmen to go in no holds barred. Democracy is supposed to be concerned with rational discussion and this has nothing to do with slick phrases and unnecessary verbiage.

I hope that Messrs. Slee and Bilney will accept this criticism or at least give it serious consideration. What may pass for argument in a smoke filled room at the University does not always look so good at a suburban breakfast table, particularly if the breakfast has any of the prejudices usually associated with the general public.

Yours faithfully,  
R. F. I. Smith.

# THE FRESHER AND THE S.R.C.

by Bob Harries

I have written this comment as a detached observer in the hope that it is printed instead of S.R.C. inspired propaganda: after all this paper is edited and financed, at great cost incidentally, by this body. I was, let me add, a rather dubious S.R.C. member for two meetings following a by-election last year and found myself an interested on-looker rather than an active contributor on these occasions. My other direct association with the S.R.C. was a little more enjoyable — I attended about half-a-dozen free luncheons (S.R.C. members see fit to use student funds to shout themselves to one each time there's a guest speaker).

Let's start with the high standing title — Students' Representative Council. Sure it's a "Council"! That's a polite description of a group which meets. Our Council carries on its affairs in the impressive surroundings of the Lady Symon Library where large expanses of oak, mildewed books and busts mock the futility of some of its procedures and debates. It's representative in the sense that students may vote for its candidates, although the means by which votes are solicited and the percentage of students actually voting hardly justify the title. But you've the right to vote and if you don't the S.R.C. will still act on your behalf. That's democracy. But don't be mistaken — the S.R.C. wants, and would benefit from, your support. If the view of the student body as a whole is required the great S.R.C. will be approached; if the press requires a student spokesman, then it will contact the S.R.C. President. Whether you like it or not the President is accepted as the leader of the students. Whether or not, however, the past Presidents had sufficient leadership qualities is very debatable. They have been elected simply because no-one else had sufficient time (the President must sacrifice his academic aspirations, if he has any, for the year) or respect for the organisation.

Whatever faults the S.R.C. may have in operation it is a necessary body. After all it is a recognised means of communication

between students and university authorities. If any student has a "winge" about varsity procedures, facilities or rules the S.R.C. should be consulted. Of course it too often isn't. Who is going to coordinate the various clubs and societies? But they don't need coordination you might say. Not half! Besides what about the allocation of Union funds between them? Those funds which you are compelled to pay at the beginning of the year and which are redistributed through the clubs towards the more active of the students; who's going to assess the relative desirability of application for funds from say the Labor and Liberal Clubs? The decision is subjective admittedly (the newly formed Labor Club was instigated by S.R.C. members and its office bearers are also S.R.C. members) but someone must make it. So much depends on the speaking ability and popularity of the clubs' representatives, but isn't this inevitable?

The students who compose the S.R.C. have been variously labelled — status-seekers, loud-mouths and egotists — and most of them are applicable. Clearly the student who is attracted to membership on this body has some personal motive besides the welfare of the students. Perhaps I'm misjudging human nature but I can't see anyone meeting till the early hours of the morning engaged in often repetitious and inane debate without seeing some other benefit which may be reaped. Many such as lawyers and politicians both of which are well represented use their stay on the S.R.C. as useful experience for their chosen professions. Most, if not all, see some benefit that will accrue to them be it in speaking ability, confidence, or simply in credentials, and most, but not all, will benefit.

The S.R.C. is a student body which does look after your welfare. It is not exactly a powerful body and is subject to limitations many of which originate from the usual uncertainties and imperfections of democratic devices. It deserves your support, dear Fresher, and will be better for it.



We publish this photo to give you the chance of comparing an old style On Dit with ours. Note the poor centre spread.

## TARGET

sport

## FOR '63

Rifle Club members have recently completed extensive alterations to their clubhouse at the Dean Range. It is now time for them to concentrate their efforts on increasing the membership of the club. The rifle team has a good top half and enough competent coaches, but the new clubhouse must be filled with keen new members to lift the overall team standard. Some recent individual performances have been outstanding but there are not enough shooters of this ability. University's Peter Nelson was awarded the trophy for the most outstanding shooter of the day in a State-wide prize meeting conducted at the Dean Range recently. He beat top State team shooter Frank Bradshaw in a tough shoot-off at 700 yards with 25/25 after both had scored an eight-shot possible with a two-bull carry-on. Peter also won the "B" grade aggregate over 500, 600 and 700 yards.

Individual performances in these prize meetings are important in building up a shooter's confidence in himself and his equipment under match conditions, but they are not the most important function of our club. Team shooting is by far the most important. Intersarsity is the most outstanding of all the team matches, and this year the match will be held at Sydney with teams from the Universities of Western Australia, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, New South Wales, New England and Brisbane competing. An all-Australian team will be chosen after the Intersarsity match to shoot against a touring New Zealand team. The Imperial trophy is contested between teams from Universities throughout the Commonwealth,

whereas the Albert trophy is limited to teams from Universities within Australia and New Zealand. These are postal matches which are shot on one's home range at fixed distances using standard targets.

Since Intersarsity is only a couple of months away we must commence building up our team so that the individuals will have confidence in themselves and in each other. The team members must be able to shoot the Intersarsity match knowing that the team as a whole has the ability, the experience and the physical fitness to win the Venor Nathan Shield.

For anyone who is new to rifle shooting and is interested in joining the club here are a few details. The club shoots every Saturday afternoon at the Dean Range, Port Adelaide. We use the .303 S.M.L.E. No. 3 or Mk. 4 rifles, which are very similar to the once standard army rifle. Aperture sights are fitted and minor alterations made to improve the accuracy. Most of our shooting is "application," i.e., firing in the prone position at a motionless target at ranges varying from 300 to 1,000 yards. New shooters do not require their own equipment, and club members are willing to arrange transport to the Dean Range if interested people would contact Bill Field (46-3776). New shooters may feel confident of close attention by experienced coaches, who will also be able to advise them on rifles and other equipment.

The A.G.M. will be held on 19th March at 7.45 p.m. in the George Murray Library. Freshers will be made very welcome, and this will be an excellent opportunity for them to meet the members of the club.

# FROM THE SUBLIME . . .

Church union is in season again.

Hard on the heels of speculation about the Vatican Council comes news from England of proposals for uniting the Anglican and Methodist denominations.

This month sees the publication of proposals for uniting the Methodists of Australia with the Presbyterians and Congregationalists. (The Methodist dilemma, apparently, is that of the offspring of the honeysuckle and the bindweed in the famous little ditty by Flanders and Swann — left, right, which way to grow?)

After the centuries of exclusiveness the denominations are at last, in their relations with one another, taking note of the contents of the message they preach to the world. Ironically, the world has made them do it. The old squabbles sound hollow now that the churches are neither strong nor secure.

But the absence yet of any real sense of urgency is intriguing. The mood seems to be that a few years here or there don't really matter. The English proposals, for instance, talk of a 20-year process. In those 20 years the world situation will change at a frantic pace. Nuclear war might even put an end to the whole business. Are the churches counting on all eternity (in one place or another) in which to straighten things out?

The problems involved in church union are, of course, complex. They resemble on a religious plane the issues which bedevil Common Market talks, or a debate in the United Nations. Silly to the outsider, but important to the protagonists.

Nevertheless in times of emergency it is remarkable how ranks can be closed. One remembers those dear, dear allies of Britain in the early 'forties — Gen. de Gaulle and Uncle Joe Stalin.

One might have imagined that the churches would realise their primary common cause in a critical period. For they face a world largely hostile or indifferent, and there is little time for procrastination in time of war. But the churches, with a delightful absence of urgency, rest in peace.

# . . . TO THE RIDICULOUS

Second only to the N.U.A.U.S.-R.S.L. controversy in the morning paper recently has come the question of ladies' toilets in the city. May we add our suggestions?

1. Let's have some really lovely ones in the Parklands. There is so much space there just going to waste, and foresight is needed for when Parkland parking comes. Perhaps they could be disguised as oriental pagodas or early American log cabins, to match the Swiss Chalet restaurant. Most of our conveniences look too much like lavatories at present.
2. Why not import some of those gay, low-cut toilets the French have, and put them down the median strip? We don't make nearly enough use of our lovely median strip, and it could be a first rate tourist attraction. Perhaps our own lovely Miss Australia, or some other well-loved local personality like Brigadier Eastick could be asked to open them.
3. What about the M.T.T. installing toilets on what are now the platforms of their buses? The public might then use the buses more, and this would certainly ease congestion in the city.

Whatever we do, let's do it soon, because holding it back too long could prove fatal.

# DUB ME IN

Now is the time when, far removed from the frivolities and diversions of examinations, we must learn, we must probe, we must discover. In the spring the young man's fancy may lightly turn, but in the late summer no such levity may infringe upon our serious intent. It is a time when the University sees fit to dig up the roads, when the N.U.A.U.S. makes resolutions and when serious devotees of the famous Torrens-bank spectator sport, observe and compare notes. It is a time when "old hands" (that is second-year undergraduates) discover that there's really nothing wrong with freshmen, provided that they are female, and the refectories do not in fact belong to university students, but to Teachers' College.

In such an atmosphere of fervent academic endeavour your correspondent has not been idle nor complacent. After half a decade of such annual pursuit of knowledge it may have seemed that nothing remained to be learned of, say, the workings of the Union, but this has proved not to be the case. Your correspondent had gone through life so far believing that the only lavatory facilities provided for the thousand or more male students using the Union buildings and the Barr Smith Library were:—

- 3 urinals,
- 1 wash (i.e., lavatory) basin,
- 5 triple-acting double syphonic water-closet sanitary pans.

The whole of this equipment is of rather archaic design, laid out according to the

now obsolete Hobson or maximum inconvenience arrangement (which, briefly put, means that one almost has to wade through the urinals to wash one's hands) and buried with consummate skill in a virtually inaccessible corner of the dungeons under the George Murray Lounge. I had long been puzzled by this rather strange combination of fittings and greatly perturbed by their inadequacy by the confusion which developed every lunch time. For the cathartic effect of a thousand freshmen is not to be denied, and it is a well-known fact that the only similarity between Refectory coffee and the stuff that comes from those little brown beans, lies in the powerful diuretic effect.

But recently a new mystery has been unfolded to me. Lurking in the aforementioned dungeon, hidden behind crimson-painted doors sinisterly marked "Weight-Lifting Club" (what fascinating connotations!) lies in a haven of relief whose existence is such a well-kept secret as to be known to only a select handful; a veritable palace of gleaming stainless steel and chromium where rank on serried rank of urinals stretch as far as the eye can see. What a blessed relief! and how sensible of the Union to keep its existence a secret!

Your naive correspondence had always imagined that those little boxes, which expel a blast of hot air at the touch of a button, were placed in the lavatories as a source of inspiration to members of the S.R.C. and to would-be politicians and diplomats. But not so. One day recently, while washing my hands, in a blinding flash of inspiration, TRUTH came to me. Looking back, I find it incredible that I should not have discovered the truth before, and can only explain that never before had I given truth a chance, being in too much of a hurry. Which brings me to today's platitude:



"Never hurry anything, for the most amazing truths may present themselves during a leisurely performance of the most simple and fundamental tasks."

But I digress from the hot air machines. The whole process is extremely logical. Having waited in the queue for the solitary lavatory basin, one eventually washes one's hands. One looks for a towel; there are, of course, no towels. One wipes one's hands on one's handkerchief. It is now sopping wet. But wait; don't put it back in your pocket. I mean there's nothing quite so dreadful as wiping your nose on a clammy handkerchief, or trying to mop up coffee with a handkerchief that won't mop. The solution to the problem lies before one; the true purpose of the little hot air box is explained. Press the button and dry your handkerchief. Ain't science wonderful?

But what I hear you cry (heedless of Mummy's reminder) if one hasn't a handkerchief, or if one uses Kleenex (don't put a cold in your pocket, throw it on the floor)? Then one's shirt tail will suffice admirably. No shirt? Then underpants, perhaps. Well you must be wearing something.

Thus you see, my friends, how an ordinary day, in an ordinary act, can be transformed in a flash, into a moment of truth.

# N.U.A.U.S. AGAIN

The last S.R.C. meeting was held on the 27th of February. The minutes are not yet available but the following is as accurate a reconstruction as can be given from memory.

The main item of discussion — what attitude the S.R.C. should take to the conflict between the R.S.L. and N.U.A.U.S. — was not on the agenda. However, it was explained at the very beginning of the meeting that this important matter had blown up in the last few days and urgently required attention. Standing orders were suspended, and the N.U.A.U.S. resolution concerning the R.S.L. (printed elsewhere in this paper) was considered before the normal introductory business of the meeting. This was deemed necessary, as many members felt that the results of the S.R.C.'s deliberations should be released to the Press the same evening.

The first motion before the chair was to the effect that the Adelaide S.R.C. should endorse the N.U.A.U.S. resolution. This was rapidly followed by a foreshadowed motion, to the effect that instead of endorsing it the S.R.C. should call a general student meeting to discover what opinion Adelaide University students had of the matter and to give them

an opportunity of expressing it. Motion 1 was passed by 14 votes to six. The six dissentient voices were those of Mesdames Dibden and L. Marshall and Messrs. Hume, Rowell, Detmold and Gibson. With the passing of motion 1 the foreshadowed motion lapsed.

After supper the matter of the N.U.A.U.S. resolution again reared its head. It was moved Gibson, seconded Detmold, "That the endorsement by this S.R.C. of the N.U.A.U.S. resolution concerning the R.S.L. be submitted to a general student meeting for ratification." Mr. Bilney suggested that the motion should be changed to read: "That the N.U.A.U.S. resolution concerning the R.S.L. be considered by a general student meeting." The President remarked that this did not alter the sense of the motion, and the mover and seconder were amenable to the amendment. (The mover for one has been kicking himself ever since as the rephrased motion has lost all its original sting.) The motion was passed by quite a handsome majority and the general student meeting will be held on Monday, March 25th.

There are several points to be noticed in connection with these proceedings. Firstly, the extraordinary muddle-headedness of the S.R.C. For this council members are not wholly to blame. The matter was sprung on them almost before they had settled into their seats, on the grounds that it had to be dealt with quickly so that an account of the proceedings could appear in the following morning's "Advertiser" (which it never did). Consequently most members had devoted very little thought to the matter, if they had bothered to think about it at all. The last motion was held back till after supper so that members might consider their ways and be wise, but even so it was impossible for a matter with so many implications to be considered sanely at such short notice. It is a lesson to the S.R.C. not to suspend Standing Orders so in future.

If you consider the sequence of the three relevant motions the muddle-headedness referred to above will become evident. Motion 1 and the last motion are, if not contradictory, at least incompatible.

Let me make it clear at this point that although the last motion has been deprived of its sting by Mr. Bilney's eloquence, it is still clear that the general student meeting will consider whether the S.R.C., in endorsing the N.U.A.U.S. resolution, was giving accurate expression to student opinion in general. In short, it will consider whether the general student body wishes to endorse the N.U.A.U.S. resolution, as the S.R.C. has done. Incidentally, a rejection of the resolution of this meeting would probably constitute a vote of no confidence in the S.R.C.

Now in passing motion 1, the S.R.C. can only have had one of two ideas in mind. Either the members of the Council were giving expression to their own personal opinions, or they were claiming to speak to the public for the general student body. In the first case they would be blatantly in the wrong, as the S.R.C. is meant to be a representative body and does not exist to propagate the political views of its members. If on the other hand the S.R.C. was claiming to speak for the general student body, why did it suddenly lose confidence in itself and its ability to represent the students of this University. Why did it release a statement to the press, purporting to speak on behalf of those students, and then suddenly have misgivings that it might not be speaking on their behalf at all. It is utterly absurd to make a public statement on behalf of 7,000 students and then turn round to ask those students if that was what they really wanted said. The process is the wrong way round.

The reason for this confusion is that Motion 1 should never have been passed in the first place, that if the Council had more time to consider the matter it never would have been. Let's face it, the S.R.C. is not truly representative—through no fault of its own. Consequently it should not go making rash off-the-cuff statements on political matters. N.U.A.U.S. has discredited itself in the eyes of the public and of many students by claiming to speak for 50,000 University students without making any effort to discover what the views of the people they speak for really are. The Adelaide S.R.C. is making the same mistake.

I do wish to say that the S.R.C., or N.U.A.U.S., should not make statements of political import. Once they have ascertained that there exists a solid body of student political opinion, it is very important that they should give expression to it. University opinion is surely the most enlightened opinion available. But these bodies must not make statements which are not necessarily anything more than the personal views of their members.

"Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong"  
— Texas (1884-1933)  
(Attr. New York World—Telegram, 21 Mar. 1931).

O worthy wardens of the R.S.L.  
Gird up your loins, be resolute and strong,  
Ye stand in danger of the fires of Hell,  
For fifty thousand students can't be wrong.

Brigadier, seek brother Brigadier,  
And tremble when you hear this triumph song,  
Which strikes into your hearts a nameless fear:  
Fifty thousand students can't be wrong!

Stand firm, like those Greeks at Themphyloe,  
Who, when they gazed upon the Persian throng,  
Stood firm, and heeded not the battle-cry:  
Fifty thousand students can't be wrong!

# opinion

Soldiers, sailors, airmen, warriors all,  
As in your serried ranks you march along,  
Hear wafted on the breeze the distant call:  
Fifty thousand students can't be wrong!

Men say that only vigilance eternal  
Can pay for us the price of liberty.  
But heed the threat of punishment infernal  
For fifty thousand students disagree.

# FACTS OF LIFE

One notes with interest that the S.R.C.'s decision to endorse a commendably sane resolution of the N.U.A.U.S. Annual Council is to be submitted to a general student meeting for its consideration. One gathers that the proponents of the view that such a meeting should have been held before the S.R.C. endorsement feel that the S.R.C. is less capable of representing the students of this University than a gaggle of 500 lunch-eaters. One feels like pointing out that the S.R.C. is elected (according to its constitution) to "represent students in matters affecting their interest". One wonders why it does not do this, not less, but more. One reflects on the number of stacked and wholly unrepresentative general student meetings that one has seen, some in the past year. Although one commends the desire of those who wish to obtain a student opinion more representative than that of the S.R.C., one knows that small-scale exercises in direct democracy are worse than none at all. One feels that a decision has to be made between plebiscite on the one hand and representation on the other, and that a general student meeting for the purpose of making a decision is neither fish nor flesh, but instead a rather half-baked red herring.

One concludes that those who supported the idea of decision by small-capacity general student meeting are certainly to be commended on their desire for truth, but are equally certainly misguided in the methods by which they propose to seek it out. Indeed if one had the money one would send the brave little band a collected Machiavelli, some appropriate Burke, and an expurgated edition of Bidstrup, Angela E.M.: "My First Book of Realpolitik".

# . . . TO THE SUPERB

The Princeton Club is agog with the rumours that three of its young smart moderns have been elected to the editorship of On Dit for 1963. All of which you must admit is fairly hot copy. What more could the On Dit reader want?

If there is to be an improvement it must come from a large number of undergraduates who want, and are prepared to write for On Dit. The "brilliant new editors" are not a sacred coterie feasting at the banquet of the muses, drinking three-star nectar, and nonchalantly throwing off one witty epigram after another. It is more a group of worried students needing more and more good copy, having to print unsuitable material, and debating about that slow boat to China.

The would-be student-writer sits at his new Remington, lights up a Rothman, observes a fly crawling up the window and ponders on the futility of man. He eventually settles for a tirade on student apathy. Which is a slow way to notoriety. Rather does On Dit want reporters prepared to cover social meetings, university happenings and sporting events. The requirement is that the copy turns up in time.



One of On Dit's editors on a fishing trip. Note the grim look on Miss Marshall's face.

The story is told of a young freshette who, sent off to cover the Engineers' annual rugby match, was never heard of again. Rain, hail or rape should never stop an On Dit reporter.

All you then, with the clutching pen-hand, might make yourselves known at the offices at lunch-hour. There you will be able to obtain your On Dit tie, the On Dit airway's bag, your On Dit transfer and a copy of the On Dit boating song. Also available for the first week only will be a personalised, official stamping of your Union Diary with the On Dit elephant stamp, by, of course, an On Dit editor.