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A RIGHTWING PAPER FOR REAL men

By now many of the students at Adelaide Uni will have had the chance to read 'Exit', that flimsy newspaper of very dubious quality which has magically appeared on Campus to tell us all how bad AUS is, and how good liberalism is as an alternative.

In the view of many people, I daresay in the view of the majority of students, 'Exit' is a bad joke that has fallen extremely flat.

'Exit' is, of course, an attempt to drag out of the closet, dust down, and present to the world afresh, those good-old-fashioned values that made the good-old-days so good. Attitudes like vicious sexism, like keeping the little woman in the kitchen, like getting the boot into the pooftas and the lesbians, like bugger the blacks, like knuckling under, doing a hard day's work with no questions asked, like bowing to good-old-fashioned blind authority, like thinking about your meat pie and chips and stuff politics, like 'Let's get those longhaired commie poofta bastards up against the wall..... and the list goes on and on.

In short 'Exit' is a mixture of peurile crap, ludicrously 'argued' articles and a very gross sense of humour. And it would almost do to leave things at that, if it weren't for the fact that the appearance of 'Exit' on campus just now raises a number of important questions, and does point to certain developments on the Australian campus scene. To put out a paper such as 'Exit' takes a lot of money: and we must not let ourselves be fooled by the amount of abuse thrown at the 'left' into overlooking the fact that the right wing in this country is getting ever more organised and active, in both the society at large, and on the campuses.

Of course it's not quite as blatant as that, but it comes damned close. Even a quick first scan of the paper will suffice to reveal that just beneath the so-called 'liberal' surface lurk those ugly forms of bigotry and prejudice and festival-of-light puritanism that make living in today's world such a charming experience.

THE AUS BASH

In an attempted satire on the front page ('AUS is Dead') we are given a 'critique' of AUS. Let us ignore the fact that the arguments are presented in a manner which lacks even the humour or sophistication of an end-of-the-year high school magazine, and let's look at the section "This is an AUS Bash". (The fact that the authors admit that their article is a bash alas does nothing to improve the adequacy of their argument.)

WHAT THEY SAY

Despite the long-windedness of the piece, all that they are essentially asserting is that the executive of AUS is alienated from the members of AUS, and is spending all our precious money on those horrible political campaigns (such as campaigns to stop the surveillance of overseas students in Aust-

tralia, tours of P.L.O. spokesmen etc.). They even go further and suggest that AUS doesn't even begin to fight for local causes, such as TEAS and student welfare. Unfortunately for their argument in relation to the latter point, AUS has done a very considerable amount of work in the area of student welfare and living allowances, but, unlike the liberal student spokespeople the AUS doesn't make recommendations to the government which are dictated by Liberal politicians.) As regards the accusation about political campaigns generally, of course AUS conducts political campaigns. But let's examine the issue more closely.

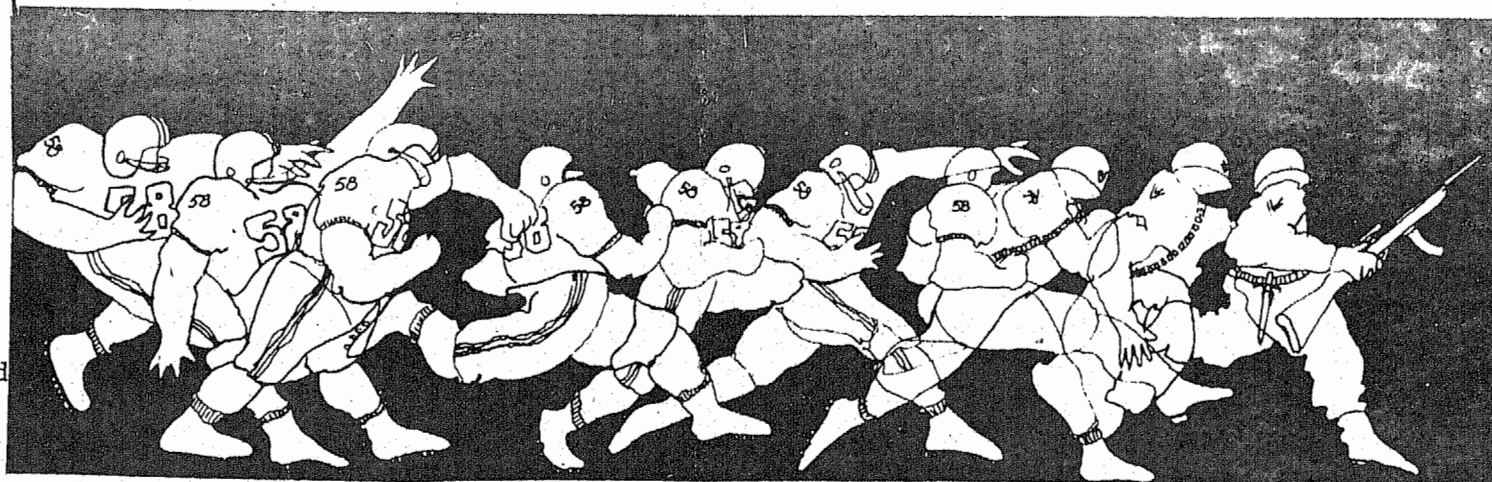
WHAT THEY MEAN

The number one primary golden rule when reading a Liberal document such as 'Exit' is to be aware of the fact that they never say what they really mean. In the case of their attack on AUS they have attempted to find what they consider to be faults in the organisation. But their motive for doing this is not to expose those faults in themselves, but rather to give them a chance to destroy AUS.

What they really mean is:

"AUS is one body in Australia which is politically aware, which can reach a large number of students, which does criticize the Fraser government and many overseas regimes, which will give its members the other side of many controversial issues."

Sport As A Cultural Microcosm



WHY

Why are they out to get AUS??? The answer is obvious. Australia is entering rough times, and some fierce political confrontations are likely to eventuate in the near future. (eg. confrontation over anti-union legislation, as in New Zealand) Fraser and the right wing (and the right wing includes some very sinister groups indeed) have been out to destroy AUS for a long time now. They must destroy its political aspects. FRASER DOES NOT WANT POLITICALLY AWARE STUDENTS IN HIS TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS. He wants to get his claws into the campuses, and he will do this with a little help from within.

AUS' PROBLEMS

I would be the first to admit that AUS certainly does have problems in relating to its membership, and there is plenty of room for development and improvement. But these problems are the same ones faced by every large policy-making organisation. The SAUA on this campus has those problems, and on a more national level, we elect every three years a government which acts and makes decisions almost entirely independent of about twelve million Australians, who at the end of three years have the chance to 'change' everything by their vote. Woooopee. Radical Democracy.

But enough of generality. Let's look again at the 'Exit' speil. It calls AUS undemocratic, unrepresentative, alienated.

BUT THE AUS CONSTITUTION IS AN EXTREMELY DEMOCRATIC ONE. Any contentious issues are always taken to the campus level for ratification and debate. (We have recently voted in the referendum to decide whether or not AUS should call a student strike. AUS policy on Palestine was decided by referendum, Policy on Education Cuts like wise etc.).

LIBERAL POT CALLING THE AUS KETTLE BLACK

It is most unfortunate for the liberals that they accuse AUS of being an alienated bureaucracy, when one realizes that the Local AUS Secretary is Julian Glynn, ex-president of the A U Liberal Club! And, whatismore, young Julian recently had the 'initiative' to make a press release in



The Australian Liberal Students Federation

challenges you

...TO FORGET YOUR CONSCIENCE, AND EXPLOIT!

support of certain of Fraser's attacks on education. This was done without consulting the local AUS executive, who unanimously condemned his statements. The executive moved a motion of no confidence in Glynn, (who did not then resign!)

SINCERE SUGGESTIONS

The liberals then proceed to put forward a rather quaint set of proposals which they believe will cure the ills of AUS. These proposals are phrased in such a way as to imply that AUS is undemocratic. However, a closer examination reveals that most of them are redundant anyway because they are already observed, and the rest are unjustifiable:

- ★ they call for direct election of the AUS executive by students voting on campuses. This proposal is plain and idiotic. The executive is elected at the annual meeting of council because the delegates to council then have had a chance to find out about the people they are voting for. If voting was done on campuses the positions would obviously go to those who could afford to do a whirlwind election tour of the campuses to win the votes. A little unrealistic.
- ★ They ask that delegations to council be elected on each campus. This is already recommended, and the S.A. regional al organiser has been urging campuses in this region to do so!
- ★ As for the conscience vote, members already have such a vote, and frequently exercise it. Only when there is a specific policy, decided on the campus whom the delegate represents should that person be tied to local policy.
- ★ The liberals ask that the number of years an office-holder can hold office be limited. If they had even begun their homework they would have found that there is already a two year limit on such positions!

★ As for a second council in August. These councils cost a lot of money. It is plainly naive to speak of holding a second council in August. And the reason January was chosen was because many students have exams in August and could not come then.

★ Then there is the allegation that A.U.S. is spending all our money on the playthings of Angola, Singapore etc. This is nothing more than vacuous mumbling, as policy on such issues is decided democratically at council, or, if it's something contentious, it is decided at referenda on the various campuses throughout the country. At any rate, the actual amount spent on these issues (notice they don't give any figures) is negligible alongside the total budget.

SO MUCH FOR THE LIBERAL CRITIQUE OF AUS!

And as for their talk of bias....where is the case for AUS in their sordid little paper? Hypocrisy is an ugly thing.

As I have said, AUS could certainly improve. But the liberals' 'answer' to the problems of AUS is definitely not the one we need. Their specific suggestions are virtually irrelevant, whilst their general attitude, despite what they say in public, is that AUS should be rendered politically ineffective.

DISMAL

The whole tone and style of 'Exit' makes it a very gross newspaper, a paper which lacks any subtlety or quality whatsoever. The humour is hamfisted and ugly, without the slightest nuances or shades of meaning which a reasonable paper would contain.

At the visual level it is interesting to observe the ugliness of the paper, particularly of the graphics - notably the one on

the back-page: 'AUS is our union'. 'Exit' is aesthetically offensive to say the least. This is not really surprising when one considers that when people criticize the existing situation they can use imagination and vitality to invoke images of an alternative society, one that has become truly human, while the 'right' has the boring and uninspiring task of defending the status quo

(The Liberal students are lumped with the unerivable task of having to defend Fraser's status quo, and he's making their job more difficult every day.)

"TWO VIEWS"

In 'Exit' the liberals give us an example of their fair-mindedness. They present us with not one, but TWO views on euthanasia. Not one, but TWO views on abortion. Wonderful. They choose two evergreen controversies, two eternal moral problems, and give us two views on each. However, I think that most of us are aware that there are two sides to these questions, and have probably heard the arguments for years. Which is not to say that they aren't important, but rather to point out that if the liberals went to dazzle us all with their 'Stop the Bias' technique, let them give us TWO articles on TEAS, TWO views on LOANS, TWO discussions of the FRASER government. And why not give us the other point of view on AUS?

WHO IS EXIT AIMED AT

'Exit' is an insult to the students of this campus. It aims its 'message' at ockers, at people who care about nothing but themselves, at men and women who are sexually warped, at students who don't want to turn their minds to anything but coursework. 'Exit' wants to capitalize on the 'meanness' of what it sees as the average student.

ALWAYS THE SAME

On this campus we can see exactly the same trend in the publications of the Liberal Club. Look at the level at which they pitch most of their publicity: the message is usually a string of unintelligent communist-cantrailing cliches enshrined in an ocker-orientated style bearing strong undertones of the veiled sexuality and 'dirty' toilet-humour found most commonly among frustrated schoolboys. (See the Commie Dogs, the Bullshit Diet etc.)

this is just not good enough!



WHAT IS THE 'RIGHT' PLANNING ON THIS CAMPUS?

The arrival of 'Exit' at this stage of the year indicates that the Liberals may be about to attempt yet again to get Adelaide University to secede from AUS. Remember, if they do so, their public 'justification' may be quite at variance with their true private motives.

Don't be conned by so-called 'liberal' students.

AUS is one of the very few sources of alternative views that we as students do have - not to speak of the many valuable services that AUS provides us with.

DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE VIEWPOINTS: DEFEND YOUR UNION'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT ON DIT

We have now all had a chance to see what happens when the liberal students' federation puts out its 'unbiased' alternative newspaper. Let's hope that on this campus the next editor on On Dit will continue to treat the readership as an intelligent and aware audience, deserving of a reasonable level of discussion and entertainment.....

SIC 'EXIT' EXIT

This has been an On Dit community service.