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Vol. 9.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1939.

No. 17.

## NATIONAL UNION DEVELOPING FAST

**Drama - Scholarships - Travel - Festival - Debating**

### Theatre Festival

CAN YOU ACT?

The most interesting of recent ideas taken up by the National Union is that of a University Theatre Festival, an annual festival, to be held for the first time in March of next year.

The idea comes from Mr. A. C. Crawford, a graduate in Arts and Law of Sydney University and a founder and one of the life members of the National Union. The first festival will be in the nature of an experiment. The Sydney University Dramatic Society, the Melbourne University Dramatic Society, and the Adelaide University Theatre Guild will each produce a full length play in the Melbourne Union Theatre. Until the Festival becomes well established it will have to be held at Melbourne, since that is the only University which possesses a theatre and consequently costs are at a minimum there.

In Adelaide the Theatre Guild has given the proposal its blessing and has undertaken the production of our play. Professor I. M. Stewart, President of the Theatre Guild, has signified his approval and on that approval the Union Committee has guaranteed up to £30, but it is confidently expected by Melbourne enthusiasts that the festival will pay for itself.

As the festival is primarily a student function the Theatre Guild has very generously agreed to select the caste as far as possible from the ranks of undergraduates, even though they are not members of the Guild. All undergraduates interested in acting are therefore asked to consider whether they can make the trip in March and, if so, to hand their names to any of the following: Miss Roxy Sims, Messrs. K. T. Hamilton, R. A. Blackburn, D. B. Kerr, or E. F. Johnston. Those taking parts will be required to pay their own fare (approximately £2 concession rate); accommodation will be provided in Melbourne.

The Drama Festival is a certain sign that the National Union is developing along the right lines. The annual conference is of immense value but invariably it will tend to bring together from all over Australia those students who are particularly interested in Union administration.

#### PLAY YOUR PART.

Students of this University are therefore asked to play their part in giving this scheme a successful start. The National Union has propounded an important innovation; the Theatre Guild has undertaken its part of the work and the only matter to be settled is the question of players. All those who are able to make the trip are urged to hand their names to the above-mentioned persons at their very earliest convenience. The experience gained should be valuable, as Mr. Frank Johnston has undertaken the production and the play will probably be presented in Adelaide as one of the Guild's major presentations for 1940.

The National Union of Australian University Students, born in Adelaide in January of 1937, is already beginning to achieve that importance in Australian University life which was the hope of its student founders. Delegates to the third annual conference, to be held in Hobart during long vacation, will review a year of considerable progress and plan new ventures for the future. Just recently news has been received that members of Canberra University are anxious to join the organization.

The Executive has listed two matters as the main topics for discussion at the forthcoming conference: these are "Students and the War" and "Scholarship Reform." In discussing the first of these matters, delegates will direct their attention to two important considerations: firstly, the maintenance of the rights and position of the University as an institution for education — should the war be of long duration this question may arise in acute form; secondly, to give the authorities an informed and seasoned statement on the best possible use which can be made of student resources. Adelaide delegates will obtain a full opinion on the latter question from all faculties to present to conference. By including students in the list of exempted occupations, the Federal Government has already shown itself appreciative of our position and a suitable response from students should give the Universities added prestige in the public mind.

The question of scholarship reform has already been widely canvassed in this paper. Resolutions passed by the

last National Union Conference were forwarded to the Vice-Chancellors' Conference, which repressed itself to being very interested. It may or may not be significant that the twelve newly-elected Government bursaries for this University are to be awarded on a basis almost identical with that propounded by the Union.

At Melbourne the proposals of the last conference have been endorsed by a mass meeting of students, a delegation has attended upon the Minister for Education, but without success, and a public meeting was held in a city hall to protest against his attitude. A small pamphlet containing the students' "Case for scholarship reform" has been published. The zeal and ability with which the Melbourne Students' Representative Council has prosecuted the campaign is amazing and an example to every University in the Commonwealth. Their determination and the inherent justness of their claim are gaining them more and more supporters and there can be little doubt that it is only a matter of time before a change is made in that State.

#### YEAR'S PROGRESS.

An outstanding achievement was the conducting of the New Zealand debating team at a loss of approximately six shillings. Incidentally, the fact that Adelaide with only one debate made a greater profit than any other University reflects credit on the local National Union Debating Secretary (Mr. D. B. Kerr) and Mr. G. L. Amos when the Debating Committee appointed to control the tour in S.A.

The question of cheaper books for students is still presenting great difficulty. Last conference of the National Union recommended that a University bookshop should be established in each University. This suggestion was forwarded to the Vice-Chancellors' conference but did not draw a reply of any sort. Remember that all books for next year should be ordered as soon as results are announced to obtain the full discount which the W.E.A. is offering; and also that the W.E.A. Bookshop trades in buying and selling your old books.

A useful innovation is the N.U.A.U.S. identity card. If you intend to travel interstate during long vac. obtain your card from Mr. Hamilton and on presenting it at any other University you will be received as a member of that University and entitled to all the benefits of membership of the local union.

#### ADELAIDE DELEGATES.

It should be stressed that every member of the Adelaide University Union is a member of the National Union and entitled to attend the Hobart conference.

Adelaide is entitled to three voting delegates at conference. The Union Committee has nominated four men, but it is not perfectly certain yet as to who will make the trip. Those nominated are:

**Mr. R. G. Willoughby:** President of the Union, dental graduate, now doing work in the Arts faculty; past Treasurer of the Dental Students' Society; member of Union Committee 1938-39; member elect for 1940.

**Mr. B. A. Magarey (Law):** Member of Union Committee 1939, member elect for 1940; Chairman-elect of Men's Union Committee 1940; Secretary of Football Club 1939; National Union Travel Representative 1938-39.

**Mr. F. A. Diben (Medicine)** followed Brother W.A.D. as medical representative on Union Committee; member elect for Union and Men's Union Committees 1940; National Union book-buying representative 1939.

**Mr. E. F. Johnston (Law):** Delegate to 1939 conference; local secretary of N.U.A.U.S.; past Editor of "On Dit" and the Handbook; member-elect of Union and Men's Union Committees 1940; Secretary of the Law Students' Society.

### N.U.A.U.S. Travel

ENTRIES NOW DUE.

Entries for the two N.U.A.U.S. travel tours to be conducted during long vac. should be made immediately to the Secretary of the Union, Mr. K. T. Hamilton, B. A. Magarey, E. F. Johnston, or the N.U.A.U.S. Travel Secretary, c/o University of Melbourne, Carlton, N3, Victoria. The New Zealand tour, which was previously announced, has been cancelled, owing to the international situation.

#### THE GIPPSLAND TOUR.

The cheaper of the two tours is through the Gippsland area. The route is Melbourne, Phillip Island, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Corner Inlets, Tarra Valley, Bulga Park, Sale, Lakes Entrance, Buchan Caves, Traralgon, Yallourn, Warragu, and back to Melbourne. All applications for this most interesting tour must be made by November 20. The cost is 7 16/6, fee of 5/- payable on application. The party, consisting of both men and women, will travel by Pioneer Luxury Coaches and will be accommodated at good hotels. The feature of this tour is the diversity of the interests ranging from the scenic beauty of Lakes Entrance to the socially controlled town of Yallourn. The time occupied is a week, December 14 to 21, 1939.

#### THE TASMANIAN TOUR.

This tour, which costs £11 11/-, is open only to men, but is presented by the National Union and recommended by the Tasmanian students as one of the finest in Australia. The route is Melbourne to Launceston, Wilmot, Cradle Mount, Scenic Reserve, Lake St. Clair, Derwent Valley, Hobart (for the N.U.A.U.S. conference), back to Launceston with the delegates to the conference, and thence to Melbourne. The travelling in Tasmania will be by rail, foot, and car, and the accommodation is also varied — hotel, hut, and camping. Two Tasmanian students with mountaineering experience will act as guides and packhorses will carry food and equipment through the Scenic Reserve. This tour occupies fifteen days, January 10 to 24, 1940, and the application fee is £1 1/-.

If you want a good holiday, apply for one of the N.U.A.U.S. travel tours, combining pleasure, interest, and the opportunity of meeting students from other States.

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the W.E.A.  
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Date of  
Commem.  
is  
Wednesday,  
December 13

### Footlights' Plans

The revue which was to have been held after the examinations, has been postponed. Although nothing has been definitely decided, plans for a production in the not so remote future are being hatched.

The number of people going into camp, the uncertainty of international conditions and the possibility of making the revue better and brighter, made the Footlights Committee change its plans and postpone the revue.

Melbourne and Sydney Universities have their revues in first term, and the plan seems to be a good one. It has been suggested, therefore, that the production should take place in first term next year; that a certain proportion of the profits should go to some war fund, and that there should be, not only stars from the present undergrads., but of past students as well. The idea is to bring back the old favourites as well as the new ones, and to make this revue one of the best and the most profitable on record.

Theatre Guild  
Repeat Performance  
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## KENT TOWN, 1940

"Is this a time for conferences? The S.C.M. believes that it is. For there are not only all the reasons that have always existed but there are, in addition, fresh reasons arising from the added responsibility and strain of the present, the increase in perplexity and doubt and the tendency to a greater seriousness of thought which have been created by the war situation. Further, the darker the time the greater is the need for light."

An S.C.M. conference is something whose inspiration and value have to be experienced to be believed. The contact with other people, the realization that after all there are people who still have enthusiasm and courage, such things given one an entirely new perspective and a new sympathy which can come in no other way. A conference is, perhaps, the fullest way in which true fellowship, the fellowship of complete informality can be achieved. "Conference" is something which, to those who have experienced it, gives an entirely new outlook both on religious thought and experience and on friendship. Religious discussion, discussion on anything which really matters, means hard knocks, it means complete honesty and the willingness to hear everything. Conference means that one can realize the genuineness of beliefs utterly different from one's own. And the interchange of belief is on a plane of Giving, not Getting.

This coming conference will be held from January 4 to 12, 1940, at, and this is the big point, at Prince Alfred College, Kent Town. This should mean a large attendance of South Australians. But don't get the idea that you have to be a member of the S.C.M. to attend. "Membership of the general conference is open to all institutions of higher learning." Full details are available from any member of the S.C.M. Committee.

The subject of the conference can best be stated in a short paragraph from the conference booklet:

"The whole plan of the conference will be directed to an explicit study of the Gospel and its significance for students to-day, particularly in these days of turmoil. The objective can also be described as that of making effective the aim and objects of the movement. The invitation is to those who are willing to share seriously in such an enterprise."

The work of conference is centred in study circles conducted each morning, based on a book being prepared by Rev. Norman Lade, S.A. President. This work will be paralleled by a series of evening addresses. Tutorials will also be given—including one series to be given by Mr. R. P. Barbour on "Christians and the State."

Perhaps this is a miserable passage. The subject demands far more time than has been possible, under the circumstances, to find. But while time might have given more coherence, and a more skilful and broader treatment, it could never have given more sincerity. Whatever the failings of this article, please DO make some attempt to find out what a conference is like. The overall cost for Adelaide people is only £2 7/- for nine days. And whoever you are, whatever you think, of the S.C.M., of the state of Europe, or of God, you won't regret time or money.

## CABARET, FRIDAY, DEC. 8

The Union Committee has decided to offer the nett profits of this year's cabaret to the Fighting Forces' Comforts Fund. The Governor and Lady Muriel Barclay-Harvey have consented to be present.

Mr. Pilgrim assures us that arrangements are well in hand to make this a really red-hot show! Harry Boake Smith and his band from the Palais, will, of course, be there, and we hear that several unusual items will be provided. It is not known whether these items will be Hawaiian Houla-Houla dances or Mexican Wig-Wags, but whatever they are, they will certainly be out of the ordinary.

An added attraction will be Mr. Cherry, as chairman of the Men's Union Committee, presenting the trophies to the Ping-Pong champions.

For Freshers and others who don't know, dancing takes place both inside the Refectory and on the lawn, on which a floor is put down. Everything is all very Continental with coloured lights and dancing under the stars; and, being a Friday, it doesn't have to shut up till two o'clock. The Women's Union Committee is providing the decorations for the Refectory, and doubtless they would be grateful of any assistance that was forthcoming. The staff Wives' Club has made a generous donation towards the supper expenses—for it is the supper that takes away the profits.

The box plan is now open in the Union Office. The price of the tickets is seven shillings each. For the benefit of those temporarily broke, Mr. Hamilton will provisionally book tables until the day before the show, i.e., December 7.

This is the first move the Union has taken in regard to supporting war funds, and we should make this first step a success. Last year the profits from the cabaret were about £50. By cutting down on overhead expenses and making use of as much voluntary assistance as possible, it is hoped that this year the profits may be even greater.

Every member of the Union can help by buying tickets, by encouraging others to do the same, by helping with the decorations on the day and especially by arranging parties.

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## Sporting

### INTER-VARSITIES.

The only concrete information regarding inter-Varsities in the vacation is that there are probably two—cricket in Melbourne next month and swimming (men and women) here in January.

The proposed date for the cricket is December 19-21, but this, of course, has not yet been finalized. However, we have it on reliable authority that the Adelaide team will be at almost full strength, and will approach the match with its usual confidence.

Tregoning is to be congratulated on a brilliant century in club matches and upon his selection as twelfth man for the State team. Nice work, Trigger!

Although Varsity has not yet had a win this season, results have not been entirely unsatisfactory in view of the number of players not available. The return of Dawson and Gurner from camp should increase the batting strength sufficiently to make a win in the near future a safe forecast.

The date for the swimming carnival remains to be fixed, being dependent upon the opening of the new City Baths, some time in January.

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide will participate, so far as is known. Miss Young modestly points out that the women's team will be better than the men's, on account of military camps. Whether this will seriously affect the carnival remains to be seen!

The swimming dance will be held in the Refectory on November 24, and is expected to maintain its standard as one (or many) of the brightest spots of the year. It will again be a flannel dance.

Tickets (3/6 each) may be obtained from Judy Young or John Muirhead.

## Swimming Dance Friday, Nov. 24

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A Deposit will be expected on all orders: On books worth up to 10/-: Deposit half value of the order.

On book orders worth over 10/- and up to 30/-: Deposit third value of the order. On book orders worth over 30/-: Deposit quarter value of the order.

By pre-ordering books students will not only effect a saving but will also be reasonably sure of getting their books in time.

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