

# ON DIT

PRODUCED BY THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION

## THE UNION VOTES OFFICIAL ACCOUNT

As my own passions and those of the majority of students present were, I consider, too much engaged to provide an uncoloured account of the meeting of the Union on Monday last, I have requested the Secretary of the Union, Mr. K. Hamilton, to supply the following official statement as a fair and unbiassed record of the proceedings.—Editor's Note.

1. The following resolution was proposed by J. Allison and seconded by R. Duncan, "That this meeting of the Adelaide University Union considers that the prohibition applied to the President's expression of his social and political opinions as a Union member is unjust in that it lays him open to indiscriminate attack and criticism without the individual right of free reply and free speech."

2. An amendment was proposed by J. M. McPhie and seconded by A. P. Plummer, "That a vote of censure be passed on Mr. Johnston as President of the Union." This was carried. The amendment then became a motion and was carried.

3. R. L. Cotton proposed and G. F. Anderson seconded, "That this meeting of the Adelaide University Union hereby expresses its confidence in the ability of the President to carry out the functions of his office." This motion was lost.

## Open Letter to Union

Dear Sir,

Unfortunately, the issue at stake at last Monday's meeting did not enable those present to express their appreciation of the capable way in which Mr. Johnston has conducted Union affairs while President, and of his customary efforts to encourage interest in student matters during his university career. While the strength and nature of his opinions may rightly have subjected him to severe criticism from those whom he represents, he has, nevertheless, always shown his

sincerity and devotion towards those principles in which he believes.

Mr. Johnston has been censured for the mistakes we think he has made as President, and, in fairness, we wish to place on record some expression of gratitude for those genuine services he has rendered to the Union in the past.

D. JACOBS,  
President Women's Union.

J. McPHIE,  
Chairman Men's Union.

## The Trojan Women

The Women's Union put on two play evenings to packed houses last week and met with roaring success. As a result of their efforts, they have raised approximately £45 for the F.F.C.F. The sweets sellers could hardly move quickly enough for the audience, which was anxious to buy—and buy again!—the delicious dainties made by our university women.

The programme opened with the Noel Coward sketch, "Growing Pains." In announcing this sketch the President, Miss Jacobs, said that no one would claim its production, but it showed no sign of suffering on this account. Alison Hogben, with ginger sideboards and moustache, was scarcely recognizable, and she made an excellent early Victorian father. Her wife, Brenda Oldham, was good, and Betty McDougall, as their son, was a very horrible small boy. We believe that the long peppermint walking stick she would insist on sucking was scattered over quite a few of the audience by her irate "father" on Friday night! The play ended with a blackout on the stage and convulsions amid the audience.

Next came "The Bride," by Gertrude Jennings, and produced by Ninette Trot. The work of Helen Forbes as the mother was outstanding, and the other main attraction of this play was the staggering beauty of the underclothes worn by the bride.

"The Playgoers," by Sir Arthur Pineso, followed. This was produced by Eleanor Jacobs. She and Barbara Kelly were Mr. and Mrs. Dornington, "a handsome young couple," and they were surrounded by an amazing collection of servants who portrayed greatly varying characters and wore extraordinary clothing.

We know that bits of powder and paint can do amazing things, but it must have taken more than that to make some of our university women look as awful as they did in their plays. Let us hope that we shall never again see Brenda Oldham looking as dreadful as she did in "The Dear Departed." This was produced by Betty McDougall (she wore tails, carried a bell-topper, and smoked a pipe!). Where could Alison Hogben have raked up that black, feather-draped hat and feather boa which she wore? And where

that accent? Elizabeth Ashton as the hen-pecked husband was a great success.

Lidibo Wighton was a very precocious small child in "A Child's Guide to the Talkies," by Beverly Nicholls. All the efforts of her mother, Natalie Craven—and what a mother!—failed to keep the infant under control. Ruth Finlayson, the producer of this sketch, was the film star in the true Hollywood style.

The most finished acting of the evening was seen in the final play, "They Refuse to be Resurrected," by N. K. Smith. This was produced by Judith Murray, who was Columbine, with Elizabeth Hawker and Nancy Robertson as Harlequin and Pierrot. Rosamund Watson, as the author, was so convincing that we advise her to take it up as a profession. Their play ended with their wishing us "Goodnight, pleasant dreams, and eternal rest," and we rose, well satisfied with our two shillings' worth and determined to come again.

## More Clerihews

From CLERIHOOBY.

Mr. John Allison  
(Without putting any appearance of malice on)  
At Annual General Meetings and other such sessions  
Has a habit of asking awkward questions.

The Women's Union Plays  
Revealed people's traits;  
It was surprising how Noel Coward's inanities  
Upset many otherwise normal sanities.

## And a Ballywho

Though justified, weeps the med.,  
We're not appreciated until dead.  
So he urges that "On DIT"  
Be appreciated similarly.

## S.C.M. Conference

"Ends and Means of Civilization"  
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## Science Association TO-NIGHT

Talk by Mr. N. B. Tindale  
(Museum Anthropologist)

## "MAN'S MIGRATIONS IN THE PACIFIC"

Illustrated with lantern slides  
Supper and dancing

## University Theatre Guild

in THE HUT  
TO-NIGHT

## "THE LADY FROM ALFAQUEQUE"

## A.U.E.U.

KRISNABAI GADRE, B.A.  
of India  
GEORGE MURRAY HALL  
FRIDAY, 15th, 1.20 p.m.  
"India Speaks for Christ"

## A.U. Labour Branch

MR. PERCY LAIDLER  
of Melbourne  
FRIDAY, at 1.20 p.m.

## Unofficial

The Captain of the Boxing and Wrestling Club wishes to make it plain that as a body it has no political views. Mr. Schulze's inference that eighty per cent. of the club shared his views on strike-breaking was untrue.

## Commerce Ball

Saturday, August 16  
Free Competition, Laissez-Faire, and Profits to the Children's Hospital  
Tickets, 3/6; ring L. C. Miller (C. 1955) for reservations

## Enter Hamlet (ungagged)

To gag, or not to gag, that is the question—  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The Brays and Abbots, and their declamations,  
Or to take their arms, and with their agitations,  
Cast them into the river? To die—to sink,  
No more: and by their death to say we end  
The earache, and the thousand murderous thoughts  
That they have given us—'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wished! To rest, in peace;  
In peace? That's what you think, for there's a rub.  
For in that restful peace then Schulze may come,  
And talk to us of Johnston's wounded name:  
He'll give us cause, so I expect,  
By great calamity to end his life.  
For who would hear, for fifty scores of times,  
Of Johnston's wrongs, and rival contumely,  
Of gaggitators, and the ass' Bray,  
The insolence of Abbott, and the cad  
Who foul advantage of the gagged takes.  
If we ourselves might their quietus make  
With a mere gagging, who would such wranglers bear,  
Or still be troubled by their petty strife?  
Let's send the lot, well gagged by violent death,  
To the unknown country, from whose bourn  
No traveller returns—send them to hell!  
"Atlas."

## The Cloistered Life

BY THE SOCIAL EDITRESS.

The university had a thorough binge last week, turning on two play evenings, a dance, and an engagement—all of which was, of course, most exciting.

We feel that the engagement should be dealt with first. To say that it has been long expected would be putting it mildly. Refer to "Cloistered Life" in a number of "On DIT" which appeared early last year, and you will see some remark about a "happily-mated pair of skyscrapers"—or something of that sort. And they are still the same. We know everyone wishes Jim and Margaret the best of luck.

The play evenings finally go themselves off the chest of the Women's Union with considerable success so far as the F.F.C.F. is concerned. So far as the actual plays are concerned, we leave them to more competent and more impartial critics to criticize (if they do not consider such a task below their dignity). But of troubles and trials (not noticed by the audience, we hope) which took place behind the scenes, we can say plenty. The Lady Symon basement was full of people in peculiar attire, of both sexes (don't get worried, that refers to the clothes, not to the people themselves), and make-up was a great and absorbing problem, happily solved by the arrival of Miss Gray, a member of the Theatre Guild make-up group, who made us up so that we really looked like villains, heroes, mothers, and brides. And then, of course, there were the last-minute agonies behind the curtain, when the special lighting effects wouldn't work, or someone had trodden on the plug—oh dear, what can we do? And so on, and so on.

After such tribulations, it was rather a relief to cast away all anxieties at the Pharmacy Ball—a cheerful binge, just about fulfilling what the posters said. The large crowd (the committee somehow managed to sell nearly four hundred tickets) did not succeed in hiding the decorations, which were outstanding and varied. The proper local colour was given by pestles and mortars, and the pharmacy badge cropping up in odd corners. And then there was a distinct exotic touch with the palm trees surrounding the orchestra, complete with electric guitar.

Finding partners in the crowd was a difficult matter, but there was one simple policy stuck to by many attractive young ladies, namely, keeping the same partner all the evening.

The A football team even carried their enthusiasm so far as to play with the balloons, and were most hurt when they could not get a good kick. Even balloons, however, did for the energetic secretary, and he was found flat out on the lawn in the throes of agonizing cramp. First aid was unsuccessfully administered, mainly because the said first aid was rather half-hearted, to the distress of a young lady in blue, transformed from the budding author of the night before.

Photographers of all descriptions were there, and not only those of the press. The "contraptions" of the unofficial ones made life rather glary.

Funnily enough, the Refectory was not quite so tidy at the end of the evening, after a streamer dance and the inevitable balloon bursting. But what does it matter if you don't have to tidy up the mess?

## Class in Morse for Air Force Reservists

Any interested in joining, leave names in Union Office. The speed at present is ten words per minute, but if sufficient numbers join other classes could be arranged.

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**"The pen is  
mightier"**

# OPINION

## That Old School Tie

Sir,  
I presume that Mr. Allison is voicing the opinion of all the Leftist supporters, when he says, "There has never been any question on our part of the necessity of defeating Hitler. What we maintain is that the war can be better carried on under another government," for that seems to be the crux of their argument at present.

When all this political turmoil began, these certain few answered the shortcomings of capitalism with the theories and ideals of socialism. That was inequitable. They somehow forgot to mention what the Popular Front did for France.

But now they are trying to become practical. They say they want to win the war, but they would willingly put into power people who have done nothing for ten years but form the Opposition; all, but three, of whom have never held cabinet rank, who know nothing of running government services, let alone of reorganizing them, and who know absolutely nothing about controlling the fighting services in war-time. Labour may have the best intentions in the world, but it would take many months obtaining the necessary organizing experience to put those ideas into being. Japan might not need that long to land a force in Australia.

If Mr. Allison were going to have a suit made, would he go to a tailor who had been out of business for ten years instead of an experienced tailor, just because the former wore the old school tie (it would probably have a pinkish tinge)? No, he would put aside personal prejudices, and go to the latter, who would cut his suit the better.

Let us put aside personal prejudices, and, as Mr. Menzies said in his address to the Chamber of Commerce last week, "have done with chasing after will-o'-the-wisps."  
D. H. LAIDLAW.

## My Country Right or Wrong

Dear Sir,  
For inhabitants of a seat of learning, few people in this university seem to be using their brains at present. In this controversy of Elliott Johnston v. (apparently) N. G. Abbott, the fact that Johnston has as supporters Max Harris and R. Napier Hamilton seems to cause more mud-slurping than his views on the strikers; while Abbott's extremely narrow and conservative criticisms seem to be looked up to as gospel because he is a shining light in the sporting life of this place. The grains of truth in Johnston's letters seem to be sticking in the university throat; so Abbott, from his armchair of parlour politics, hands us the cordial of "my country, right or wrong," ignoring all reason. Should politics be ignored and thrust from "On Dit" because one-track minds of the university see red whenever a worker is defended? Which is more subversive—looking facts in the face, and discussing them logically and reasonably, or suppressing freedom of speech and press, as certain pushful members of the Women's Union wish to do? Surely there is nothing subversive in telling the Government where it is wrong? It probably takes, and will take, little notice, but that should not deter us from thinking for ourselves, and expressing our thoughts in writing. Don't let yourselves be drugged into a state of passive, uncomplaining submissiveness by such apparent non-thinkers as N. G. Abbott and his sycophants.  
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## And the Silver Spoon

Dear Sir,  
Is it beneath the dignity of the Union Committee to have amongst its worthy members a person who expresses pro-Labour views? I gather that it is, from the manner in which it slated Mr. Elliott Johnston for declaring his opposition to the formation of an organized strike-breaking gang. In my opinion this slating was both unfair and unreasonable, and altogether contrary to the ideas of a true democracy.

Sir Douglas Mawson said that he believed in democracy, yet he would strike at the roots of democracy by stifling freedom of expression of opinion. Expression of opinion should be stifled if the opinions expressed are subversive, but no reasonable man would suggest that those expressed in Mr. Johnston's letter were subversive. He was merely defending the worker's right to strike. Why, then, should an attempt be made to gag him?

Mr. McPhie, who proposed the motion of censure, said that the objection was not to the political views but to the fact that the President was encouraging the expression of the views of a minority, yet Mr. Willoughby deplored that office-holders should express such views. The whole discussion on Mr. McPhie's motion showed beyond all possible doubt, as Mr. Cornell said, that it was clear that it was the President's politics, not his action, that was disagreed with, and that there would have been no vote of censure if he had undertaken a crusade of strike-breaking, that is, if he had joined the Union Committee and the Sports Association Committee in their utter disregard for the rights of the worker.

If certain people disagree with Mr. Johnston's views, it is open to them to put forward their own views, but, as Mr. Plummer said, they have not the time. If they have neither the time nor the inclination to express their views, why, then, should they adopt the dog-in-the-manger attitude and attempt to prevent Mr. Johnston from expressing his views?

I am afraid I am unable to follow the train of thought of the majority of this committee. It is, in their opinion, contrary to the principles of democracy for Mr. Johnston to express such views as he did, yet it is apparently democratic for them to tell him what his views should be. Politics, said Sir Douglas Mawson, should be divorced from the university, yet he joined with the majority of the committee

## Spinsters Take Note!

Dear Sir,  
The Executive of the N.U.A.U.S. recently decided to hold a Student Congress in Adelaide during the week before the commencement of first term in 1942. It is estimated that there will be approximately fifty students present from the other States.

The Adelaide National Union Committee is endeavouring to arrange for these visitors to be billeted in private homes for the period of the congress. Would those who are likely to be able to assist in providing board and lodging please give their names to any member of the committee—Doreen Jacobs, Elizabeth Carter, Elizabeth Teesdale Smith, Roger Willoughby, Elliott Johnston, and the writer.

It is not intended to create any binding obligation at the moment, but we desire to ascertain the number of visitors who could be billeted.—Yours faithfully,  
R. L. COTTON,  
Hon. Sec., N.U.A.U.S.

## Democracy in Action

Dear Sir,  
How splendid is democracy in action! Who will doubt that Mr. Harris and his colleagues received their deserts for having the temerity to express their views in public? What right had they to do this? Surely, when we are at war to preserve the spirit of tolerance and fair play, to safeguard the right of freedom of speech, to ensure the sanctity and inviolability of the human person, is it not just that these fellows should not be tolerated (irrespective of whether they are understood or not), that their speech should be prohibited, that they should be thrown into the river? With pride we will pay homage to the gallant little band who effectively dampened ideas contrary to their own. What a test of their intellect! How have they profited by their learning!  
PAUL R. MAEGRAITH.

in attempting to drum their own political ideas, which they have not the time to express, into Mr. Johnston's head. To my mind the attitude of the Union Committee savours more of Nazism than of democracy.

The views expressed by Mr. Johnston might be the views of a minority within the university, and the reason for this is obvious, for many students have been brought up with a silver spoon in their mouths and have never known the hardships of the man on the basic wage, while others consider that, by reason of their attendance at the university, they have risen so high on the ladder of social fame that they can do nothing else but adopt the smug complacency of the true Liberal. Taking the people as a whole, Mr. Johnston's views are not those of a minority. They are the views of the working class, the backbone of the nation, who are surely entitled to some consideration. The worker must not be down-trodden, and the more the power-crazed upper classes attempt to crush him, the more he will resist in order to show that he is not completely powerless. His only remedy is to strike, and when he strikes he is not striking against those who rule Australia from within the walls of Parliament House, so much as he is striking against those who have been given the power by a weak Government to rule Australia from outside the walls of Parliament House. If the big industrialist is given Parliament's sanction to feather his nest during war-time, is it not only just that the worker be given his share of the nest egg?

Almost every time the worker has a grievance he is forced by the employer to strike before his grievance will be considered. The worker is not always to blame, nor is the employer, but there is at present, especially within the university, too great a tendency to regard the employer, like the King, as being able to do no wrong. The worker is regarded as a mere cog in the industrialist's money-making machine, and he must be a slave for the sake of the much-discussed war effort. Perhaps he would not mind so much if Australia's war effort was in the hands of a capable Government instead of in the hands of the weak, disunited Menzies Government, which is at present more concerned with petty party squabbles rather than with an honest, active prosecution of the war effort.—Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN J. DALY.

## Muzzled Expression

Dear Sir,  
The Union meeting held on Monday last resolved itself into an encounter between those for and against Mr. Johnston as President. The meeting was called to decide whether or no the President should be prohibited from expressing social and political opinions under his own name. Why was this vitally important issue shelved?  
It is of fundamental importance that all members of the Union should retain the right to express their personal views on matters pertaining to the community in general. If presidents of the Union—not only Mr. Johnston, but all the presidents to be—are to be effectively muzzled, how are we to judge of their fitness to remain in office?—Yours sincerely,  
SHIRLEY D. ALLEN.

## In Opposition, Anyway

Dear Sir,  
Mr. Willoughby, before declaring Monday's Union meeting open, expressed a wish with which I think the majority of those present heartily agreed, that in the ensuing discussion no personal issues might be raised. Yet, after the main business—the so-called "gagging" of the President—had been settled, a small number of people took advantage of the general excitement to oppose a vote of confidence in Mr. Johnston's personal ability to carry on with his job, and succeeded in defeating the motion. Many of those who had ardently waved their arms with the mob afterwards told me that they "did not know what the last motion was about but they voted in opposition, anyway." As I understand it, the purpose of the meeting was a purely impersonal one, designed to prevent the President, in his official capacity as chief representative of the students, from giving forth opinions not concurred in by the majority of those he represents. But the same group, which displayed unusual animosity towards the President at the

## An Inadequate Price

Dear Sir,  
Mr. C. A. Price, in his letter to "On Dit" of August 6, shows a pleasing lack of personal abuse, but is, I think, in parts, a little inadequate in his considerations.

No one will deny the right of the Sports Association to pass a motion of political form. Mr. Johnston, to do him justice, has not, publicly at any rate, denied them this right. He merely stated his opposition to the contents of the motion. Surely this can hardly warrant Mr. Price's assumption that socialist students are denying others, unwittingly or otherwise, the liberties they themselves demand.

Mr. Price's assertion that many students—"civilians by accident, but soldiers by conviction"—should be able to help produce war materials—is legitimate enough. But does Mr. Price think that students acting as strike-breakers (probably during time that normally would be spent in advancing their knowledge of their reserved occupation) would achieve this purpose. I maintain that if this were their purpose, they would themselves defeat it by their actions.

The suggestion that to win the war, the average income of income-earners must be reduced to below the present basic wage will admittedly place both Mr. Johnston's associates and opponents in the same category as traitors. However, my admiration for the average Australian (traitor though he apparently is) who possesses sufficient intelligence to produce a war effort up to thirty per cent. on such an absurd arrangement as was calculated by economists, is unbounded.

Mr. Price further says, with undoubted justice, that many students, socialist and otherwise have refused, unbiassedly and independently to seek the bottom of the problem. I would suggest, however, particularly in relation to Mr. Johnston, that his opponents have erred more than his supporters.

In reply to Mr. Price's last paragraph I would say that: (1) Both socialist and capitalist systems are based on the admission of human selfishness, but that the socialist system curbs the evil effects of this to a greater extent; (2) that the reasons why happiness and a developed life are good can only be adjudged by the effect on the human race, and this at present is impossible to judge, owing to the inadequacy of the material available, but we can see the effects of poverty, hardship, physical and mental restriction, and this should, I think, make us suspicious of the goodness of such.—Sincerely yours,  
R. R. SOBEY.

P.S.: Some people will no doubt be delighted to hear of the courage and tact which moved a large body of "true seekers" to uplift the last Union meeting from the lurid glare of politics into the more mellow glow of personal spite against two (doubly courageous of the "true seekers") who were making no attempt to fulfil "Mr. Johnston's dictum of seeking the true basis of social life unbiassedly and without prejudgment." A truly gallant attempt to force these people unbiassedly and independently to seek the bottom of the problem (sorry, river).—R.R.S.

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(Continued from previous column.)  
annual general meeting, seized the opportunity of making a personal attack on Mr. Johnston, with unfortunate results, as I think many Union members will realize. We may not all agree with Mr. Johnston's politics, but the position of President is not a political one, and he seems to fill the bill admirably in all other respects.  
ALINE FENWICK.

## Russian Fascism

Sir,

From the welter of heroics, hysterics, and histrionics which seem to distinguish the correspondence of "our minority," Mr. Allison's letter of your last issue stands forth as a comparatively lucid argument, an argument which must be answered by those of us who believe that Fascism will be defeated neither by strikes in war industries, nor by the slogan, "Better Fascist Hitler than Fascist Menzies."

Mr. Allison proposes a new government, but coyly declines to give any intimation of what such a government would be. I think, however, that it may be assumed that this government would be a "socialist" government, modelled faithfully upon Moscow.

For some time now, "our minority" has waxed exceeding smug over the splendid resistance of Russia to the German armies, especially when contrasted with the French debacle and our own defeats in Libya, Greece, and Crete. But this splendid resistance is the resistance, not of a socialistic or communistic democracy, but of a highly organized totalitarian bureaucracy. The leading general of the Communist Party has succeeded, by a series of judicious "liquidations," in circumventing the Russian constitution, of which one hears so much, and enjoys to-day an authority as absolute as that of the Czars. (If amplification of this statement is demanded, a former general of the G.P.U., Krivitsky, has vividly depicted Russia's transition from democracy to Fascism in his "I Was Stalin's Agent.") Moreover, the Russian press is entirely under State control, even more so than the iniquitous "Advertiser." Freedom of thought and freedom of speech have vanished, while dissident elements—those who have not yet been executed—are kept underground by the G.P.U., an organization equalled in efficiency only by the Gestapo. The dauntless Red Army is a conscript army. I am no apologist for our present Australian Government, but if this is the Utopia towards which we are to strive, Mussolini Menzies and Hitler Hughes have my full support.

In any case the monstrous threat of Fascism from without renders ludicrous this myth of "Fascism from within"—if we lose to Germany, we lose not only to a foe who would destroy our democracy but to a foe who would regard the mass extermination of the English peoples as an act of worship to his dark gods of blood and power.

We do not advocate, as Mr. Allison contends, a bitter racial hatred, nor yet the "forceful suppression of opinion" and the "nobility of toil and sweat." We advocate support for the present Government, if nothing better than Russian Fascism is offered us; we advocate the preservation of our democracy, with which the gagging of Mr. Johnston is not incompatible; and we advocate resolute opposition to obstructionists, whenever and wherever they appear.

H. D. ANDERSON.

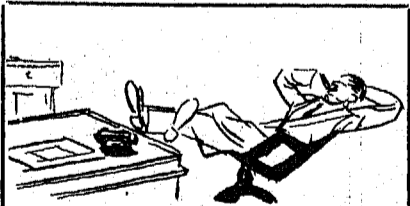
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## No Little Reticence

Sir,

It is with no little reticence that I forward this letter for publication in "On Dit" this week, as my last effort in that direction met with a rather ignominious fate. I must congratulate those "controlling" "On Dit" for their remarkable foresight in "carrying over" indefinitely a letter sent in by myself three weeks ago in response to Mr. Hamilton's latest contribution on behalf of "Angry Penguins."

This letter, in addition to completely damning any evidence for the support of "Angry Penguins," was also a direct challenge to the epistle of Mr. Hamilton a week earlier, and for "the few controlling 'On Dit'" to suddenly whisk it into print a month later would certainly place it in a ridiculous light, so, as a consequence, I had no alternative but to withdraw it.

I wish to ask the members of the University Union what right Mr. Hamilton exercises in perusing the subject matter of "On Dit" before its publication and thus being in a position to suppress any evidence unwelcome to his worthy cause.

By this means the identity of all those wishing to withhold their names from print are known to Mr. Hamilton and his associates, and not to any other casual member of the Union. Why?

Yet in spite of this, Mr. Hamilton has the insolence to make the following statement in reference to Mr. N. Abbott's letter, "Sufficient is it to say that his assertion that I am one of those who run 'On Dit' is based upon the fact that I have written two letters about 'Angry Penguins' and a critique of Teachers' College 'Gondoliers'."

Mr. Hamilton appears to be under the delusion that readers of "On Dit" are just going to accept his statements at face value. They are certainly not, and before long the unbiased members of the university will be so fed up that the code of honour which has restrained them so far will be cast to the winds and Mr. Hamilton and his comrades will get just what they have been asking for. It is easy enough now to see that my letter would have conflicted rather rudely with the present arrangements for the re-founding of "Angry Penguins" appearing in the same issue for which my original letter was intended.

Mr. Hamilton makes the statement that his minority is courageous. I hope Mr. Hamilton does not include himself in that category. For the fact that he has not had the "guts" to back up his public outbursts prove him to be nothing but a despicably yellow coward, merely taking advantage of the nicety of word manipulation, thus enabling him to alter the complete meaning of his subversive remarks—of course, with the unbiased

## Sons of Gentlemen

Sir,

It was with grave misgivings for the future of this country in general, and the Adelaide University in particular, that I witnessed to-day a scene that in other circumstances would be branded as "hooliganism." Had the participants in this "ducking" episode been brought up in the poorer and rougher quarters of the city and suburbs, and the event in question taken place in less inviting surroundings the principals would have been brought before the courts, and meted out with the justice they would so richly deserve. In those circumstances it would have been possible to feel some sympathy for them, because they knew no better, but when one sees the so-called "sons of gentlemen" resorting to strong-arm methods when they have been bested in argument, one can feel nothing but contempt for them. These feelings, I am sure, are not those of a minority in this case, but the feeling of all reasonable-minded students of the Varsity, whatever their political beliefs.

Scenes like the one that followed to-day's Union meeting are typical of happenings in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy just prior to the advent of Hitler and Mussolini. It was in such small beginnings that Hitler's storm troopers and Mussolini's Fascisti found their genesis. And I have no hesitation in saying that it would be well for the authorities to look, not to the trade unions but to certain sections of our university for signs of "disaffection amongst His Majesty's subjects." In this connection, it is interesting to note statements by certain people that Hitler must chuckle with glee when he sees trade unions striking for better conditions, and thus hindering the "war effort," but I imagine his satisfaction would be much greater were he to see a report of to-day's episode. He could say with a fair amount of certainty, "Here at least is a group which will be receptive of Nazi ideas, because they have already mastered the rudiments of Nazi persuasion methods."

One could see signs of their methods in the arguments they used at the Union

evidence of Elliott Johnston and a few of his satellites to help him out. The point is that whatever Mr. Hamilton said his meaning was perfectly clear.

Mr. Hamilton and his compatriots will, of course, produce their usual inane counter, i.e., "that we are fighting internal Fascism." I defy anyone to prove this and here state that, whatever Mr. Hamilton and his equally delightful companions have to say on the matter, we are fighting Fascist Hitler and our job is to beat him and beat him now, whatever the consequences.—Yours, etc.

R. M. FORD.

### EDITOR'S NOTE.

As you have made a serious accusation against me, namely, that I have withheld your letter because it would interfere with the method of raising subscriptions for "Angry Penguins," I think I am justified in replying to it in this issue.

Your main argument in the letter in question, and which I should still like to publish, is that "Angry Penguins" is, or would be, "subversive" and "detrimental to the war effort." This, I think, is fantastic in view of the fact that it is purely a literary magazine (the last contained an article from a member of the Intelligence Dept., one from an A.I.F. member, poems from three members of the Air Force, and three love poems by Mr. Harris). Neither the control, nor the nature of the proposed material for the new magazine, has in any way altered. If, however, on appearance it should be deemed "subversive" by any of the subscribers, I am willing to make myself personally responsible for their subscription. The list of subscribers you refer to was held over from an earlier edition (you may question the printer about this), and no material increase in subscriptions has been received since your letter.

Nevertheless, though I regard your letter as being absurd, I have never had any intention of not publishing it. When, because the quantity of material of more topical interest in the first issue I held back your letter I published a note to the effect. In the last issue I again, because of an excess, held over all material not of immediate interest, though, unfortunately, I omitted to state this. One cannot publish everything, and I cannot see that your letter has been as much impaired in being held over as some of the other letters so treated.

Moreover, it is the only letter of an adverse nature (though I myself am not a party to the "Angry Penguins" dispute—my attitude being that though I support "Angry Penguins," and consider the Union Committee's attitude in refusing a grant rather parochial, they had every right to do so)—it is the only letter of such a nature I have ever held back.

## Mark Twain Eclipsed

Dear Sir,

I have for many years considered Mark Twain's energetic Tennessee editor the writer of the most slanderous and most abusive language of all time, though Pope also has many claims to this title. Mr. C. Villeneuve-Smith, however, shows promise of eclipsing both.

He has only to develop his style a little, extend his vocabulary to include a few more words like "lickspittle," and to completely, instead of almost doing so, ignore any minor details, such as the truth of the matter, which tend to restrict the flow of his remarkable language.

Seriously, though, I am amazed by the number of libellous and untrue statements Mr. Villeneuve-Smith manages to cram into a mere matter of four inches of column space.

For example, he speaks of Mr. Johnston's attack on Mr. Abbott, which is non-existent. It has been clear throughout these discussions that Mr. Johnston has merely expressed his opinion clearly without any personal attack on Mr. Abbott, who, however, has muddled his way through a series of libellous misstatements as does any true Hebraist.

Mr. Villeneuve-Smith then states that Mr. Johnston holds views which are incompatible with a total war effort, and that Mr. Harris and Mr. Hamilton have "displayed eager willingness to lend themselves to activities of a most dubious character." In his letter, Mr. Johnston most carefully pointed out that he was not in favour of strikes, but that he considered that the Sports Association's action was a foolish move because it pre-empted all strikes, and, despite Mr. Villeneuve-Smith's teeth-gnashing, one must admit that this is a reasonable attitude to adopt. With regard to Mr. Harris and Mr. Hamilton, I feel quite safe in challenging him to prove his accusations.—I am, etc.,

W. W. MANSFIELD.

## The Man Adam

Dear Sir,

The present tension arising from the Abbott-Johnston dispute has led many people to suggest a solution of the problem of government. Their reasons for the failure of present conditions are not very convincing. The real reason, I think, is found in the nature of man, exemplified by Adam, who sneaked the apple. He was showing his greed, his hunger for something not rightly his. In the same way, the nations of the world to-day are dissatisfied with their portion; they fight to obtain material gain.

In Australia itself the capitalist seeks to increase his profits and power; the socialist in turn, evincing the same trait in his make-up, seeks to wrest away some of this power. The government, composed of men such as Adam, has inevitable flaws. We must, therefore, replace it by a socialist, or communist, government. The flaws are now repaired, allowing new, and, possibly, greater ones to appear. Such weaknesses will, and must, be evident in every form of government. They cannot be righted overnight by the formation of a new ruling body. Rather the strong parts of one policy should be used to bolster up the weak parts in another. Both policies have their pros and cons, to which we must not be blinded.

We must accept these conflicting conditions as part of our existence in modern civilization. The caveman, or the wild Australian aborigine, is quite happy in his environment, eating, drinking, and sleeping—but then he's not civilized and therefore has not heard of politics, of Hitler, of Johnston, or of Abbott.

However, we cannot return to nature. We can, however, outwit Adam by repairing the flaws in our nature. Why not begin by being sincere and two-eyed, instead of calling a meeting to make an opponent swallow his opinions, or of threatening someone else with forced immersion in the Torrens?

If the prevalent discussion is to affect us as it does, a less dangerous topic must be resorted to. The topless bathers question might even be worth a trial.—Yours sincerely,

A. E. NORMAN.

## Odd

Sir,

I wonder if it strikes any of your readers as being extraordinary for an editor to write a letter to himself under his own name in his own publication.

M.G.S.

## LACROSSE DINNER

August 16

(Continued from previous column.)

of their hypocrisy, and their actions after the Union meeting show them in their true light, as the would-be suppressors of minority movements, and the antagonists of social progress.

A. W. R. SAINT,

# "A" GRADE LACROSSE DEFEATED IN SEMI-FINAL

## West Torrens Held Till Last Quarter

For the first time since 1935 the A's reached the final four, but were defeated by West Torrens in the semi-final last Saturday.

Wallman scored the first goal of the match, and we retained the lead for about ten minutes until West Torrens scored, but immediately afterwards Wallman was again successful. Before the quarter ended, however, Torrens evened, making the score 2 goals all.

The next two quarters were probably the most interesting seen in an A grade match for the season, as neither side was able to score for over an hour. The ball passed from end to end, and, although our forwards were unable to do any good, the fine defensive work of Thompson and Osman nullified all the efforts of our opponents.

Five minutes after the last quarter began, the score was still two goals all when one of the Torrens forwards missed a pass, which hit the wood of his stick and was deflected into a team-mate's stick, who netted their third goal and gave them the lead.

Thus encouraged Torrens scored another goal, and then put ten of their twelve men in the back lines, and made scoring impossible for us. A third goal made the final scores 5—2.

Wallman played his finest game for the season, and was easily the best of the attacks and forwards. Had there been five of him we would have won easily. He scored both goals.

Thompson, as the "Advertiser" pointed out, was the outstanding man on the ground, and was largely responsible for the West Torrens score being as low as it was.

Greenhalgh, Munday, and Kirkman also played well, and the soundness of the defence can be judged from the fact that each of Torrens' five goals were scored by different men and that no one man scored more than once.

Much of the credit of our opponents' low score should be given to Frayne, who also played his best game for the season and almost took the match seriously at times.

Osman had the misfortune to stop an almost certain goal by putting his eye

to the ball, but, in spite of his injury, was always where he was wanted most and relieved the situation on many occasions.

Abbott showed great promise as a forward and should score next year if he gets a game in the C's. He also proved that a butcher can't change his strokes.

As the season is now over and this is the last time that the activities of the Lacrosse Club appear in print, the Hon. Secretary, wishing to take advantage of the fact that he has not yet been forbidden to write in his official capacity, wishes to exhort the following members in certain matters:

1. That person, who has not yet paid for the stick, which he bought only four months ago, to do so soon.
2. That multitude who have not paid their ground fees to do so this week.
3. Those persons who are coming to the dinner on Saturday night next to give their names to one of the following: B. S. Hetzel, N. S. Wallman, R. Wurm, G. Munday, or the Hon. Secretary before 5 p.m. TO-DAY (Wednesday).

Players in the centre of the court were continuously dazzled by a brilliant spot of green, which darted hither and thither in a vain effort to catch something—be it ball or player.

A great asset to the Engineers' defence line was a star from the football field, who, when he found that football boots were forbidden, scornfully discarded all footwear—and then was kept busy seeing that no one jumped on his toes.

The game attracted numerous photographers, whose snaps should be well worth the light of day, and members of the Basketball Club would get great pleasure from seeing their opponents, and even themselves, in some of the undignified positions which caused the spectators so much amusement.

## Baseball

Goodwood: 1, 3, 1, 0, 4, 3—12.  
University: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0—0.

Safekickers: Soar, Slade, Lewis.  
After winning three consecutive matches our run of victories was broken by Goodwood. Their victory was undoubtedly due to very vigorous batting and to almost perfect fielding through which we were unable to force our way. We also found the veteran, Ron Sharpe, in excellent form on the mound, and he showed that his arm still has plenty of kick in it. He kept our hits down to three, and as two of these came from players promoted at the last minute from the B's it shows how weak our batting was.

There seems to be little point in discussing the match at any length because, after the first few innings, it was evident that it was only a matter of how many runs Goodwood would score before game was called. Owing to the feeble resistance we offered, the match was very dull and uninteresting.

Our reverse in this match has, I think, robbed us of any chance of participating in the finals, and even if we did get into the four our form on Saturday clearly indicated that we would have little chance of surviving the first semi-final.

Once again the B's were forced to forfeit because of shortage of players, and although the season is nearly over it looks as though they will have to pull out of the competition.

## Hockey

A's defeat Motors Ltd., 4—0.  
B's draw with Blackwood, 2—2.  
C's lose against Y.M.C.A., 0—3.

Although the A's won on Saturday, the standard exhibited was not particularly brilliant. At times individual players were outstanding, but as a team we did not deserve such a victory.

McPhie was outstanding in the forward line and passed well from right wing. Smith and Yates did well in the half line and Lloyd was about the place in the back line. His cross-field dashes cleared the ball on many occasions. Salter scored a goal after a vigorous tussle with the opposing backs.

Next week the A's meet Shell and a good match is expected. However, better form will be necessary to accomplish this. Shell are second on the list and if we defeat them University will have a chance of coming premiers.

Best players: Lloyd, Strange, Yates, Smith.

Goalhitters: Godfrey, Strange, Salter, McPhie.

### B TEAM.

In a match which could almost be classed as an "all-in" contest, the B's drew with Blackwood, 2 all. The game was generally extremely ragged and crowded, partly due to the fact that the forwards, with the opposition playing a full back short, had to stay well back in order to be in an "on side" position. They would, however, have done well in the first half to have chased long passes from the backs, instead of waiting for the ball to come back. The backs often lost the ball through wasting too much time in getting into position for long hits. Apparently, the oft-repeated warning against fly-hitting has made them go to the other extreme.

Goalhitter: Linn (2).

Best players: Drew, Linn, Fenner.

### C TEAM.

The C's lacked system on Saturday. The forwards were unable to attack vigorously enough to force the issue. The backs played well and managed to save many goals.

Best players: Frayne, Tucker, Hackworth.

## Football

### 'VARSITY B's.

On Saturday the B's were beaten by King's Old Scholars. This match was played with seventeen men, and even so the team showed a decided increase in its form.

In the first quarter we scored only a few points, but in the second quarter the back line stopped King's from scoring any goals and at half-time the scores were the same. By the final change King's were three goals ahead, and they went on to win by 3 goals 4 behinds.

The best player in the match was John Day, who played in the ruck and rested

Ted Norman roved well all day.

At the final change we saw John Day give the umpire an orange. We want to know if this is how he got the vote.

Also at three-quarter time ex-rugby player "Archie" was getting the low-down from the umpire on why he should not do rugby tackles in a football match.

After the match Ross Duncan was elected acting captain and Ted Norman secretary.

Results: King's Old Scholars, 11 goals 15 behinds; University B, 8 goals 11 behinds.

Best players: Day, Bridgland, Lewis, Rishbeith, Duncan, and Norman.

Goalkickers: Day (4), Duncan (2), Anderson and Hebart (each 1).

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at goalsneak, where he did his best work by kicking four goals.

The second vote was obtained by "Milky" Bridgland, playing at centre halfback. He repeatedly turned back many of King's attacks. Bridgland's kicking has improved considerably this year—he kicks a few straight ones now.

Lewis, on the wing, although handicapped by a cold, played his usual good game. On the other wing Rishbeith was in command all day.

Ross Duncan, at centre half-forward, led out very well and passed accurately to the goalsneak. He himself kicked two goals and was responsible for many more.

## Basketball

Last Wednesday the A and B teams showed the Engineers the stern stuff they are made of, when they succeeded in defeating two teams representing that worthy body, the score for the A's being 27 to goals to 21, and for the B's 23 to 21.

To begin with our opponents were a little wild, and though they had been particularly warned about keeping their hands and feet to themselves, there were numerous ex-rugby players who just couldn't keep to our rules.

After some effort, the men decided that goalthrowing was not to be worked out by mathematical formulae—and their score improved rapidly when they just relied on chance. One tall, blonde goalie seemed to have some trouble in chasing after what he termed those "bunnies" or "bits of fluff," who, in turn, vowed that in future they would come to the fray armed with rope ladders to scale the heights.



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