

ON DIT

PRODUCED BY THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION

ON DIT GAGGED OR FREE

A Call for Action and No Bull

FOUR freedoms, Atlantic Charter, freedom of speech, democracy—

What does all this mean? A casual survey of the Union procedure made recently has made us wonder where and how the above-mentioned phrases can be applied to the administration of a Students' Union. Yes—we have a Union and the word means in its restricted sense to quote only a few meanings, uniting together, concord, agreement, etc. Naturally, the Union is much more than this, and consists, as all freshers know (vide Handbook), a coalition of students to form a common meeting ground, means of recreation, etc.

An examination was made of various types of organisations to find their essential functions and just how they held meetings and dealt with routine business. This survey arises out of the apathy of students in general to take an active, yea, even passive, interest in Union affairs. Who are the members of the Union Committee? Do you know them? Who is your Faculty representative? All these questions were fired at a cross-section of students—the answers were even more amazing than the extraordinary apathy of students, both men and women. The foregoing attack leads us to the main point of this article, namely, to make Union affairs an open book.

Democracy.

But first let us cite the instances of other outside bodies working in a similar manner to the Students' Union. Parliamentary procedure is well-known roughly, very roughly, by most University students, it being one of the worst examples of ignorance in this direction. The obvious reply to this allegation we will not deal with, but pass over as a triviality. The freedom of the citizen is unlimited in a Parliamentary sense. Hansard provides us with a record of every spoken word uttered in both Houses, whether State or Federal. No regulations exist to restrict this important safeguard of democracy. The reports of debates are printed and sold to the public at low cost and every care is taken that members are correctly reported. The Parliamentary committees which are set up by the assent of the House publish reports on their activities, and are open to members of the public who desire to attend the meetings of such bodies. In short, there are no secrets in Parliament. The control of the State is absolutely patent to any citizen to see who so desires. This procedure is uniform throughout the British Commonwealth and the first standing order of all these bodies is uniform, vide Standing Orders Book, chapter I, para. I. This means that no abuse of freedom of speech is tolerated in any British Parliament.

When we examine political parties we find that the executive of these bodies do not disclose all their proceedings. In the case of trade unions a report must be furnished by the executive if asked for by the members. The organisation of smaller bodies was examined, and it was found that the conduct of executive bodies was uniform except for slight variations peculiar to the individual bodies.

President's Resignation

Why, then, you ask, have we come this far? What is the point of telling us these practically worthless (sic) facts? The last edition of "On Dit" carried the banner—"President Resigns"—hardly anybody sat up and took notice; they merely yawned and turned over again. Nobody asks why the President resigned, or what procedure was to be done next. The Union Committee were in full possession of the facts, but remained silent.

This and other instances lead to conduct this survey of democratic procedure with the good intent of pointing out the need for a general revival of interest in Union affairs.

Ignorance.

The Union Committee proceedings are unknown to the majority of students. Do you know what goes on at committee meetings?

The men and women who constitute the body are your elected representatives. You put them there. Do YOU see that they're doing a worthwhile job?

Yes—while the governing bodies of the nation are possessed by ideas of four freedoms, etc., the controlling body of the Union meets behind closed doors and nobody save the few can know what has happened. "On Dit" tried to report the meetings, but was restricted by a bygone custom of keeping things confidential. We are the Union paper, its voice; you pay for "On Dit" indirectly, and we feel that it is our duty to give a true and undistorted account of Union affairs.

The President's resignation caused a stir, but it should have caused one hell of a stir. What is behind these resignations and the failure of A.G.M. The two contributing factors are (a) the complete lack of responsibility felt by students in general, and (b) the secrecy with which Union affairs are carried out.

That this is not the organ of a political society has definitely been stated in the past and was one of the understandings on which the new "On Dit" was revived—that there should be no unfortunate recurrence of the October, 1941, incident. This is plain, and yet the Union executive identifies itself (unconsciously, of course) as a kindred spirit of these societies.

No Secret Meetings.

This plainly means that we object to secret meetings, and suggest reform of Union affairs, whether they be change of personnel of committees or the not uncommon practice of publishing the minutes of the Union Committee meetings.

"On Dit" Criticism.

"On Dit" plans to hold a self-criticism meeting, open to all, which will in general be a means of arousing student interest in "On Dit"—criticism from all sides will be welcomed. The Union is yours! The staff of "On Dit" want YOUR support. This is your paper and we urge you to examine Union affairs and be active in the pursuance of your privileges as a member of a body with an outstanding record of past achievement. Translate the past into the present.

Union secret meetings need your attention—either defence or attack. The purpose of this article is not

purely controversial, although that angle is inevitable in discussion of any kind.

"On Dit" brings to your notice the deplorable state of Union affairs, the lack of spirit in the Union. All congratulations are due to the retiring president, whose activities forced him to resign. His unflinching interest in Union matters made the pressure of his work as a student unduly harsh—and so the interests of the Union had to be sacrificed once again in the name of "The Shop."

Our final appeal for action goes to freshers and freshettes who have not yet developed the all too familiar lethargic condition of our contemporaries.

Teachers' College Democracy

In the first assembly of the year, Dr. Schulz distinguishes between autonomous and heteronomous government. The student body of the Teachers' College is governed from within itself; it is autonomous. Of course, there are one or two rather minor restrictions imposed by the Department—such as signing on autographically in the morning and afternoon. But these things are unavoidable in a College that is an integral, and vital, part of the whole educational structure of the State.

The primary legislative body is the Students' Council—a parallel to the S.R.C. of all universities. The members of the council are drawn from all sections of the College. No student need hide himself in a corner of the Common Room to lament alleged grievances. Through his representative his views can be brought before council, where they are fully discussed.

The council has wide powers. In the words of the Constitution, "The council shall have power to effect improvements in matters touching the welfare of the students of the College, such as curriculum, hours of study, disciplinary matters, and generally any matters of collegiate interest, subject to the approval of the Principal." The last phrase is in theory the catch. But the Principal is always prepared to hear and welcome the student point of view. At no time has he vetoed any reasonable request of the students.

Affiliated with the council are several committees, the most important of which are finance and consultative. All College moneys, even the receipts and expenditure of the forthcoming opera, pass through the hands of the honorary treasurer. The function of the finance committee is to check accounts, to pass accounts for payment, and to report as required on the state of College finances. Consultative discusses all council minutes, and may offer suggestions to council. Members of staff take seats on these committees, but it is important to note that the students can outvote staff on the consultative committee. The staff and student voting strength on the finance committee are equal. How-

ever, committee meetings are not staff v. student contests. Voting "on party lines" is unknown.

A final word on minutes. Apparently meetings of the S.R.C. of the University are secret. Such a position would not be tolerated in the College. The council is elected by the students to supervise student affairs, and students have the right to know what their representatives are doing, whether they are worthy of their position. The minutes of College Council meetings are published within a week. If Varsity S.R.C. minutes are carefully locked up, then I think Varsity students are not truly autonomous.

Union A.G.M. Fiasco

The postponed annual general meeting was held a fortnight ago in the lunch time. The proceedings became something like this:—

Miss Nan Robertson in chair.
Meeting opened.
Secretary speaks—nothing much.
Nothing.
Nothing.
Mr. Draper appeals.
Nothing.
Mr. Draper tries again.
Someone talks.
Eulogy of Mr. Stain.
Mr. Brown speaks—nothing much.
Miss Robertson—"Anymorebusiness I declare the meeting closed."

COMMENCING
FRIDAY
APRIL 21.

HE CHARMED YOU AS MR. CHIPS!
HE'LL THRILL YOU AS MR. PITT!
ROBERT DONAT in
"THE YOUNG MR. PITT"
(G)
With Robert Morley, Phyllis Calvert.

Plus—THESE INTERESTING SHORTS....
"GAY PARISIENNE"
"PATRIOTIC POOCHES"
On Stage: JUNE PERRY, Soprano.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
MAY 1944

COMMENCING
REX
4 Shows Daily

NEXT
FRIDAY
APRIL 21.

IT'S SINGTIME! IT'S SPRINGTIME!
IT'S SWINGTIME!
In Glorious Technicolor!!
"SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES" (G)

Plus—Danger . . . Every Thrilling Second!
"Quiet Please—Murder!"
(A)
With
GEORGE SANDERS, GAIL PATRICK.

OPINION

Back the Attack

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir—Many accusations of apathy towards student activities have been levelled against members of the Union in recent months. Principal of these was the plaint of your article re the poor attendance at the A.G.M. and the non-attendance of Mr. Draper to discuss the two points on the agenda, which (I understand) were added at his request. Further evidence of local apathy is given by the rumors that the hon. treasurer (Mr. Bampton), who spends a great deal of valuable time and highly specialised knowledge on Union finance, complains that not more than two or three of even the Union Committee display interest in Union finance.

That such a state of apathy exists I do not attempt to deny. In six years at University I have seen and participated in this apathy, but that such a state should be allowed to continue is deplorable. I have given some thought to the matter and desire to put forward a solution.

No student can be expected to display an intelligent interest in Union affairs unless he knows what those affairs are. But what do we find? No record is ever made available of the activities of the Union committee, the governing body of the Union. Hence it is grossly unfair to expect the average student to take the slightest interest in any Union activity other than social events, which have a natural attraction. So little, in fact, is known of the committee's activities that maiden representatives on the committee have little or no knowledge of their activities, purpose, or powers. This is a dangerous state of affairs, since at present members of the Union elect representatives to the committee but have absolutely no chance to judge of the effectiveness of their representation. In this latter respect I have made some discreet enquiries and, according to my findings, the representative who polled best at the elections for this year's committee was excelled in the smallness of his attendance at last year's committee meetings only by one of the council representatives. Union members, if these reports be true—I cannot be sure of my facts owing to the shroud of secrecy surrounding the committee's activities—have a right to know why that section of the constitution which says that "a member failing to attend two consecutive meetings without reason" (I do not quote, but the gist is there) may be removed from office, is not invoked.

I have outlined my two major grouches, viz., lack of knowledge of Union activities and lack of figures of attendance at meetings, but in addition I think some explanation should be forthcoming from the committee of rumors and events of the past few weeks.

For instance, Mr. Stain resigned the presidency a few weeks ago after having held office for 15 months. We have a right to know why he did this, instead of a bare announcement in "On Dit," with no embellishments. Mr. Stain, in answer to my questions, gave pressure of work as his reason for resigning, but surely the Union is entitled, not only to an official statement to this effect from the committee, but also to a statement on Mr. Stain's efficiency or otherwise during his occupancy of the presidential chair, and possibly a recommendation as to the next President. For all we know we haven't a President. Miss Robertson took the chair at the adjourned A.G.M., but does she officially occupy this position? We're only poor suckers, but we at least have a right to know these things. Moreover, a statement regarding Mr. Stain's resignation would be particularly desirable in view of the circumstances surrounding the resignations of two recent Presidents, viz., Messrs. Johnston and Abbott, although it would seem that Mr. Stain retired unblemished in

reputation in view of the honorary life membership tendered him by those present at the A.G.M.

Having outlined my conceptions of the reasons for student apathy, I offer a remedy, viz., to publish within two days of each general committee meeting a complete copy of the minutes thereof. I suggest that this be posted on the Refectory notice board and also be published in "On Dit." "On Dit," after all, is the official organ of the Union, and such minutes should be printed in it as a matter of course. They'd probably be the only material supplied by the committee to the Editor, whose position with regard to the committee is farcical. He is graciously permitted to attend the committee meetings, but must print nothing unless authorised to do so by the committee. Many are the fruity plums which must thus slip from his grasp and be lost forever to Union members. Why does the committee not take advantage of "On Dit" and spread the seeds of its wisdom throughout our community? I predict that if it does so there will be a noticeable and gratifying decrease in the present long-lived apathy.

Failing action in this respect by the committee there are two obvious remedies—that is, if sufficient people are interested in remedying the position. Both lie in a special general meeting, called on receipt by Mr. Hamilton of a petition signed by 20 members. The remedies are:—

1. A vote of no-confidence in the Union committee (a horrifying thought); or
2. An amendment of the constitution to permit publication of general committee minutes as outlined above.

Any meeting called to move the second of these, failing definite action by the committee, will find me voting in favor of the motion with as many cronies as I can press-gang into attendance.—Yours, etc.,

RECENT GRAD.

Politics

To the Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,—As a fresher, coming unbiased from the outside world, I want to lament the scarcity in "On Dit" of opinions touching matters extraneous to the University. Are politics barred? Do foreign affairs suffer from some sort of stringent editorial censorship? I quite understand it is peculiarly fascinating to read opinions on our own 'Varsity life, and that opinions wholly made up of second front or State election prophecies would tend towards the commonplace, but the outside world is a big thing and University undergraduates should have some opinion of it.

"TORY."

Honí Soit Please Copy

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir—At Sydney University some crank shrieks "free speech," and as a result 1,000 or so pin-headed youths with adolescent enthusiasm and sense of responsibility march for the lark of it through the streets of Sydney. The result is, of course, that the monopoly capitalist press has a revelation of 2,000 soldiers, citizens, and students marching in defence of democratic freedom. "There were clashes with the police" the newspapers say sinisterly.

At the time this event occurred not one of these bumptious children had any real idea of the issues at stake. The issues are not yet fully clarified. It is doubtful if any of these undergraduates were capable of working out the political implications which their arbitrary interference in the situation would produce.

As it is, they have become a propaganda weapon for the newspapers against the Commonwealth; they have identified themselves with irrational bigoted "popular sentiment," which is what the newspapers would desire if they possessed an unjust case.

Who are Sydney's adolescents and

pip-squeaks to judge the rights and wrongs in a situation before the trained minds of the court possess the facts and are able to judge? How many fully recognised the social relativity of freedom?

The inference to be drawn is simply that students are only big fish because they swim in such miserable puddles. To realise the rawness of their mental equipment, the juvenility of their social attitudes, would damp down the noisy assertions of "studentism," but would produce these processes of maturing which might make them develop into big fish in a real ocean. Awareness of limitations is all-important in the student. At the moment Adelaide is miles ahead (in this sense) of Sydney's loud-mouths.—MAX HARRIS.

Foul Fiasco

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,—We wish to bring before the notice of the University the hide-bound apathy of the vast majority of its members. Not merely was the Annual General Meeting of the Union a complete fiasco, but the general view taken of any progressive movement promoted by members of the Union is contemptibly disgraceful, as instanced in the miserable response to the call for a debating society, and the fact that medical initiations proved a greater attraction for the mass than the postponed Union meeting.

The University, as far as assimilation of ideas and ideals is concerned, is laughably decadent.

The main body of students, especially in the technical faculties, seems to take the view that this is a place for vocational training, that they may later accumulate a satisfactory amount of filthy lucre.

We raise the plea that students should remember that this is a seat of learning, not a school of arts and crafts, and that the Union is not merely a body to provide facilities for luncheon, but should be an organised team of co-operative individuals.—Yours, etc.,

F. O. D. CROWTHER.
D. A. DUNSTAN.

Battle of Wits

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,—I perceive a major war developing between your two extremist co-res, our champion poon, and our champion Dumb Dora, on the subject of jokes. Throgbottle deprecates the fact that wherever he turns in the 'Varsity he hears yarns which "destroy the beautiful relationship . . . between the sexes," while Throgbottler has never yet heard a smutty yarn here, or seen anyone telling one, and is apparently eager to hear some. This is a poor show. Both are guilty of large-scale, demoralising, technological inexactitudes. So that one will not be blithely gulled into believing that we are either a lot of foul, degraded seccos, or innocent, 100% pure doods (either of which is a very bad thing), the matter needs cleaning up.

It is a well-understood fact that in any community (except, perhaps, a super-ultra-pro-wowser organisation), when two or three are gathered together, yarns will be told, and that, by the laws of probability (see Physics I), the ratio between smutty and clean will, if taken over a sufficiently long length of time, be equal to the ratio between the smutty and clean jokes in existence.

Had either of the Throgs been observant, they would have found that the type of humor most appreciated by those of above moron intelligence is not the most filthy, but the most neatly put. If it happens to make Throgbottle blush, he can go away.—I am, yours, etc.,

"SHAGGY DOG."

Reply to "Mye Selph."—You might search the place in the meantime, and tell us if you have found anything resembling social life apart from the Freshers' Dance. We would like to know if "On Dit" is published mainly for morons or not.—R.K.L.

Send this copy to your friends, if you have any, in the Services—it is printed by E. J. McAlister & Co., 24 Blyth Street, Adelaide.

Madame Woo

Well, the freshettes are settling down nicely now, and have lost that terribly new look that we all seem to have in our first weeks of Refectory I. The men, too, are getting used to seeing them around, and are realising that it's not the females that are at a premium but the males; but as yet they don't seem to be doing anything about it—or do they? There's a certain young hussy who seems to have been creating a bit of a stir, and you don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to notice the many admiring glances that centre upon Cubbie Bollett.

It looks as if the Barr is going to prove a happy hunting ground again this year. There are three definite techniques in use in this library. Firstly, the one where A goes to look for the book which is nearest to B, and having found it sits down with B. This procedure is repeated until A feels he can say "Hullo!" to B with a friendly smile whenever they pass. And, of course, you all know what a great step that is.

Secondly, A comes in timidly and sits as far away from B as is possible without losing sight of her, and gazes upon her with a faintly sick air. Should B chance to look in his direction, he is immediately engrossed with his book. This method is not to be recommended, because it can apparently go on for years without producing any tangible results.

Now, here we give you the most successful method in use to-day. A, having ascertained from private sources B's school, name, address, approaches her in the library with a confident step, lounges gracefully on her table, swinging a nonchalant leg. He smiles lazily and murmurs, "Didn't I meet you at the Blue and White last year?"—then quickly, before B can reply, he says with assurance, "Of course I did; I couldn't possibly forget you." Now this is a master stroke, because even if B has never seen A before she will certainly not divorce herself from this compliment. So there you are, smiling happily at each other, and after that it's up to you.

Many happy wishes to Barb (Dark Horse) Kelly on her engagement and marriage to Michael Tipping. Barb, it would appear, is one of those girls affectionately known as "sly dogs." We can all say with every sincerity, "You're a lucky man, Tipping!" because to know Barbara is to like her a lot, and you both take with you our every best wish for great happiness and good luck in the future.

Of course, we know it's just coincidence, but it is rather strange that scarcely a week has gone by this year without one of our number announcing her engagement—after all, it is Leap Year!

French Club Elects New President

On Thursday night last, French Club, probably the most exclusive club in the University, elected Rosemary Blackburn as its president for 1944.

French Club was open only to second and third year students of French, but on Thursday evening the constitution was changed in order to allow Barbara Woodward to be present at its weekly meetings. The rule is now that second and third year students of French and ex-members of French Club may attend.

WANTED

The N.U.A.U.S. proposes to publish a "Magazine" in the Lent Term, 1945. It is to be devoted to some literary efforts, and is primarily to be a journal on the subject of education, especially University education: an editor wanted.

Applications for the editorship should be accompanied by some note as to qualifications, with, if possible, a short note on the form of the journal—i.e. its content.

Applications should be posted not later than April 20 to—

E. G. Le Breton, Esq.,
Thynne Road, Morningside,
Brisbane, E.I.

TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR WILTON

The death occurred last week of Professor John Raymond Wilton, who had been Professor of Mathematics at Adelaide University for twenty-four years. Professor Wilton, who would have been 60 next month, had been in ill health for some time, and died suddenly.

Probably the most brilliant student of mathematics ever produced by South Australia, Professor Wilton was the eldest son of the late Mr. C. R. Wilton, of Adelaide, a former senior member of the literary staff of the "Advertiser." After spending his early childhood at Mount Barker, he went to Prince Alfred College, and eventually was dux of the school. Obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Science with first-class honors in both mathematics and physics at the Adelaide University at 19, he went to Cambridge University, on the advice of the late Professor Sir William Bragg. As an under-grad. he was a good athlete, specialising in high jumping. Prof. Gartrell, who went through Adelaide with Prof. Wilton, remembers him as a fellow member of the old Scientific Society, and also recalls him as a tennis enthusiast, with an unflinching inclination to "cut" every ball.

Professor Bragg, himself a distinguished mathematician, once described Professor Wilton as having had "the greatest natural genius for mathematics among any of the students during 20 years in Adelaide."

Research Work.

In 1907 Professor Wilton graduated as Bachelor of Arts in the course for the mathematical tripos at Cambridge. He was placed fifth wrangler, and was awarded several prizes, also winning a major scholarship in mathematics at Trinity College. In the second part of the natural science tripos he obtained a first class in physics. In 1914 he was awarded his Doctorate of Science (with honors) from Adelaide University, and was made a Doctor of Science of Cambridge University in 1930. After completing his initial course at Cambridge, Professor Wilton remained there for some time doing research work in the Cavendish Science Laboratory at Cambridge, and was then appointed a lecturer in mathematics at Sheffield University. He did X-ray work at St. George's Hospital, London, during the last war.

After recovering from a nervous breakdown in 1918, he went to Manchester University as lecturer in mathematics, and was appointed Professor of Mathematics at Adelaide in 1920. He held that position until his death.

Professor Wilton's name was well known to mathematicians in Australia and in other countries for his original mathematical research. His work covered a wide range, and showed great power.

Music.

Only a few years ago Mr. Sanders (lecturer in Maths.) introduced the Professor to music, a realm of art previously unknown to him. Instantly his sensitive intellect seized the very greatest and most remote in music, and revealed in him an appreciation of Beethoven's last quartets and sonatas that is given to only a few. It is remarkable that, through his enormous difficulties in later years, he continued to study music in its interpretative and technical aspects. Mr. Sanders also said that Professor Wilton was a student of the best in literature, and had studied "The Divine Comedy" of Dante in great detail.

Concerning his influence at the University, Mr. Sanders said that the Professor's conception of the science of mathematics was such that the average student could not comprehend the greatness of his intellect. Maths. is a science that only dawns upon the first-class student in his last year of honors work. Professor Wilton never made an unkind statement, however stupidly anyone spoke or acted," added Mr. Sanders.

Chancellor's Tribute.

The Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) said: "Professor Wilton as a born mathematician. His published papers were on the frontier beyond the reach of his ordinary students, but were a stimulus to the best. The University of Cambridge, for these papers, conferred on him some years ago its very rare degree of Doctor of Science. He had other intellectual interests, but his main love was Dante. His devoted and saintly character gave him a unique influence in the University, and his heroic suffering and courage in recent years will remain an inspiration."

CRIMPS, CURVES and CRITICS

"WEST'S" NOT WET

War-time Washington, overrun by the new bureaucracy, suffers from a housing shortage. So Connie Milligan (Jean Arthur) patriotically decides to let half of her bachelor-girl flat. Dingle, sexagenarian and rugged individualist (Charles Coburn) sees the advertisement, steals a march on half a hundred other applicants, and ensconces himself, parrying Connie's objections to his sex with the plea that, at any rate, he will not want to borrow her best evening frock, stockings, etc. So he is suffered to stay. There is trouble the next morning, when Connie's elaborate "skedool" for the decorous use of bathroom and other conveniences (privatim et seriatim) breaks down. Then, no sooner has Connie left for the office than Bill (or is it Joe?), Carter (Joel McCrea) arrives from California with a "hush-hush" mission to perform before he sails with the Air Force for North Africa. He, too, is in quest of lodgings, and a false trail has brought him to this door. Dingle sub-lets him a half of his half-flat. And then the fun may be properly said to begin. War-time Washington is short of eligible males. Connie has been engaged for eighteen months to be married to a man of twice her age, one Charles J. Prendergast, the kind of civil servant that must have been swaddled in red tape. And to make matters worse, he wears a wig. Is it any wonder that Connie keeps a diary, and reads the newspaper editorials? Something must be done about all this. Dingle (your rugged individualist is, as usual, an inveterate sentimentalist) has already made up his mind that what Connie needs is a "nice, clean-cut, high-class type of young feller," which Prendergast obviously isn't, and young Bill Carter just as obviously is. Dingle-Providence begins to pull the strings. There are difficulties and misunderstandings a-plenty, but in the end fogginess is discomfited, love, youth, and beauty triumph (as you have guessed), and, in this one instance (Mrs. Wheaton and her students please note), the housing problem is temporarily eased by installing two married persons where one bachelor

girl dwelt before.

A highly entertaining film. One or two scenes drag near the end, but most of the "business" is new, or served up in a new way. Farcical characters and situations are handled with a light touch, even with subtlety. For example, Charles J. Prendergast looks up apprehensively as he passes under the electric fans of a crowded cafe, but his wig does not blow off! It has taken Hollywood a long time to learn such restraint.—J.G.C.

MIXED MEDIOCRITY

"Night Plane from Chungking" (at the 'Civic'), with Robert Preston and Ellen Drew.

The title has a flavor of espionage about it, and although no plane in the film does in fact leave Chungking by either day or night, a spy story it is, and a rather poor one. The start is quite promising, all dark and wet and sinister; but with the meeting of hero and heroine—both of whom might profitably have been omitted from the plot altogether—and with their prompt and painstaking introduction of the inevitable love theme, went all air of mystery, and all hopes of unconventional developments. The real tragedy of the story is that most of the rather interesting characters are killed off, while the stodgy principals continue to the bitter end.

This film may be classed as mediocre rather than bad; but there are pleasanter ways of spending an evening than by sitting through it.

The supporting firm, "Henry Aldrich Gets Glamour," is a kind of imitation of "Andy Hardy"—no less puerile and tedious than the original, and with the added disadvantage of a co-ed, high school background, than which Hollywood can produce nothing more offensive.

The most disturbing feature of the programme was an animated cartoon, if it must so be called, entitled "Superman," and apparently adapted from a comic strip of the worst type. Though mercifully short, there was a suggestion that it was one of a series. It is to be hoped that this perversion of the true and delightful Disney and Fleischer types of animated cartoon does not represent a new trend in production.—M.L.M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

AQUINAS SOCIETY

TO-NIGHT, at 8 p.m.

In the Catholic Education Buildings

W.E.A. BOOKROOM

Notwithstanding the difficulties of obtaining books, limited supplies are available and others are arriving at the W.E.A. BOOKROOM, where University Textbooks and other books may be procured.

Books obtained for students from almost anywhere.

Textbooks stocked. Stationery supplies suitable for students are available. Students will find our prices low.

W.E.A. Bookroom

WESTERN DRIVE, UNIVERSITY.

Tel.: C 3355.

NOW AVAILABLE! — NOW AVAILABLE!

DISSECTING SETS, MICROSCOPE SLIDES, COVER SLIPS,
FULL STOCKS OF BOOKS

W. RAMSAY (SURGICAL) PTY. LTD.

11 AUSTIN STREET, ADELAIDE — "FIRST WITH THE LATEST"

ARGONAUT Bookshop and Library

TEXTBOOKS ON ALL SUBJECTS

BOOKS OF FICTION . . . BIOGRAPHY . . . TRAVEL . . . CLASSICS
WORLD EVENTS AND GENERAL LITERATURE

224 North Terrace C 5559

For Medical, Dental, Science, Pharmacy, Massage, and Nursing
Books, Microscopes, Instruments, etc. Discounts for Students.

SEE—

BROWN & PEARCE

227 NORTH TERRACE.

Opp. University.

REED AND HARRIS PRESS

Announces

A NEW INTERNATIONAL SERIES OF
VERSE PUBLICATIONS—

I. GEOFFREY DUTTON: "Nightlight & Sunrise"

Geoffrey Dutton, well known as a former member of Adelaide University, now a Pilot-Officer in the R.A.A.F., has achieved a high reputation as a complex, virile poet and a significant new figure in Australian literature.

II. HARRY ROSKOLENKO: "A Second Summary"

With Introduction by the English Poet, HENRY TREECE. Roskolenko, one of the leading figures in U.S.A. poetry and a contributor to Apocalyptic anthologies in Great Britain, Henry Treece, England's outstanding war-time poet, has written the Introduction.

III. ALISTER KERSHAW - "Excellent Stranger"

These will be available within the next few weeks at University Bookshops or all Australian booksellers.

THE LIGHT OF THE AGE . . .

OSRAM LAMPS

Sole Agents: A. G. HEALING LTD., Pirie Street, Adelaide.

Varsity Victorious

Athletics

Entries are now being received for Wednesday, April 26, by members of the committee. Choose your event, and give your name and faculty to a committee member. There is a list of events on the notice board.

Great enthusiasm is being shown by most members of the club, and many energetic young men can be seen on the Varsity Oval most afternoons preparing for the sports. Now that the weather is becoming cooler, we advise those who intend to run in the sports for the fun of it to commence loosening up now, otherwise, when you try to stand up on Thursday, April 27, someone will say, "What's the matter with you, Bill?" The

shown by the fact that in 1943 the C team, composed entirely of members who had not played before that season, failed to win the B grade championship only by being defeated in a challenge final. So don't think that because you have never played before, you are too old to begin now! Turn out to practices each Wednesday at 4 p.m., and you will be surprised to find how easy and exciting the game is. There are three Varsity teams this year, and you can be sure of representing the Varsity in one of them if you practise regularly.

Matches are scheduled to begin on May 6.

Unfortunately hockey sticks are almost unprocurable now. If you can obtain one secondhand, do so. If



What a finish! Elliot (left) defeating Draper by a blanket in a 440 yards dash. This was accomplished by training. So start now!

prompt reply will be, "Oh, shut up. I wish I'd had a run before those blasted sports!" In all possibility the language may be stronger still. Snap out of that lethargy now; bring your spikes out of moth balls. Don't leave them idle in the shed; run in them, and keep the rats from eating them. Remember, you have only a week left for loosening up.

The professors and lecturers have been given the option of suspending lectures on this afternoon. The committee anticipate a successful day, and expect all who possibly can to help make it a success.

Who is the little man? See him on Wednesday, April 26!

"There is a man called —
Who never ever fond of his pot;
But my word, can he run!
So see him, girls, dash home in a trot!"

Entries will close on Thursday, April 20.

Hockey

Attendance at the A.G.M. of the club, held in the George Murray Hall on March 30, was unusually large. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the presence of a large number of freshers, on whose interest the welfare of the club so largely depends.

The importance of new players is

SPORTS DAY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

UNIVERSITY OVAL, 2 P.M.

Entries Close To-morrow, 2 p.m.

Football Club

The A.G.M. was held at lunch time on April 13, with an attendance of over 70 members.

"Thick as autumn leaves that strew the brooks
In Vallambrosa."

Whether or not this represents the number actually intending to practise remains to be seen; at any rate it looks as if the "B's" will be firmly based this year.

After minutes and secretary's report, a number of officers were elected, amongst whom Dr. Gunning was elected President; J. B. Day, Captain; B. R. Goode, Vice-Captain; and H. M. Douglas, third selector.

The scale of operations was first determined, and it was decided to field A and B teams, the former to play service teams, and the latter to play in the Student Association.

The procuring of a coach is to be left to the Captain and Secretary. Several names were suggested, but if none of these are available, the position will fall to the lot of the Captain (as in 1942-3).

Tuesdays and Thursdays have been fixed as practice nights. In addition footballs will be made available on Wednesday for those who cannot get out on the other nights.

A groan of recognition went up when the secretary stated that Saturday collections would again be necessary. The "A's" will be taxed 1/- per head per match, while the "B's" will be let off lightly with 6d.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Gunning announced his decision to award the Gunning Medal for the best and fairest player each year. At the same time he announced Nig. Abbott and Bob Russell as the best for 1942, 1943 respectively, and Brian Coulls as the most improved for 1943. The meeting closed at 2 p.m.

Finally, a word of warning to unfinancial members of the team that, unless they have paid their sports subscriptions by the second Friday of the second term, or, in the event of their not starting football till later, within 28 days of the date on which they do start, they are ineligible for the award of club letters. In it is best to pay up now.

MEDICAL STUDENTS

We carry full stocks of MEDICAL BOOKS, Haemacytometers, Sahli Haemoglobinometers, Head Mirrors, Stethoscopes, Mercurial Sphygmomanometers, Microscope Slides, Cover Glasses, Surgeons' Gloves, Throat Torches, Ophthalmoscopes, Auriscopes, and Surgical Instruments.
Journals, Periodicals.
Locums Arranged.

DISCOUNTS TO STUDENTS.

Malcolm McNeil

136 GRENFELL STREET - ADELAIDE.

Phone: Cent. 4782.

A CONCERT

(Arranged by Harold Parsons)
will be given in the
SOUTH HALL of the Elder
Conservatorium
on

THURSDAY, APRIL 20,
At 8.15 p.m.

Proceeds are in aid of P.O.W. Fund.

Admission, 3/-.
Tickets available from Miss J. B. Cleland and Mr. Stirling Robertson (Bio-chem. Dept.)

BEACON BOOK SHOP

TECHNICAL AND EDUCATIONAL BOOKS—NEW AND SECONDHAND
SECONDHAND UNIVERSITY TEXTBOOKS PURCHASED FOR CASH
17 PULTENEY STREET, ADELAIDE. Telephone: Central 1018

BAIT or DEBATE

A handful of enthusiasts reminded the Union that once upon a time a Debating Society had existed in this University and that perhaps something might be done about restoring this vital society. The Union looked up who should be the officers of the society and forthwith on Thursday last Nancy Robertson took the chair, and W. D. Brown hovered as her shadow.

The business started by the election of a committee. Everybody present was in turn proposed and seconded as a member, but each politely declined till Mr. Dunstan was caught napping and not given a chance to decline the honor. Mr. Crowther was next to fall; then Mr. Kerr was bludgeoned to it by several of those present, and rather than go in the river he accepted. He demanded a woman student on the committee and to Miss Thomson fell this doubtful honor.

Max Harris was then all for having a debate on the subject, "That the University is Decadent." Madame Chair persuaded the company to put this off till a later date. Various suggestions were made, such as having it at the same time and place as Mr. Richards, who is to talk on Leigh Creek coal. This motion was rejected and Friday, 21st, decided upon as a suitable day. At this stage two teams were raked together and left to fight between themselves.

Bob Schultze had appeared at this stage, and he proposed, the motion being carried, that the Encyclopaedia Britannica be ruled out as a book of reference.

Whereupon such an uproar was started that Mr. Kerr moved that Mr. Schultze be thrown out. Miss Robertson declared the meeting closed before this motion could be put into effect. Max Harris passed out crying for a discussion on the decadence of the Varsity.

Debate

Friday, 21st, at 1.20, on "That the University is Decadent." Teams—Pro, Messrs. O'Brien, Barnes, and Crowther; con, Messrs. Harris, Kerr, and Dunstan.

LEARN JOURNALISM

"On Dit" urgently needs more staff in the form of reporters, who will watch out for any news, interview people, write up meetings, review books, write articles—in fact, do anything they like. They will NOT be over-worked and will definitely help to make "On Dit" bigger, better, and brighter. Who knows? Some day YOU might be Editor. Give yourself a chance to learn journalism by experience. See the Editor at the earliest opportunity.

EDITOR.

MR. PLAYFORD TO SPEAK TO-DAY

The Premier, Mr. Playford, has accepted the invitation of the A.U.E.S. to speak in the George Murray Hall To-day, at 1.20 p.m. The subject of his talk will be

"LEIGH CREEK COAL"

The Society feels that the importance of such an Engineering project as is being developed at Leigh Creek should be presented by its sponsor and greatly appreciate Mr. Playford's acceptance of their invitation.

All students are invited to attend.