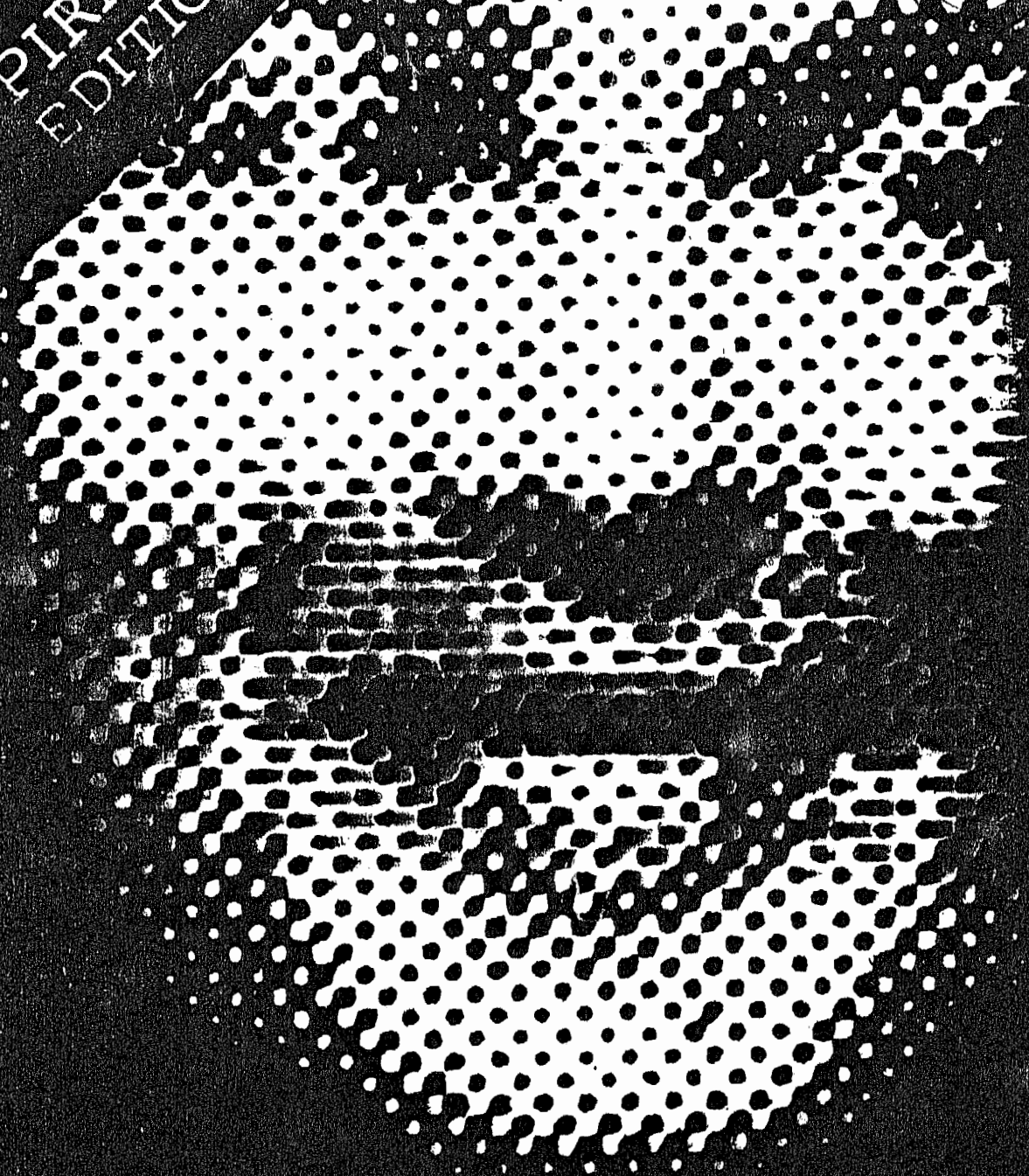


PIRATE  
EDITION

Library Note : Supplement edition of On Dit  
produced independently of S.A.U.A. with  
personal funds, October, 1977



Students Association Erupts

Editor Faces Sack



# Editorial

I have been forced to print this editorial in extraordinary circumstances, as the President of the Students' Association, in his capacity as publisher of On Dit, has abused his powers and prevented articles from being included in On Dit.

The loose leaf broadsheet you are now reading is therefore not officially part of On Dit. (Instead, it has been published and paid for by myself).

## Censorship

The unprecedented censoring of articles by the Students' Association President has come at a time when narrowly sectarian groups are attempting to sack an On Dit Editor for the first time in University history. Much has already been written about the sack motion, most of it negative and vindictive. This Editorial attempts to put the sack motion and all its antecedent circumstances in a more rational perspective.

## Sack Motion

The moves to sack me are, as you probably know, based on the fact that I sought and received a Supreme Court Order to prevent further payment of student funds from this campus to the Australian Union of Students in Melbourne; on the grounds that AUS has been allegedly acting unconstitutionally by handing out student money to international revolutionary causes. To claim, as my opponents do, that I intend to grind

the Adelaide University Union and affiliated bodies (such as the Sports Association and the Students' Association) to a halt, is as false as it is malicious.

As Gordon Laverick pointed out at the lawn meeting to discuss my dismissal, if I intended to disrupt the Adelaide University Union, I could have sought, and possibly received a Supreme Court Order to prevent payment of funds to the Students' Association, and Adelaide University Union.

The most disturbing aspect of the sack motion is that the reasons given for my sacking are based on non-editorial grounds. The motion calls for my removal because I have exercised my fundamental right to have recourse to the law.

## Misleading Motion

The wording of the actual motion that students will be voting on is grossly misleading, and deliberately calculated to arouse hostility to me.

In fact, it has been alleged that at the SAUA Executive meeting which discussed the sack motion, discussion revolved around as to how the motion could be worded in order to embody a "yes" case for the sacking! (You will see this to be precisely the case when you read the motion).

## SAUA Farce

In a thinly disguised attempt to give the move to sack me a shred of respectability, it

was suggested at the GSM that I have not been doing my job. The situation has been that the very people that are trying to sack me have obstructed and impeded my work as On Dit Editor all year.

I have been forced to spend many hours each edition to perform functions which are the responsibility of others (e.g., a printer paid \$50 a day).

The latest example of this sort of petty bureaucratic obstruction is the disconnection of the On Dit telephone, on the grounds that the bill was too high. My opponents who are blaming me for this neglect to mention that I have consistently said that I did not object to having my phone STD-barred.

Some people also conveniently overlook the fact that On Dit will end the year with at least a \$3,000 surplus. It is also conveniently overlooked that in years past the local AUS phone bill from the Students' Association has run into thousands of dollars of student money each year.

Speaking of the waste of student funds, the SAUA President and the AUS Local Secretary attended the recent AUS Special Council in Sydney at a cost of several hundred student dollars. The value for money that Adelaide University students got from our (non-elected) delegates is illustrated by the fact that neither spoke a word during the entire course of Special Council.

Another example of how the SAUA waste your money is the recent \$3,000-plus purchase

# Editorial

of a headliner (used to produce newspaper headlines), ostensibly for On Dit. This was against my advice, which was the result of extensive discussions with people in the printing and media industries. This secondhand machine is a lovely ornament to the SAUA office, and is practically useless to On Dit. I recommended the purchase of a typesetter; this would have dramatically lifted the technical standard of On Dit, and cost less.

## Ruthlessness

The ruthlessness of the people trying to sack me under the guise of democracy is limitless, and one incident is illustrative of this. A student, Kym Bills, drafted a petition for a student referendum on voluntary membership of AUS, obtained the requisite 40 signatures, and presented it to the SAUA President. The President totally rejected it, on the spurious grounds that it was "ultra vires" to the AUS Constitution. That person said that students had no choice in the matter: they could either secede from AUS or be in it en masse, on a compulsory basis. The SAUA President also said that his interpretation of the SAUA Constitution was the only one that counted - no matter what anyone else thought, including a Court or lawyer. This is only half the story.

When the frustrated Kym Bills wrote an article for On Dit (called "Dishonesty and Injustice"), complaining of his treatment at the hands of the SAUA President, the

President refused to allow it to be printed, unless his version of the incident was printed side by side. This demand came at the last minute, when all the space in On Dit had been planned. It didn't matter to the President that his side of the story could be printed in the next issue, so in protest I decided to leave the censored page blank. Until this incident, the only grounds on which a President could censor an article have been defamation.

*However, in this unprecedented incident, a President has abused his powers to CENSOR an article because he PERSONALLY disagreed with its content!*

## "Stop the Bias"

As this may be the last chance I will have to write as On Dit Editor, it is appropriate to look at On Dit in 1977 as compared with previous years.

Despite the fact that, on my election in 1976, I was thrown out of the On Dit office by the 1976 Editor, and entered an office with all files and graphics destroyed, I believe that my 1976 promise to "stop the bias" has been fulfilled. This year has seen an On Dit which has had an open access editorial policy to allow the widest possible range of opinions. It has seen a shift away from a slanted totally political On Dit, of years past, to a more read-

able On Dit. But perhaps that is what those who want me sacked do not want. David Callahan, a maoist and AUS national executive member for S.A., perhaps summed up the feeling of those who oppose me by bluntly stating at the recent AUS Special Council in Sydney that I should be "rubbed out".

## Support of ALP Student Leader

Well known national ALP student leader Michael Danby (remember the maoists bashed him for his outspoken criticisms of AUS) in a message of support to me had this to say:

*"On Dit...has provided all that those of the blue and white swastika brigade (the maoists) hate: an intelligent, eloquent magazine representing a large number of opinions..."*

*"Any opportunist deviation from the social democrats' duty to defend Xenophon can only result in massive student antipathy and the replacement of On Dit with someone like Jefferson Lee or Noni Holmes. AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WE HAVE NO ALTER NATIVE - FREEDOM OF SPEECH MUST BE DEFENDED!"*

I urge all students to reject censorship, support editorial freedom, and not be misled by phoney issues, by voting NO to the On Dit sack motion, this Wednesday to Friday, October 5 - 7.