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VARSITY RAGGE

Vol I, No 7.

Thursday, July 26, 1928.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jim Irwin, who has been awarded an A.U.S.A. blue for services to the Association.

To Rosalie Trengove and Freda Gault, secretary and vice-captain of the A.U.W.H.C., on their inclusion in the State hockey team.

To the Conversazione Committee on a profit of £195. It has been proposed to the A.U.S.A. that they bring this sum up to £200.

To R. L. Irwin and J. Covington on the organization of the 'Varsity Ball.

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GENERAL MEET

of July 10th, to consider the Union Constitution, calls for comment. More startling than the large attendance—we're getting positively free with these—was the number who missed their 2 o'clock lectures again.

This was twice in one week! Is the world coming to an end? Or are we simply learning that what concerns the interest of us all should override our personal interests, and that Union matters are nearer the heart of a 'Varsity than lectures?

Anyway, if we can't learn it under leaders like Dr. Hone and Prof. Campbell—well, we aren't worth a Union. But then, we are learning it.

A further point about this meeting. A most unusual quietness after the riot [of colours?] of the day before reigned over us. That a crowd, but yesterday so combative, and, may we say, so excessively full of constructive ideas, should so graciously have supported the result of their months of labour was surely the proudest moment in the lives of the committee. To silence the criticism of a student body—surely the criterion of success!

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THE RAGGE

wishes to speak!

As editors, we are forced to publish maligning statements about the Students' Council, which must be feeling that it has nourished a viper in its bosom!

We take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Students' Council for the tidy subsidy of £5, without which the "Ragge" could not have gone on, and which is helping us at least to stagger on under our financial burden—which is really your fault, dear readers.

Let this be a challenge to you who keep saying the Students' Council has never done anything.

This might interest you! The first subscriber to the "Ragge" was Dr. F. S. Hone, the second Mr. C. T. Madigan—significant names, aren't they, when it comes to helping a 'Varsity venture.

MEET UNCLE SAM.

Next Saturday and Monday nights, in the Institute Hall, the long-expected Bates debates will take place. The American team are to deny on the first of those evenings "THAT EFFICIENCY HAS BECOME A DEPLORABLE FETISH IN MODERN LIFE," and on the second will affirm "THAT THE SO-CALLED EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN HAS NOT BEEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CIVILISATION." Adelaide will be represented on Saturday by Messrs. S. Pick, F. W. Mitchell, and S. H. Mayes, and on Monday by Messrs. Pick, R. C. Harry, and Mayes. On Saturday Prof. Sir Archibald Strong will be in the chair, while on Monday His Honor Mr. Justice Angus Parsons will preside. Proceedings will be commenced at 8 o'clock sharp.

The three Americans have distinguished records as debaters. They do not overload their remarks with heavy argument, but have a lighter touch reminiscent of the last English team. We have had a few details concerning the activities and accomplishments of the individual members. Mr. Mervyn L. Ames is a Republican in politics, and is also a member of the national honorary forensic fraternity of Delta Sigma Rho. Mr. John F. Davis is a staunch Republican, and he is majoring in History and Government. He can go one better than Mr. Ames, for, besides being a forensic brother of Delta Sigma Rho, he is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. This speaks volumes for both of them. But more still can be said for Charles H. Guptill. He was in the same class at school as Mr. Davis, and used to do his homework for him. He "made the debating team in his first year"—which is not blasphemy, but colloquial American. Apart from making the debating team in his first year, he has far more clubs to his credit than his colleagues, for, besides belonging to Delta Sigma Rho and Phi Beta Kappa, he is a member of the Spofford Club, Politics Club, French Club, and of the 4A Players. He has also majored in Augmentation and plans to make a newspaper staff.

This should be enough to convince you of the merits of the Bates Around the World Debating Team as debaters and men. If you aren't prepared to believe me, buy a ticket from your faculty secretary (at the moderate cost of one shilling) and come along to hear for yourselves. If you do believe me, then come along just the same, always at the moderate cost of one shilling.

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I ASK YOU!

Despite Mr. Hone's assertion that "the Students' Council, by proposing to continue after the formation of the Union, has raised questions of some moment," I maintain that it hasn't.

The only question the S.C. has ever raised concerning itself is, "What is it?" or else "What does it do?"

The council had a perfect right to alter its constitution, though why it did—well, I ask you! I protest strongly against the assertion that the standing of the council is due to the high sense of duty of the faculty committees.

Its standing—if any—is due entirely to the fine spirit of some of the members and what they have done for the 'Varsity.

Mr. Hone's proposed council would not be any better than the present one—it might be infinitely worse—nor would it have any more claim on any of the societies for a fee than the present one.

As a matter of fact, I think that when the Union is formed finally the Students' Council will cease to exist, simply because there will be no reason for its existence.

Mr. Hone says that there is a reason for its maintenance, viz., that the governing body of the Union will consist of others than undergraduates.

I can't see that it follows. The Men's Union and Women's Union Committees will probably be composed almost entirely of undergraduates, and I have always found it helpful to have one or two of wider experience present when discussing student affairs. The Medical Society will support that statement solidly.

Anyway, when, where, or why will we need a purely student body to represent the students? Once more, I ask you!

A.B.C.

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SOCIETY NOTES.

Literary and Debating.

Inter-faculty Evening to-night in the Union Room at 8 o'clock. Papers by representatives from each faculty.

Medical Dinner, Saturday, August 4th.

The Grosvenor is heavily insured, but is buying up unbreakable china.

Law Students

held a quiet little dinner at the Cathedral Hotel last night. It is interesting to wonder why they sought the seclusion of the suburbs. Is this due to the sobriety of the law?

The Science Association

held its Annual Dinner at the Grosvenor last Friday evening. The function was a hilarious success, and those members who did not attend certainly missed a good thing. We learnt quite a lot of things at this dinner—the definition of a teetotaller (vide Prof. Kerr Grant), that "Hicks will kill a cat," and that beer parties are conducive to smashing flower-pots; but we have not yet learnt who Titus Archimedes was. If our readers wish for further details they must refer to members of the A.U.Sc.A.

By the way, the next meeting of the Association to be held on Monday, August 6th, will take the form of a debate. Two subjects have been chosen by the committee, and will shortly be posted on the notice boards. Come along and express your views on the two subjects.

Commerce Students,

remember the Annual Ball, Wednesday, August 8th, in the Elder Hall. Come and bring your friends!

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CHRISTIAN UNION NOTES.

UNEMPLOYED RELIEF APPEAL.

Really it was quite encouraging to discover that there were about forty people in the 'Varsity who were sufficiently interested in their fellow-men less

fortunate than themselves, and who were sufficiently courageous and energetic to carry parcels of old clothes to the 'Varsity Office. These clothes will go to the City Mission for distribution among the unemployed. And, of course, no 'Varsity man who repents of his lack of public spirit is prohibited from taking parcels straight to the Mission now that the 'Varsity appeal has closed!

MID-DAY MEETING, FRIDAY, AUGUST 3rd.

Rev. Frank Lade, M.A., Principal of Wesley College, will speak at this meeting on "The Christian Dynamic." Principal Lade has got something to give to 'Varsity students and 'Varsity life. We are expecting to see YOU at this meeting.

WEEK-END CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER.

Have you ever been to a Student Conference? Well, you've got one more opportunity this year. The conference will be held at Holiday House, Mt. Lofty. Mr. Jack Massey, of the Y.M.C.A., will be the chairman and Mrs. E. G. Shorney the hostess. "Christ the Reality" is the subject of conference, and will be dealt with in study groups and addresses. Start third term with a flourish by going to Mt. Lofty for the week-end.

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THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL IN DEFENCE.

The invective against the Students' Council which appeared in the last issue seems to me both exaggerated and inaccurate—exaggerated because one institution is singled out and loaded with shortcomings which are applicable to all other student societies, and inaccurate because of misrepresentation of fact.

I am quite aware of the fact that the S.C. has not fulfilled all its functions, and that, until the last twelve months, it has failed to take the initiative in student life. But what institution has fulfilled its ideals of late? Even the Sports Association, which is so often cited as "the most live student body," has a continual struggle for financial existence owing to a paucity in membership. And, further, the S.C. was promoted during a period of abject indifference, when the general 'Varsity spirit was at the very lowest ebb. Only by a flight of the imagination could this period be termed one of "strife." "It has lived with indifference, contempt, and derision," only because of apathy on the part of students generally. It has not had a fair trial. Faculty societies have been through exactly the same period of depression. No cynic, I trust, would argue this reason for their abolition. In fact, to the contrary, a spirit of optimism is abroad. (We should form a 'Varsity Optimists' Society.) High principled men and women are coming forward to put their respective houses in order. The same spirit is apparent within the ranks of the S.C., and it seems to me most inopportune to discourage this revival by disinterring past offences. Let the past be dead and buried—post-mortems are always repulsive—and let the present and future claim our attention, so that our energies may not be wasted or misdirected.

To serve this purpose, members of the S.C. decided to rescind the clause in the constitution which provides that it shall dissolve on the formation of the Union, and have requested the University Council to allow the alteration. The Union Constitution Committee have recommended the approval of the rescission, indicating that they favour the continuation of the S.C.

Mr. Hone, apparently, disapproves of this action, claiming that the matter should have been submitted to the whole body of students. Well, so it was—through its members. Notice of intention to move “that clause 17 be rescinded” was given at a previous meeting of the S.C. to that on which the motion was passed. This left ample time for members to consult their faculty or other societies. If the faculties were not consulted, surely it was due to their own laziness in failing to instruct their delegates how to act in matters concerning the S.C. or giving their delegates full power as attorney. They will certainly have to stand behind the action of their delegates if the University Council allow the alteration.

Mr. Hone maintains that representation from each faculty society, the A.U.S.A., C.U., and W.U., “is not in the least representative of the whole body of students.” This is absurd. If a student is not a member of one of these he deserves the stigma of “rank outsider.” The fact that delegates are pushed into the job unwillingly is not a peculiarity of the S.C. alone. Mr. Hone has had more than sufficient experience with societies to appreciate the fact that it is the “devil’s own task” to find enthusiasts willing to serve on any committee. It is invariably due to “a high sense of duty” that we have any executive to our faculty societies at all—rather than elation at the prospect of office.

C. W. ANDERSON.

MERIT OR SHOW?

Public opinion is now turning, and rightly so, very much against any club which asks for three or four blues each year just as a matter of course, whether their inter-’Varsity record will bear looking into or not.

Some clubs, one feels, might come in bottom year after year, and still send in numerous applications from force of habit, and rightly one is on the lookout to stop it.

But there is a possible danger in this zeal for maintaining a high standard. A player of real merit might be submerged in a hopelessly bad team and lose his chance of a well-deserved blue through persistently bad inter-’Varsity records which he battled to avert.

It is perfectly possible. A club can strike a run of bad luck in the players joining it, lasting over several years. An individual may easily be dragged in the mire of his team’s futility if they don’t feel they ought to ask for blues because of their record. (Doubtless you didn’t credit us with such nice feelings!)

Any decent club now has a natural hesitation about applying for blues when the team itself comes flop continually in both inter-’Varsity and club matches.

But isn’t the other side of the question worth a minute’s thought?

Whatever their record, each club ought to feel quite free to apply for a member who really deserves one—and who would get one inevitably if the team had done well.

This does not mean to be lax in the award of blues; it is simply to be just, and in accord with the true principles of the award—proficiency and excellence in the individual, not the team as a whole.

Let us apply for blues with discrimination and common sense, and not ask for five when we win, and none when we lose, simply because it was a win or a loss.

B.S.

THE FACULTY QUESTION.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,

In reference to your request that I should write a paragraph for the “Ragge,” stating my views on the matter of student representation on the Union Council, I can only repeat the substance of what I said at the students’ meeting. It is possible, however, as you suggest, that it would be worth while for me to do so, on account of students who were absent or who may have failed fully to grasp my meaning.

The amendment I submitted, but withdrew at the suggestion of the chairman and others, was that sections f and g of clause 11 of the proposed constitution be altered from “eight representatives to be elected by a ballot of men student members, and four representatives to be elected by a ballot of women student members” to “eight representatives, of whom not more than three shall belong to any one faculty, to be elected by a ballot of men student members, and four representatives, of whom not more than two shall belong to any one faculty, to be elected by a ballot of women student members.”

I do not think it practicable or desirable that there should be proportional representation of every faculty upon the Union Committee. It would make the committee too large and unwieldy, especially if the same proportions of student and non-student members of the committee are to be maintained. It would also foster the faculty spirit, which we are agreed is already too prominent in student affairs.

I am glad that my opponents agree so wholeheartedly with the latter proposition, as it seems to me to be the strongest argument in favour of the precaution embodied in the suggested amendment. It means that the natural tendency to vote for the candidates of one’s own faculty will be strengthened by the cumulative influence of example and the faculty-habit of thinking is admittedly prevalent. The result of this may easily be that good candidates from small faculties will be in danger of being crowded out by average ones from larger faculties. This might naturally cause a loss of interest in Union affairs amongst the remainder.

The proposed amendment seems to me to be a means of lessening this danger, without the ill-effects of the more drastic proposals. Amongst the objections raised are: Firstly, that it is unnecessary. This view has been advanced by gentlemen whose judgment and experience of University life we all respect, and I sincerely hope that time will prove them right. It is possible, however, that conditions here may not be sufficiently similar to those in other States to justify the matter being dropped on this ground alone.

Secondly, it is suggested that should the need for alteration arise, such alteration could then be made; on the other hand, a lot of harm might be done before the natural inertia of a large and diffuse body like the Union could be overcome. Even should there never be any imminent need for the proposed amendment, I fail to see what harm it could do, except along lines which constitute the final objection, which I shall mention. This is as follows:—

It would be much more in accordance with the highest traditions of University life if any such amendment as is proposed could be safely omitted. That is true. But we have not yet developed for ourselves those traditions. Being imperfect, we should frame laws to suit our imperfection. When it becomes evident that they are no longer required, we may discard them, as the master-poet may safely discard the pettier rules of prosody.

W. V. LUDBROOK.

BLUES AGAIN.

Firstly, re awarding the Australian Universities Sports Association blues. The principle of these awards being granted as a result of good services to the Australian U.S.A. is wrong, from the fact that all the clubs at the 'Varsity cannot serve the Australian U.S.A.; i.e., matches cannot be arranged between the combined Universities and a State team. One has only to note the Australian and Rowing Clubs. Why should these clubs be deprived of the honor of receiving Australian blues simply because it is impossible to arrange the necessary fixtures and by competing at these fixtures serve the Australian U.S.A.?

To my mind, the awards should not be granted as a result of good services to the Australian U.S.A., but should be awarded on identical principles to those on which our blue is awarded, viz., (1) efficiency in inter-'Varsity match, (2) proficiency during season. It would be a very simple matter for the general committees of each University to forward to the controlling body—the Australian U.S.A. Council—their recommendations for these awards, together with the necessary qualifications of the persons recommended for the award. Were a scheme similar to the above introduced, all clubs would have an equal chance of obtaining these blues, and there would be no privileged clubs at any of the 'Varsities.

Also, these blues should be awarded for all the women's sports, for does not, e.g., hockey mean as much to a woman as cricket does to a man?

Secondly, re half blues. At our University there is no such thing as a "half blue." Any member of any of our inter-'Varsity teams is permitted to have the letters of the club he or she has represented inserted on the blazer pocket. The member can call this a half blue if it sounds nice, but there is no official half blue. And why should there be a half blue? A member either earns a blue or does not; one cannot only half earn a blue.

ROY KRANTZ.

FOOTBALL.

Saturday, July 14.

A's 15.8 v. South Adelaide Ramblers 9.14.

Best players: Williams, James, Sangster, Hone, Hanson, A. Mitchell.

Goalkickers: James (10), Power and Williams (2), Muecke (1).

B's 7.10 v. St. Augustine's 17.17.

Best players: Magarey, Hobby, O'Connor, Lewis, Blundell, White.

Goalkickers: Read and Hobby (2), Lewis, O'Connor, Wilcher (1).

RIFLE NOTES.

The date of the Imperial Match has been fixed for the first Monday of the vac., August 13th. The conditions are: 10 shots, two sighters at 300, 500, and 600 yards. Bisley "tin hat" targets: 10 shots snap at 22 in. disc., 12 in. bull at 300 yards, disc up for three seconds down for four seconds, one sighter not to count. The club competitions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday (15th and 16th), with practice on Tuesday, 14th.

The committee have inaugurated a fund to help financially those going to Sydney next year. In connection with this fund a BENEFIT NIGHT is being held at West's Picture Theatre on August 10th. Tickets may be obtained from members of the committee.

The committee also gratefully acknowledge the following donations: Sir Archibald Strong, £2 2s.; Dr. F. H. Altmann, £2 2s.; Mr. C. T. Madigan, 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. W. Gartrell, 10s. 6d.; Capt. F. M. Best, 10s.; "P.C. 100," 5s.; "Friend," 5s.

Practice was held at 600 yards on July 14th. Best scores: F. M. Best, 48, 48; W. Brooke, 48; S. W. Thomson, 48.

A geology excursion combined with the inter-col. was too much for practice on July 21st. Saturday, 28th, practice at 300 yards.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY.

Saturday, July 15th.

A team beat Graduates 3—2 (the Millennium!). Goals: M. Nesbit, E. Boyce.

B team drew with Mimosa 4—4. Goals: E. Maedowell.

Saturday, July 22nd.

A team lost to Blackwood 6—1.

HOCKEY DANCE.

THIS SATURDAY.

In the Elder Hall!

You don't dance?

Then play Bridge.

EVERYONE IS COMING BUT YOU.

MEN'S HOCKEY NOTES.

A Team.

During the past fortnight we have defeated two of the four teams who were too strong for us in the first round.

July 14: University A, 5 goals; Ramblers, 1 goal.

July 21: University A, 7 goals; Waratahs, 4 goals.

We still boast the leading goal-hitter in the Association.

B Team.

July 21: 'Varsity B, 1 goal; Kenwoods, 6 goals.