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# On Dit

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## Mr. Menzies on the Mat Rises to a Count of Five

The House of Misrepresentatives met in true style on Friday evening, half an hour after the time appointed for the session. This was largely due to the absence of the Government, the Opposition, and the Honourable Members. They eventually found their way from the coalfields to the House, however, to discuss the motion, "That this House Approves the War Policy of the Menzies Government." Each side tried to persuade the other that it did or didn't till the House was divided and Mr. Menzies emerged with a majority of five votes. Nobody knows whose fault it was, so the multitude retired to Covent Garden Eating House to thrash the matter out in true British tradition over a cup of tea, coffee, cocoa, or milk.

This part of the proceedings was really in the nature of a command performance, as most of the waitresses had gone home or somewhere, and had to be recalled. Most of them didn't object when they heard who was there, but after waiting for about ten minutes they saw that we weren't very interested, so they went. Anyhow, we paid them, which was the main thing.

We noticed that those present seated themselves at the table very much according to their convictions, except that nobody was under the table. But as the Honourable Member for Hawthorn, Mr. Johnston, was drinking milk, we're not surprised. Indeed, his action was rather commendable if you take into consideration the honeyed words that issued ad lib from his lips during the evening. He didn't really get excited till he looked at his tie during the debate and saw red, whereupon he embarked on a lengthy and brilliant tirade against war, and, we gathered, in favour of Common Humanity. But there was not much common humanity present to hear him, and his efforts consequently were

not as successful as he deserved. His leader, Mr. Bruce Williams, quite unlike him except that both wore blue suits, made a dramatic entry from the back benches, and delivered a cool logical speech that rather left the Government in the air, where they had been for most of the evening, but Mr. Irwin came down to earth after the Prime Minister, Mr. Smale, had told us what the Government is doing.

There were a few speakers from the House, amongst them being a White-Cotton combination, but their arguments seemed a little threadbare, or at best, patched up. Also the Press, in the form of Mr. Jacobs, who didn't seem to know which side he was on. He seems to talk in a circle, and as a circle doesn't have any sides, he got out of it without dividing himself.

But again we repeat that the best part of the proceedings came with the adjournment. There were no speeches, no jokes worth publishing, and nothing much to eat. Amongst those who ate it were about six honourable members, several more dishonourable ones, a lot of Smiths and other ladies, plus the inimitable (Thank God!) Speaker.

## Pilgrim's Progress

The University Union Unit of the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund is now an actual body with a name and a number—225. It is registered and now starts its earthly life. The chairman of the liaison committee formed as a sub-committee of the Union Committee, is Mr. A. F. Pilgrim, the secretary Miss Mary Yates, and treasurer Mr. K. T. Hamilton.

Mr. Pilgrim and his committee have not been idle. All the constituent bodies of the Union, i.e., the Women and Men Graduates, the Wives' Club, and the Men's and Women's Union, are to support the Unit and to be represented on the main committee, the nucleus of which, elected at the last Union Committee meeting, is Misses E. Irwin, D. Jacobs, and Messrs. J. M. McPhie and A. F. Pilgrim.

There is, of course, the £60 raised at the 1939 Cabaret standing to our credit; but it has not yet been decided how or when this shall be used.

The Women's Union have elected a sub-committee—Miss Irwin (Chairman) and Misses B. Oldham, M. Yates, P. Alderman, H. Ferris, H. Church, E. Ross, A. Holder and E. Teesdale-Smith. This committee is drawing up a complete list of women undergraduates, divided into faculties, and each individual will be approached for a knitted garment or 2/6 per term.

The Women Graduates, represented by Mrs. E. L. Angove on the Under-Sub-Committee, are to join in with this proposal.

The Wives' Club are also making plans for a way in which they can assist the Unit.

As from to-day wool will be available in Mr. Hamilton's office, but it is hoped that most people will knit at least one garment with their own

wool, if possible, before using that from the office. All garments are to be taken here, where a record will be kept.

The Men Graduates are anxious to help, and for a start are organising a scheme to collect tin and lead which is usually thrown away. So everyone is asked to save old toothpaste tubes, face cream tubes, shaving cream tubes, photographic film capsules; in fact anything which you think or hope is made of tin and lead. Leave them in Mr. Hamilton's office, and when a good batch has accumulated they will be melted down at the School of Mines under the guidance of Prof. Gartrell and sold to benefit the fund.

Did you realise a toothpaste tube is worth nearly a penny, so start hunting them now and soon they will appear as a shining ingot for your inspection (which will be displayed).

The question of a procession in aid of the Comforts Fund has been brought up and is receiving good support.

Several societies are already planning efforts to raise money, and it is hoped that others will do the same, and or least give part of the proceeds of their usual entertainments.

Magazines, old playing cards, books, etc., will be delivered if left in the Union office. A large parcel of magazines has already been sent by the Men's Union.

## Radical Club

The Radical Club has wasted no time in making its presence felt in the University. Within a week of its foundation it comes forth with an ambitious and stimulating programme, including:—

### 1. STUDY CIRCLES.

On Planning—led by Mr. Bruce Williams, lecturer in economics. This will be a vital question of post-war reconstruction.

On Capitalism, Religion, and Psychology—led by Rev. Norm. Paynter. Defenders of capitalist morality and social structure, let us hear your views.

On Modern Radical Theory—led by Dr. K. Barris. Analysis of the modern state and ideologies. To-day and its events!

### 2. TALKS.

It is hoped that within the next fortnight Prof. GOLDBY, a worth-while and admired voice will be heard; and secondly, a talk by the President of the Trades Council on the COAL STRIKE.

Early applications are to be made to any member of the committee for participation in the Study Circles.

The Radical Club is the nucleus of progressive thought and free opinion in the University. JOIN THE RADICAL CLUB.

## Coming Events

Tuesday, April 23.  
Meeting of Law Society in the Refectory at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24.  
Meeting of the Radical Club in the George Murray Hall at 1.20 p.m.  
Aquinas Bridge Evening in the Lady Symon Hall at 8 p.m.

Monday, April 29.  
Carnegie Gramophone Recital, South Hall of Conserv., at 1.10 p.m. A programme of madrigals and Purcell's "Ayers of the Theater" will be presented.

Wednesday, May 1.  
Meeting of Pharmacy Students' Society in the Refectory.

Tuesday, May 7.  
Meeting of Chemistry Institute in the Lady Symon Hall at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8.  
Arts Association Meeting in the Lady Symon Hall at 8 p.m.

Friday, May 10.  
S.C.M. Bridge Evening in George Murray and Lady Symon Halls at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 11.  
Union Debate against the W.C.T.U. on the subject of "Wet Canteens." The Lord Mayor will adjudicate.

## "The University in War"

Frank Engel, Travelling Secretary of the S.C.M., gave a short talk on this subject on Thursday at 1.30 p.m. A very clear account of the problem, it brought home the vital necessity for an immediate understanding of the true nature and purpose of a University whether the world was at peace or war. Should the University act as merely a technical training ground for military occupations or should it continue as usual and serve the community as a guarantee of future leadership in the light of all that is best in our civilization? "National Security versus National Welfare" That is the question pressing us at the moment.

And yet the war has not created this fundamental rift of opinion. Peace saw the same divergence of views, and now the problem but presses more acutely. We must discover the true nature of a university and its purpose in society before we can hope to decide on its position in war or any other time.

Some hold the University is but a place of training for public life and technical education for economic function. Others maintain it as a place of learning where knowledge is advanced for its own sake—lifted above mercenary considerations and separated from the blissing whirl of social activity it can view things calmly and impartially, can cultivate aesthetic and ethical values, can fulfil its original purpose long since buried beneath the more material claims of

industrial society. This clash of ideas appears in the foundation of the Universities of Tasmania and Adelaide—the former founded for the "promotion of useful knowledge," the latter for the "advancement of sound learning."

Between these two extremes we must make some compromise. The University exists in the community and is supported by it. Future service, leadership, balanced outlook—all these things a community has a right to expect. Yet such service is impossible under either extreme and still less in a situation where we rely for our opinions and policy on the rest of the community or any section of it. We must steer between the evils of blind capability and far-sighted incompetence, and it is we who must hold the tiller.

The Universities' chief function now is to set its own house in order, to realize what it actually should be, to fulfil its duties to society. To do this it should provide technical and vocational training, it should foster truth and the advancement of learning, and it should make a thorough study of social and war conditions with the view of gaining sound ideas about the huge reconstruction which must inevitably follow. As University students we are citizens who serve society by being good students—i.e., by being capable of taking a high and balanced position in the rest of society in the future.

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## On the Trail

By "The Watchdog."

"Some days," said Lenin, "are equivalent to several decades." The news at the present moment gives the impression that such a day may turn up at any moment. For the last week the press and wireless has dealt almost exclusively in doubtful assertions and contradictions. Oslo is to be bombarded. No British warships have been near Oslo. Narvik (Bergen or what-you-will) is taken. Narvik (Bergen or what-you-will) is not taken. The Norwegians are well-armed, loyal and resisting valiantly. The Norwegians are a disorganised rabble, mainly pro-Nazi. Uncertainty as to the results in Norway is, naturally, only to be expected. But what is most alarming is the uncertainty which cloaks the actions of Italy, Russia, and Japan. Is Italy getting ready to throw in her lot with the Germans? Is Russia going to make further demands on Finland? If so, how do those who credit either Italy or Russia with what it is fashionable to call an ideology explain the possibility of such a concert? It would, of course, be heretical to suggest that both Brother Mussolini and Brother Stalin are suffering from the good old disease of Imperialism. Hearing Bro. Stalin speak, one is taken straight back to the philanthropists of the 19th Century. "Take up the toilers' burden," he says, "and let us force our wonderful civilization upon our less fortunate brothers. If, in their ignorance, they resist, shoot them down." Mussolini echoes these fine sentiments, whether from genuine conviction or because he hopes to get a little something from the Allies to keep him quiet, is not clear.

To add to the confusion and uncertainty there is the question of what will happen to the Dutch East Indies if Holland becomes another battleground. The Dutch maintain that the Indies are in no need of protection. But it is unlikely that the British, the Japanese and the Americans will refrain from attempting to force protection upon them. The present Japanese attitude is clear and firm, and suggests that Russia and Japan must have got together. For unless Japan is sure of Russia she would scarcely risk provoking the U.S.A. to fight—if that is possible.

The measures to be taken by the Commonwealth Government against Communists have not yet been announced. It seems clear, however, that there is no necessity to strain the law in order to render them harmless. It should be noticed that the true Communist believes in violence as the means of social change, and that he has, therefore, no place in any association which derives change to come through constitutional methods. If associations persist in allowing Communists to be members, they lay themselves open to the change that they do not propose to act in a democratic and constitutional manner—and such changes should be pressed home. Furthermore, there is a law against sedition and treason which should be used. Mr. Garland has said that it is possible to be a sport and a Communist. No doubt he would be the first to admit that, since the Communists demand the fullest democratic rights in order to extinguish democracy, the Government has an equal right to limit freedom of expression in order to preserve democracy. If the Communists were prepared to act in a democratic fashion, there would be no need to deny them democratic rights. Since their avowed ideal is to set up a dictatorship on the Russian model in which there is not complete freedom of speech and opinion it is hard to see why they should now claim the exercise of their despised and bourgeois privileges.

### EXERCISE.

Translate into Russian—

If we are to have law and order in South Australia, the first thing we gotta do is take out all the capitalists (lawyers, doctors, middle-class, Members of Parliament, bookmakers, all-in wrestlers) and shoot them down like dogs.

Translate into German—

If we are to have law and order in South Australia, the first thing we gotta do is take out all the socialists (Communists, trade-unionists, Boy Scouts, Semites, Members of Parliament, clergy) and shoot them down like dogs.

## "ON DIT" STAFF, 1940.

### Editors:

P. M. Viner Smith, S. J. Jacobs.

### Sub-Editors:

C. A. Price, G. W. Irwin.

### Business Manager:

J. Mellor.

### Sports Editors:

J. M. McPhie, N. Osman.

### Editorial Staff:

E. Teesdale Smith, K. Sanderson, E. F. Johnston.

The views expressed in "On Dit" through correspondence, etc., do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Editors, and we reserve the right to obtain an answer to any letter and publish it in the same issue.

## "To Your Tent, Oh Israel"

Twenty-five years after: Anzac Day, 1940. Have we kept faith, we who are left to finish the work so nobly begun in 1915? Do we trust our purpose, as those men, the Anzacs, trusted the self-same purpose just twenty-five years ago? Or are we slipping back and allowing Anzac Day to become a mere name?

"We who are left, how shall we look again  
Happily on the sun or feel the rain,  
Without remembering how they who went  
Ungrudgingly and spent  
Their all for us, loved too the sun and rain?"

A bird among the rain-wet lilac sings—  
But we, how shall we turn to little things  
And listen to the birds and winds and streams  
Made holy by their dreams,  
Nor feel the heart-break in the heart of things?"

Yes, Gallipoli may be a "battle long ago," but it is also the beginning of a story that we are being called upon to complete.

## The Cloistered Life

Now that the year is settling down one observes with satisfaction the old order returning to sway. Freshers are no longer freshers—dare one say they are FRESHERS?—a question based upon the general behaviour. "Even the dumbest girls have bride ideas," goes the old saying, and the newest butterflies are gayest—at least one bean apiece—quite often two. We have noticed one particularly faithful sophomore, however; she and he (one a blonde, one a brunette, just as it should be) are to be seen lurching and promenading day by day.

And then there is the unhappy flagpole under two flags, as one might say, but the two flags appear to prefer to remain hoisted high and free—they'll learn. In the same dilemma the boisterous molar king, Frayne, was observed at a recent dance.

One affair of short standing boasts a jitterbug combined with a pulchritudinous knitter of blue socks. Maybe he was the "gay young spark" who introduced the mode of wearing the red heart on the back of the dissecting coat. One query goes up, Who could Carmel be? This lady (??) was prominently tattooed on the back of a lumpy towhead, and what of the combination of one large dental student and one imported med.?

Rumour has reached us of one portly gentleman's date plan. Apparently he dreads a hook-up, and so places the selection of suitable names in a hat and picks a plum. Kneel, you woman, or you mayn't be in the draw next time.

Romance, along with the rose, the dahlia and the castor-oil plant, blossoms on the river bank. Birds sing, ducks dabble, and everything in the garden's lovely.

To consider the sterner sex—the most obvious happening has been the Engineers' social. All the little snub

noses in the city have been tipped in black this last week. One impatient blond has practically no nose left—don't worry, it'll wear off (in time).

The Swing Club, that rather masculine institution, went particularly well last week. It consisted of vocal recordings and was most popular. A room full of smoke (women on floor and men on chairs), that handsome fellow whose face has on (many) more than one occasion been known to arouse wistful feminine flutters to no effect, was chief performer, helped at every step by—oh, you probably know anyhow.

One husky man emerged from the smoke in one polo pullover and one V-neck red one—pretty quaint and saves washing.

Some people are stupid—there were the goats who started all the electric cleaners chugging and, of course, those litter brains who scatter their lunch papers to the fourteen times four winds whistling round our cloisters.

Three cheers for the procession idea. May it receive plenty of support, and may it be bigger and better than ever before—if perhaps a shade milder!

One of the most amusing things happened this week to a leading light whose one fault is a careless sort of walk—anyhow she has joined the League of Health for this one obvious reason. The other day she was crossing the road, seriously practising her posture; the wobble-waggle perhaps. A gentleman following in silent wonder was at last moved to exclaim as she reached the curb—"Watch your step, lady!"

Question—Why is Neile Osman unhappy at the 'Varsity?

Answer—Because he is not acquainted with B.O.  
(P.S.—Brenda Oldham, of course.)

## Aquinas Society A.G.M

On Tuesday, the 16th, at 8 p.m., the A.G.M. of the Aquinas Society was held in the Lady Symon Building. The election of officers followed the reading of minutes of the previous A.G.M. Mr. A. J. Hannan was re-elected President. D. Hauman was elected Vice-President, C. Alderman Treasurer, P. Howard Secretary; Committee members are Dr. J. Funder and Messrs. G. Walters, D. Kenihan, F. O'Grady and D. O'Sullivan. P. W. Rooney and P. O'Brien are Auditors. The election of officers was followed by a discussion

of the programme for the year. A Committee meeting was called for Friday, the 19th, to discuss further details and finalise arrangements.

The usual proposal was made that the Women's Aquinas Society should be approached, and as usual the matter is to be left in the hands of the incoming Committee.

It was proposed to hold a dinner this year, though last year it was not held. The question of the Annual Ball was left to the Committee to decide.

## Front Office News

### TRAFFIC NEWS.

It is expected that rules will shortly be issued concerning the control of traffic in the University grounds. Further details available later.

### ESSAY PRIZE.

The Acting Registrar has received from the Consul-General for Japan details of a world-wide essay contest, which has been offered by the Japanese Government as a means of furthering the understanding of Japanese culture abroad.

Further details may be obtained from the Acting Registrar.

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## Learn a New Word Every Day

- When told to salute the fylfot.  
The Norwegians said "We will not."
- Don't carry hagiolatry  
To the point of idolatry.
- If a fellow left some money for his obsequies,  
Would the lawyers let you use it for his exequates?
- When haranguing semi-educated mobs  
Almost any exoteric twaddle pleases,  
But the man who would convince the brainy snobs  
Should employ an esoteric exegesis.
- Poor Anne is so avid,  
She's gone an' got gravid.
- When Bromley says "Weather propitious,"  
Some people say "Too superstitious;"  
But 'Varsity grads  
Like to drawl to these cads,  
"We presume you mean 'supposititious.'"
- The whinny of the hinny:  
"With a stallion for sire and a donkey for dam,  
What a long-eared, farraginous mongrel I am."  
The pule of the mule  
"My mater's a nice little mare, but, alas,  
She chose for my pater a thundering ass."
- "At Oxford, Doug. Allen continued to find out more about physics. Recently he married Genevieve Thomson, and has now received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his research work." "On Dit," 16/4/40.  
Congrats. Doctor Doug., though we cannot quite see  
In what kind of study you took your degree.  
But p'raps all three lines of research interweave:  
Philosophy, physics and sweet Genevieve.

### LOST.

Spectacles in case. Finder please tell Miss M. J. Haste.

## Answers to Correspondents

"Inside Information": We regret that we were unable to publish your letter since you omitted to give us your name.

"Not a Sucker": Your letter was good, but since we are our own censors we were not game to publish it. Union members would have appreciated it.

"Noli Narrare": The price of paper is going up, so you must be careful not to be extravagant and use any unnecessarily. Our advice to you is "noli narrare."

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THAT TO N.U.!

Dear Editor,

Your statement in last issue concerning the ignorance of the multitude about the N.U.A.U.S. was perfectly correct. Why, then, should the enthusiastic few be endlessly striving to drag more disinterested (and the ignorance is merely born of disinterest) into the organisation?

Not only are we being meekly insinuated into something in which most of us are not virtually interested, but we are to be held financially responsible for the membership of many more, even less interested, students if the new constitution of the N.U.A.U.S. is ratified.

The objects of the N.U.A.U.S. are sound, but why should its resolutions be binding on constituent organisations (of which our Union is one)? Surely any reasonable recommendation would be carefully considered by each University on its merits, and if they then thought it impracticable, why should they be bound to fall in with it? It means that any one, or even two, 'Varsity student bodies can be dictated to by other 'Varsities without being able to prevent it. We have to risk not just being supremely controlled by two of our own students, but by a small body of students from other 'Varsities.

In addition, our financial obligations are meagre and elastic. There is no set membership subscription, expenses are merely shared. Our share has been doubled this year because—

(a) Expenses are budgeted at a higher level.

(b) We must, as I have said, pay for a lot more students who probably don't want to be paid for anyhow.

This is a most precarious state since we must give three months' notice before withdrawing from the N.U.A.U.S., and are then responsible for all financial liabilities contracted during the previous three months, and so, unless some method of set subscription is evolved we may be sucked in for any amount.

As regards what the N.U.A.U.S. has done. Book buying, it is admitted, has been a bit of a flop, debating interests few of us, identity cards less, travel tours have lapsed, and the drama festival also. In fact, the only matter of general interest which seems to have advanced is scholarships.

Finally, after begging the Government to co-operate with Universities in maintaining normal functioning (including maintenance of financial grants), the N.U.A.U.S. Council has the damned audacity to pass a resolution stating that they feel it is not the duty of official student governing bodies (e.g., our Union) to support the war in any way. If it is beneath us to help, surely we should be aloof from beginning. Well, if that is a sample of the N.U.A.U.S. it can go to blazes. Heaven help us if we are to be bound hand and foot by such a body.

J. M. McPHIE.

V.S.D.?

The Editor,

Dear Sirs,—

At the A.G.M. of the Women's Union a suggestion was brought up that a Voluntary Service Detachment should be formed among the women of the University, and that lectures in First Aid, etc., should be arranged. This idea was short-lived, however, as someone said that the Red Cross Society was forming no more detachments for the present. This I have discovered not to be the case. Not only is the Red Cross forming new detachments (although naturally not in such large numbers as last year), but also Red Cross Headquarters would be glad to sponsor one here.

I am naturally aware that this suggestion is open to the same objections as the formation of a Fighting Forces Comforts Fund Unit, yet nevertheless I submit it as an idea worthy of consideration. It seems only right that the women of the University should take what part they can in war activities, and that they should do so as much as possible through the University, and not through outside organisations.

Yours faithfully,

"V.S.D."

OPINIONS VARY.

Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

I have much respect for the opinions of Mr. C. A. Price, but in his letter in your last issue he seems to have been led astray by the distortions of the more illogical liberal thought.

The logical conclusions to be drawn from his letter are that the only way democracy could be achieved is in a democratic state, for it alone has the facilities for altering the status quo constitutionally. I suggest then that you wouldn't even want your constitutional alterations if the democracy were real and not imperialist and condoned by a bourgeois philosophy.

Mr. Price says that the actions of the workers and the Communists at this time are unjustified in a democratic State. You are wrong, Mr. Price, in assuming that we live in a purely democratic State, or else the implications of our terminology "democratic" vary. I suggest that Mr. Price ask the Port Kembla waterside workers if they were given the opportunity constitutionally to refuse to load pig-iron to a Fascist aggressor nation, or did B.H.P. interests have a finger in the U.A.P. pie? The differences between the British Empire and Nazi Germany, economically, are extensive. Where the German worker must look aghast at the pious requests for constitutional alteration of manifest social evils as an impossibility, yet one must concede Mr. Price that constitutional measures can and will be effective to root out the pseudo-Fascism of the Menzies Government. The "subversive activity" whelp from reaction is a stillborn bogey of the minority Government itself—a feeble attempt to stem the resistance and awakening of a huge thinking mass of the population which has already expressed its opinion of the Menzies democracy in three elections and probably in an A.C.T.U. resolution.

This "subversive" (?) element is the social consciousness of the workers and intelligentsia, and not even the Crimes Act can root that out.

"DEMOCRAT."

TO MR. GRANT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

"H. Grant," in his letter of 9/4/40, implies that he is one of the wise people who take the trouble to learn a lesson from the last war; it seems that he learnt "that a nation cannot and should not be obliterated." This is a profound observation, but the point is does it look as if Nazi Germany has learnt that lesson? Has the Nazi Government practised this with Poland, and will she practise it now with Denmark, and, if she wins, with Norway? Can it be imagined that the leopard will change his spots, and the Regime will say, "Well, now, we had a bad time last time. We will allow those we have conquered to retain their individuality as nations." If Germany's has Mr. Grant's opinion at heart, then we assume that Poland and the other week-end jaunts into Czecho-Slovakia and Austria were due to sleep-walking.

Mr. Grant's further remarks amount to saying that "the rest of the world (other than Britain, and, now, her allies) has awoken and called for a more even form of trade negotiations, and that England is therefore going to fight for the money she has invested in France, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Denmark, Norway."

It is this form of "calling for negotiations" that the Nazis exploit that we are at war with to-day—Germany's Internal Finance, if Mr. Grant wishes to give that name to a policy of bullying, summed up in the words used in the "negotiations" which followed just after Munich—"Surrender, or bombs on Prague, by midnight!" That and the fact that Germany has not realised that she cannot obliterate nations' right and left to expand the Reich. As Mr. Grant so wisely goes on to say, the best policy would be to "combine with Germany in reducing Europe to a few large nations independent of International Finance"—if Germany showed any inclination to do this fairly, by negotiation, without damaging the smaller nations and with their consent—in short, as any decent person likes to treat his neighbour. And while Germany pretended

this inclination, Britain tried to co-operate.

The German Government has had its way for long enough, and never once has it done anything internationally but behave like a band of criminals. Nazi Germany wishes to reduce Europe to nothing by a place where men in big boots can kick the aged and defenceless from time to time. World Federation and lasting peace cannot be approached until there is not the slightest trace of Nazism left, and the way to achieve that is to back up those who know more than we do. It is unfortunate that millions of young Germans have been hoodwinked into blind obedience, but a sentimental regard for them will only result in one's own misery now that we have a war to fight. Individuality ceases with war; it is still primitive, and in war time human nature cannot hope to achieve more than it failed to do in peace time. Now the question resolves into the simple one of "Them or Us," or more personally, "You or Him," and if he is a Nazi you will receive short shrift.

World Federation by all means, but not with the Nazi Government, or any of its sincere adherents. Tremendous problems are piling up for the future, and many have been left unsolved in the "peace" just ended, but for the present, for war-time, there is only one way to survive, and that is to fight till one wins.

Yours, etc.,

J.S.E.H.

ON "WAYS TO PEACE."

To the Editor.

I have been most interested in two articles entitled "Ways to Peace" which have appeared in "On Dit." On analysis, it seems to me that two propositions are made clear. The just article, in essence, stated that peace cannot be final unless the nations of the world are to forego the concept of national sovereignty. The second followed this up by indicating that the democracies were tending to use the method of Fascism, usually accepted as the most intense manifestations of national sovereignty, as a means to break Fascism.

I feel that the subject could be further developed by more discussion round this term, national sovereignty. What do we really mean when we say we must forego national sovereignty? How many even thoughtful people have yet reached a conclusion on this point, to say nothing of the many who have not probably considered the question at all? I feel it behoves us, those who are privileged to attend University, as the potential leaders of what we hope will be a finer and better civilization, to think deeply on these points and follow carefully any further articles on the same subject which may appear in "On Dit."

Yours faithfully,

E.W.B.

ONE UP TO US!

Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

I heartily agree with this week's editorial "Self-Defence." To-day, in my opinion, one must take an intelligent interest in politics and world affairs. I think it is an excellent idea that "On Dit" should deal with politics as long as the staff does not decide to take on any definite line of policy. I presume all letters, if they are up to standard, are published no matter what the opinion held. Thus an enthusiastic Fascist would be able to express his views through "On Dit," whereas if he sent his letter to the "Advertiser" or some such paper he would not get it published.

Surely an opportunity to express one's views freely should stimulate an interest in politics. I think I may claim to be interested (any poor fool can be interested) if ignorant of the conditions of the world, and its future. One would imagine that when an intellectual or so-called intellectual group of people get together there would be some discussion on affairs that concern us very nearly. But no! "What do you think of so and so? Oh, I don't know (and I don't care)—or "Oh, what's the use of worrying, I can't do anything about it." Have you ever said that? (Incidentally I think such people ought, and have a good chance of having their country made into a Fascist one.)

Is it true that an interest in politics is essential? How can a democracy possibly work if people refuse to collaborate? Frankly, it can't.

I was horrified on reading in an University Year Book that women should avoid politics because an interest in politics is not becoming. The writer of that had an extremely Victorian outlook.

University students especially must take some sort of an interest in world affairs. University students have the privilege of extra education. Should they waste this education by refusing to think about anything except their own little world, and their own private little means of making money—and as much as possible? Have they any right to? Many of the students of this University probably have not as much ability as some boys and girls who start earning a living at the age of 15 or 16. Yet these students (perhaps I am one myself), through having had opportunity—in the form of money—can go to the 'Varsity. If one has such an opportunity, one must also remember one has some social obligations. If one refuses to take an interest in one's country, etc., one is not fulfilling one's obligation. Therefore one should not be at the 'Varsity.

Moral: Wake up and think, for at present "Apathy, apathy, all is apathy."

Please don't imagine that I want "On Dit" to be nothing but politics. Heaven forbid! I enjoy the scandal and juicy bits as much as anyone, for after all doesn't "On Dit" mean "rumor"? Nevertheless, rumor can also be found in politics.

Yours, etc.,

S.T.

TREASON.

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

Mr. Price ("On Dit," 16/4/40) has said in a roundabout fashion that he believes that the Communists should be allowed complete freedom of speech in the expression of their ideas, but should not be allowed to realise by force—or other unconstitutional methods. (About a week ago Mr. W. M. Hughes expressed very briefly a similar opinion.) But why this half-way attitude? Where are we to draw the line between what they may do and what we must restrain them from doing? In practice it would not be as simple as Mr. Price's letter suggests. The Communist party in its aim is radically different from any other party. In the past political parties have obtained various rights and privileges, which the Communists readily use for vastly different purposes. Other parties aim at the defeat of their opponents at the elections, or the defeat of the Government in the House, whereas the Communists aim at nothing less than the destruction of the State, and to attain this goal they prostitute every right and privilege offered by the system which they seek to destroy. We do not wait until a person who is known to have homicidal tendencies murders a few people before we restrict his liberty and freedom; as soon as it is clear that he is so afflicted he is placed in a mental hospital. Why, then, when it is a question of saving the State, should we not suppress Communism in its initial stages?

No special legislation is necessary to deal with such persons; they should be charged with treason, for which there exists a very fit and proper penalty.

All very elementary; and the attitude that we should adopt towards the Communists is just as obvious. It is idle to speculate whether democracy is "a method of putting ideas into practice," rather than "a social and political system." If such speculation leads us to Mr. Price's conclusions, we are simply helping the Communists to realize their ideas; at the moment when Mr. Price would have us act, all we could do would be to cry: "Too late, too late—"

The point which it is desired to emphasise here is that the Communist Party, apart from its anti-Christian aspect, since it differs fundamentally in its aims from all other political parties and (in consideration of the nature of its aims), is not entitled to the same rights and privileges.

J.B.S.

# INTER-VARSITIES AS USUAL

A resolution was passed by Australian Universities' Sports Association Council, on April 11, that "Inter-Varsity contests should be continued under the present circumstances."

Under clause 3(a) of the constitution of the A.U.S.A., it is the object of the Association to arrange and control inter-University contests. Therefore it would seem that the ballot, now closed, is rather a waste of time. However, the votes will be counted and entered into the minutes and if "the present circumstances" should change and our opinion should be required we will have our answer ready.

We are, of course, not bound to enter teams in inter-Universities nor are we bound to hold the contests here if it becomes impracticable. The A.U.S.A. Council asked whether, in

view of the ruling, the Adelaide University Boat Club would like to reconsider its decision about forfeiting its turn to hold the race. The Adelaide University Boat Club would not.

Thus we are practically back where we started from: the powers that be have decreed that there shall be inter-Varsities, and it is too late to lift our small voices.

We have five or six contests here this year, and with the Sports Association approaching insolvency let us hope that when the secretaries of the clubs come to balance their budgets they will be able to be thought poor, yet honest.

## SIX CELEBRITY ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS, 1940 ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Concession Season Ticket Rates to University Union Members as follows: "A" Reserves, £1 9/1; "B," £1 1/3; "C," 15/-. All prices include tax and booking fee.

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## Boxing and Wrestling Club

### WRESTLING.

The first practice was held on Friday, April 12, at 5.10 p.m. in the gym., and for the first night the attendance was quite good.

Under the able instruction of Mr. Capper, the members picked up quite a few hints and holds and counters of amateur wrestling.

The practice did not hold the thrills of professional wrestling, but made up for that in the finer points of CLEAN wrestling.

The members are nearly all beginners, but there is room for plenty more, so JOIN NOW.

### BOXING.

The first practice, held on Monday afternoon at 5.10 p.m. in the Gym., was also well attended.

In the absence of the instructor, Mr. Joe Roberts gave the new members a few hints on boxing and taught them some elementary leads and counters. He quelled the more boisterous members by sheer will-power, plus a little gentle persuasion.

We have since been able to secure the services of Messrs. Ted Johnson and Jim Horseman as instructors this year. (No reflections are cast on the capabilities of Joe as an instructor (?)).

These two gentlemen are very experienced and treat all new members as gently as lambs.

The members, as in the wrestling, are nearly all beginners, so there is plenty of opportunity for new men to get in the inter-Varsity team (if we have one).

### Weight.

Light men need have no fear of being too small, as men of all weights are welcome. There will be plenty of your weight (anything from eight stone upwards), to keep you company.

So roll up, irrespective of anything but sex.

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## Footballers Win First Match — Baseball Not So Good

The A football team had a fine win in its first match for the season, when they easily defeated S.P.O.C. The team showed some of the dash and keenness that was lacking last year and should do well in future matches. The B's also made quite a good start when they drew with King's Old Scholars.

Unfortunately, the baseballers did not do so well. The A's, after holding an early lead of 2—0, broke down to let eight Goodwood men home in one line-up, and lost 9—2. The M's also were unsuccessful.

Lacrosse, hockey, and women's hockey practice matches were played against outside teams with varying degrees of success.

The 'Varsity eight (or six of them anyway) distinguished themselves as Saints' Old Scholars on Saturday and won the Old Boys' race at the Head of the River Regatta. It is a great pity that they are not rowing in the inter-Varsity as they definitely seem to have something this year.

## Football

The season started very auspiciously for us with a seven-goal win against St. Peter's Old Collegians.

It was a hard-fought game from the beginning, 'Varsity being a little ahead at half-time, chiefly due to Kleinschmidt's defence in a full-back pocket.

From the start of the second half 'Varsity's superior stamina began to tell, and goals from Ligertwood (2) and Hill (2) put us well in front.

The outstanding players in the game were Betts' untiring and at times brilliant rucking, ably supported by Magarey.

Skipper played another sound game at half-back, and his efforts were largely spoilt by Steele's bad kicking off from goals.

Shierlaw was another man who played well, his dash and determination being features of his play.

Coo Steele, alias Tasmania's leading goalkicker, in spite of other interests on and off the field, played a fine game at full-back.

Scores: 'Varsity, 17.10; S.P.O.C., 9.13.

Best Players: Steele, Shierlaw, Ligertwood, Skipper, Betts, Dunstan.

Goalkickers: Ligertwood 6, Hill 4, Betts, Page 2, Dunstan, Hodge, Mansell.

The B's drew with King's O.C. in a match in which Berndt played excellently.

Before the match Davies was elected captain, and throughout the game he set his team a good example.

King's drew level by scoring an almost impossible goal on the bell.

Scores: 'Varsity, 11.18; K.O.C., 12.12.

Best Players: Berndt, Stevenson, O'Grady, Fletcher, Harris.

Goalkickers: Harris, 5; Gun, 3; O'Grady, 2; Davies, 1.

## The Radical Club

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STUDY CIRCLES

See this issue "On Dit"

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E. Teesdale Smith (sec.)

## Lacrosse

Final practice matches for all teams will be played on the University Oval next Saturday against three teams from St. Peter's, Glenelg. All members are expected to turn out, as these matches will decide the composition of the teams for the first competition match on May 4. Every new player should be at the Oval by 2.30, as the practice captain, D. T. Martin, desires to give a short talk before the match.

## Annual Sports

FRIDAY, MAY 3.

Entry forms available from J. Tregoning, R. B. Craven, R. T. Steele, M. Elliott, G. Aitken, A. G. Rowe.

Entries close Friday, April 26.

There will be a member of the committee in the Refectory from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. each day this week.

## Women's Pennant Tennis

Four University women have been chosen to play on Anzac Day, in the S.A.L.T.A. women's grass court team v. metropolitan affiliated association. They are: Barbara Welbourn, fourth; Elizabeth T. Smith, fifth; Joan Chamberlain, seventh; Helen Chamberlain, eighth.

## Sports Association

At a meeting of the Sports Association Committee on Friday, 12th, the following committees were elected:

Grounds: Treasurer (E. H. Burgess), Hon. Assistant Secretary (E. G. Robinson), J. D. Hill, C. M. Gurner, D. Anderson, A. G. Rowe, N. S. Johnston, and Miss B. Marshall. Chairman, E. G. Robinson.

Waite Park Grounds: President (N. T. Todd), Dr. F. S. Hone, J. D. O'Sullivan, Dr. T. Phipps, E. H. Burgess.

Permit and Disciplinary: President (J. P. Ward, Esq.), E. G. Robinson, E. H. Burgess.

Men's Blues: President, E. G. Robinson, J. Tregoning, W. J. Betts, R. F. Brown, N. S. Johnston, J. M. McPhie.

Women's Blues: President, J. Tassie, M. Crook, B. Irvine, Mrs. H. V. Menz, B. Welbourn.

## Rugby

Last Saturday we had another practice run under the keen eyes of Mr. Cooper and Professor Portus. The roll up was very pleasing. During the afternoon six players from Adelaide and about the same number from Norths came along and we had a scratch match. Whilst the condition of the players lasted the play was good, but at the end of the second half it became very loose. The forwards will have to pack tighter in the rucks and line-outs and give their backs an opportunity to get moving. The new men are rapidly learning the finer points and are getting into the rucks well. John Jenkins won the raffle.

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