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Vol. 10.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1940.

No. 8.

## Results Announced

**SPORTS ASSOCIATION BALLOT.**  
 Those who voted on the question of inter-Varsity contests remember that the ballot paper was in two divisions—one the straightout "Yes or No" question. The answer was "Yes"—straight-out—91 votes to 55. As to what form the contests should take, if continued, opinion was more evenly divided: Seventy-six wanted them as usual, while sixty-four voted for a modified and unofficial contest. Therefore, unless the Australian controlling body alters its decision, viz., that it sees no reason why things should not continue as before, continue as before they will—which, according to the voting figures now released, is what we wanted. So now everybody's happy—except those who voted the other way!

### Debate

"That Section I., ch. XVIII. of the University Statutes should be enforced?" i.e., should we go gowned?  
**TO-MORROW in the GEORGE MURRAY HALL at 1.30 p.m.**

## Coming Events

- Wednesday, May 1.  
 Debate in George Murray Hall at 1.30 p.m.  
 Meeting of Pharmacy Students in Refectory at 8.30 p.m.
- Friday, May 3.  
 Annual Sports of Athletic Club on the Varsity Oval.
- Monday, May 6.  
 Carnegie Gramophone Recital.  
 Richard Strauss's Tone Poem, "Don Juan." In the South Hall of Conserv. at 1.10 p.m.  
 Meeting of Radical Club in George Murray Hall at 8 p.m. Prof. Goldby will give the inaugural address on "Science and Social Change."
- Tuesday, May 7.  
 Meeting of Chemical Institute in Lady Symon Hall at 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8.  
 Meeting of Arts Association in Lady Symon Hall at 8 p.m. The Prattler of 5CL will prattle.
- Saturday, May 11.  
 Rugby Ball in Refectory.
- Tuesday, May 14.  
 Union Debate against W.C.T.U. on the question of Wet Canteens.
- Thursday, May 16.  
 Medical Students' Society Meeting in George Murray Hall at 8 p.m.

### CORRECTION!

It was stated in "Coming Events" last week that Saturday, May 11, is the date for the debate on "Wet Canteens" against the W.C.T.U. Shame! we ran off the rails badly. Saturday, May 11, is the date of the RUGBY BALL,—who said abolish wet canteens? Tickets for the ball are obtainable from Mr. Hamilton or the Rugby team. The debate, a high spot of fun and free speech will be held on Tuesday, May 14, with the Lord Mayor adjudicating. Tickets, 1/- each, in aid of the Red Cross and Children's Hospital, are obtainable from E. F. Johnston, V. C. Matison, D. B. Kerr, S. J. Jacobs, C. A. Price, G. W. Irwin, Misses Elizabeth Carter and Teesdale-Smith.

## "I Advocate No Cause" Labour Council President on the Strike

A crowded meeting of one hundred and forty students of varying political opinions heard the Radical Club's speaker, Mr. A. B. Thompson, President of the United Trades and Labour Council and member of the A.C.T.U. Executive. The whole meeting was delighted with the open and unprejudiced approach of Mr. Thompson. The meeting, a long one, lasted almost until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st.

The whole of Mr. Thompson's talk consisted in a simple summary of the facts.

Indeed, the miners' cause, if from anywhere was pleaded from the hall at question time.

Introduced by the President of the Radical Club, Mr. Thompson outlined his aims. Being just returned from the A.C.T.U. Conference, he was in possession of the coal strike facts, particularly those unprinted in the capitalist press. He revealed that the development of the strike was one unforeseen by the miners' leaders. It was a "called bluff." But Bill Orr and Nelson, leaders of the Miners' Federation, decided that, in spite of the narrow margin of support for the strike, it must be carried resolutely to the finish.

### THE HISTORY.

Its history has been this. After long inspections and an extensive study of the facts Judge Drake-Brockman fixed, in the Arbitration Court, a uniform forty-hour week for both surface and underground workers. This condition (as was pointed by Mr. Elliott Johnston) was desirable from the mine owners' viewpoint, as the practice in the industry has always been to work the same hours below as on the surface, and from the miners', as it would give the engineering unions a lever for the establishment of a forty-hour week, as the surface workers' position does not differ from that of other workshops in other industries.

But by a strange twist, in a two-hours' sitting, the Full Court reversed Judge Drake-Brockman's decision and supported the mine owners' appeal. No investigation of the facts was made. The decision was reversed not on a point of justice, but one of law. Judge Drake-Brockman had exceeded his powers! Mr. Thompson described the Full Court—Judge Beeby, a nice old gentleman but suffering from senile decay. It would be impossible for him to go down a mine. And Judge Piper—the "I wouldn't know a coal mine if I fell down one" man.

Mr. Thompson seemed inclined to believe that the miners had a just cause for grievance. Whether a strike was justified in wartime on an issue of three hours per week for surface workers he did not say.

He did, however, point out the sheer altruism of the miners, the vast majority of whom had nothing to gain, much to lose on the issue. The strike was for a principle alone, the principle of the forty-hour week in industry.

He also revealed the Menzies motive in the business, an aspect which, though concealed, has puzzled many. Menzies is using the strike as a political tool—in a time of war is considering party tactics and self-interest. For in certain eventualities Menzies will use the coal strike to go to the country

on a "Law and Order" issue, and with the aid of the "Communist bogey" will defeat Labour and reverse his series of decisive electoral defeats.

### THE PRESENT SITUATION.

Volatile, worried Bill Orr is fighting hard to maintain the morale and keep the financial position from ruin. A fortnight will tell—the support of trade unionism throughout Australia is needed to carry on the fight and to sustain the miners in their unemployment.

The Brisbane miners are weakening under pressure, but support is flowing in.

The Menzies' threat of "scab" labour is ridiculous. The mines are flooded and gassed. None but the miners can work them. By the printing of this issue this dramatic situation may have evolved on one side or the other.

Mr. Amos from the House pointed out that the lowering costs through technical improvements in the mining industry made the mine owners well able to concede this small sum of working time.

Mr. Harris added to this by stressing the inequality of sacrifice imposed by the war burden, the greatest portion of which fell on the basic wage earner and the worker generally. The rise in living costs and in food prices in particular was not accompanied by proportionate wage adjustment, and in view of this being in the nature of indirect taxation on the working class the war profiteer might well be ethically necessitated to make concessions.

A flood of questions from the House, particularly from Mr. Espie and Dr. John Yeatman, mainly concerned technical aspects of the strike. The Communist problem was raised repeatedly. Mr. Thompson was strong in his insistence on the inability of a few individuals to dominate thousands of Australian miners, who have "minds of their own." Bill Orr, to his knowledge, was the only known Communist. That aspect was probably a bogeyman from the Menzies cupboard.

### Radical Club STUDY CIRCLES

A meeting of all those who are interested in the Radical Club Study Circles will be held on Thursday next at 1.20 in the George Murray Hall.  
 See the Club circulars for particulars of the Groups.  
**Thursday, 1.20 G.M. Hall**

## "War and Peace Proposals"

STUDY AND PRESS SURVEY.  
 N.U.A.U.S. Scheme for Australian University Students.  
 Melbourne, April 3, 1940.

The National Union of Australian University Students has initiated a scheme including a study of international organization and a press-cutting survey of Australian wartime changes. In this scheme the N.U.A.U.S. will have the advice of Mr. W. D. Forsyth, who is the Research Officer of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

In Mr. Forsyth's opinion the N.U.A.U.S. scheme is timely and will be a real contribution to study in Australia of changes and prospects which occupying the minds of thinking men in nearly all countries.

This scheme will implement the resolution of the N.U.A.U.S. Council meeting at Hobart, when it was decided to arrange for students to undertake research into the things which make for ease and for co-operation between peoples.

Students are invited to undertake work in conjunction with this scheme in either a press survey or a study group. Those who wish to take part should communicate immediately with Mr. Hamilton or Elliott Johnston.

This matter was before the last Union Committee meeting, when it was decided to call for the names of those who are prepared to take part.

The press-cutting does not concern Adelaide, but the N.U.A.U.S. suggests that we should, along with other States, organize a group to study the value and disadvantages of Australia's past participation in international organization. Suggested subjects are the Australian experience of the International Labour Office, Mandates System, World Court and Australia, League of Nations (political and/or technical), etc.

It is hoped that by producing highly critical memoranda in these subjects from the various maps, it will be possible to provide some solid basis for post-war reconstruction. This is work which needs to be done and which students are trained to do. If you wish to help please communicate with the abovementioned persons immediately.

## Damage to Lawn

UNION COMMITTEE TAKES ACTION.

At a meeting of the Union Committee last Monday it was decided to take definite action against those who take cane chairs on to the lawn and use them as a rocking horse. The police are on the job! Members of the Committee will make it their duty to see that cane chairs are not taken on to the lawn, at least until it has had a chance to recover. Offenders will be penalized, as will anyone who is seen to bring out a tray and leave it there. Just a few victims will do the trick, and if it happens to be you, don't say you haven't been warned.

That wasn't all the meeting did. It also scrubbed off "Phoenix" for the time being, and a certain section endeavoured to scrub off the Radical Club, on the ground that the Union should not harbour "subversive societies!" The move, however, was defeated as being an attempt to suppress freedom of discussion, and the Radical Club came good with an excellent meeting two days later.

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## On the Trail

By the Watchdog.

The last week has been largely given to the gradual withdrawal of the sensational claims of Allied success in Norway. It now appears that Narvik is still in German hands, as are most of the other important coastal and railway towns. So that it looks as if the Allies (among whom we now include Norwegians in territory occupied by our troops) really are planning a new Peninsular war. In which case, as long as the Germans are not allowed to consolidate their position throughout the south of Norway, fairly regular Allied defeats and retreats from the bigger towns are to be expected for some time yet.

The strange complications of this war are apparent in the simultaneous efforts at present being made here and in Britain to suppress the Communists and to represent Russia as swinging away from Germany and towards the Allies. However, as long as internal solidarity and external policy prove incompatible, it seems probable that both efforts will continue.

The coal strike at last appears to be reaching its crisis. All parties agree that if a conference were called the trouble could be settled in five minutes. Each party also adds that it is not prepared to compromise. The truth is that the strike could not possibly have been more unfortunately timed. The Government justly claims that wartime is no time to commence a strike which threatens to paralyze the whole of Australian industry. Not unnaturally the strikers are described as saboteurs, and doubt is thrown upon their loyalty to democratic ideals. For their part, the strikers claim they are fighting for a vital principle. It is known that one Judge of the Arbitration Court spent six months framing an award, which was upset in two hours without the calling of evidence by the Full Court. It is also known that in the making of an award it is the practice to level hours up or down to those worked by the majority in the particular industry for which the award is made. But in the case of mining, technical considerations apparently make it necessary for certain classes of workers to do about three hours more than the rest. The trouble is that the Full Court levelled the hours of the majority up to those of a small minority. Hence the strife.

The Government has decided that special legislation is likely to be more efficacious against the wiles of the Communists than the application of the law as it now stands. We are informed that the Government did have sufficient power under the law to have acted against Communists long ago. And to those who have studied the technology of dictatorship it is disturbing to find our own Government suppressing freedom of speech and the press on the grounds that we may hear something dangerous in the future. If there is evidence against Communists they should have been tried on that evidence. If there is not, there seems little ground for the present suppressive legislation.

### DOCTOR TELLS.

"The swastika is a sign of malignant growth, not merely in the political field, but in living matter," Dr. O. F. Jones told the American National Academy of Science. He explained how he had found the swastika sign in cancerous plant cells . . . ("Advertiser," 26/4/40.)

## I Don't

My parents told me never to smoke:  
I don't.  
Or listen to a naughty joke:  
I don't.  
They make it clear I must not wink  
At pretty girls, or even think  
About intoxicating drink:  
I don't.  
To dance or flirt is very wrong:  
I don't.  
Wild youths like women, wine and  
song:  
I don't.  
I kiss no girls, not even one,  
I do not know how it is done;  
You wouldn't think I'd have much fun:  
I DON'T!  
(From "On Dit," 20/4/37.)

### IS IT TRUE?

That the warden of St. Barnabas' College decreed that as most College students are "pacifists," the College shouldn't mind working on Anzac Day? That's a smack in the eye, anyhow, if it's true!

"ON DIT" STAFF, 1940.

Editors:  
Miss P. Viner Smith, S. J. Jacobs.  
Sub-Editors:  
C. A. Price, G. W. Irwin.  
Business Manager:  
J. C. Mellor.

Sports Editors:  
J. M. McPhie, N. Osman.

Editorial Staff:  
Miss 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.

## Farewell, "Phoenix"

The Union Committee has decided that it will not this year publish "Phoenix." It is considered that it has had four years in which to establish itself, but has so far failed to do so; in point of fact, it is said that the publication appeals almost exclusively to the Arts Faculty, and as such does not warrant further Union support, at least until it can be more representative or achieve a higher standard in its literary work.

That this last argument should be allowed to weigh we consider a deplorable outlook. The standard of work can only be improved by the exercise of creative instincts, which, however immature in the case of "Phoenix"—and several good critics thought highly of the last issue—nevertheless represent an expression of cultural development that a University of our standing should not be without. A year's holiday may see the position change.

## Editorial Note

At the beginning of the year we expressed the opinion that as the organ of a University student body, "On Dit" should stand for absolute freedom of expression in its columns. Our belief in that principle remains unaltered, but, due to the fact that the country is at war, circumstances have arisen which may make impossible the carrying out of that principle in its entirety. So far, in our estimation, no article has appeared in this paper to which any objection might have been taken; therefore we urge that contributors, especially in the correspondence columns, should continue to write without sense of restriction. Under such circumstances we need scarcely be conscious of any limitations that may exist.

## Scoop!

## News Flash!

When people started to talk about the formation of a Radical Club in this University and to raise their eye-brows (some of them) and gasp with horror (others of them), we felt mildly sick. So we promptly sent for the article below just to show that there are other Universities with political clubs. ("On Dit"—always first with news by cable.)

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

The Oxford University Conservative Association has several camps, whose relative strengths vary year by year. In general these might be described as (1) Tories, (2) Chamberlainites, (3) the Catholics, and (4) the moderate Conservatives. The first of these is relatively much stronger than for some time, since, while some second and many third year people are conscripted now, the Freshers straight from home and school are here in undiminished numbers and with "un-corrupted" ideas. They speak the tongue that Churchill spake—the faith and morals hold which all their landed and ennobled fathers held or broke before them. Their ideas are barren, their habits (and waistcoats) picturesque. They lose their tempers in the Union debates at times. The Chamberlainites are few; their loyalties seem unfashionable among young Conservatives now: their stocks have declined ever since Munich.

Everyone has a soft spot for the Liberals. They are amiable and ingenuous and congenitally inoffensive. In the Union they sit happily under Gladstone's marble bust and in general carry more weight than their numbers would suggest and frequently score points from both their more numerous opponents. Their policy is vague: some members are nearly socialists, some very far from that side—"Liberty" (in a general sense) is their watchword and "ownership" (i.e., private property) for all" one of their favourite slogans. They are united in implacable opposition to the present Government, but for the rest are about as muddled as Sir Richard Acland in his recent Penguin "Unser Kampf." But undergraduate Liberals are not with Sir Richard's ultra-socialist measures and the marble bust of Asquith was also noticed to be sweating the other night when, with Arthur Greenwood and the

Marquess of Londonderry as guest speakers, the Union carried by 56 votes the motion "That the solution to our problems lies in a Socialist Britain."

The Pacifists rarely speak in the Union these days, though they have their active clubs and organisations. Individually they go before the Conscientious Objectors' Tribunals as their age groups are called up: some are already doing ambulance work in Finland and France, others are doing land work or forestry instead of military service. They are not persecuted or ill-treated this time, and there is much sympathy and understanding for them here in Oxford.

The local undergraduate Fascists number, I believe, six. Only one ever speaks at the Union, and though he is a competent speaker the House is rather sick of his unvaried speech, repeated weekly or fortnightly as it is.

The Labour Club has the largest nominal membership and the largest and much the hardest working membership of any club in Oxford. And its hardest workers are the Communist "Party" whose work seems to be more than half the purpose of their coming to Oxford. All went well between socialists and communists in the Labour Club until the Russo-German Pact of last year—on issues like the "National" Government, Collective Security, Spain, and the rest they had been one solid group, keen, busy, and noisy—lots of house-to-house canvassing, considerable funds collected for China and Spain, frequent street demonstrations with other Labour and Trade Union organisations in Oxford.

But the Communist lead seems to be waning. English people of all shades of opinion are much less precipitate in attempting to suppress opponents and not give them a hearing

## Front Office News

### MILITIA CAMPS.

Advice has been received from the Department of the Army in Melbourne that local commands have been instructed to arrange for the camps of University students to be carried out in the period between the examination of University year in December, 1940, and March 30, 1941.

Students who are members of units other than University regiments will be attached for training to units which are holding their camps during this period.

A copy of the letter received by the Vice-Chancellor referring to military camps has been posted on the notice board.

### SPORTS DAY.

The Council, at its meeting last Friday, resolved to authorize professors and lecturers to suspend lectures on the afternoon of Friday, May 3, as this is the afternoon of the annual sports day.

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than some Australians are. They seem to have learnt better than some Australians that if there is any substance in a case, given a free and open ring or not, it will come out. They realize that by giving all enough rope the right ones will generally hang themselves, whereas suppression and martyrdom will only keep them alive and give them a new strength. The patent absurdity of much recent Communist somersaulting is telling now: much of the support which remains seems to come from admiration for their efforts in England in organising and helping the unemployed to get better conditions and in similar activities where the Labour Party has sometimes not sufficiently taken the initiative. But the casuistry which has gone to explain the Russo-German "marriage de convenance" has been too much for many.

Yet no one wants to suppress them—only 31 votes could be raised in the Union for a motion for their suppression by the Government. Conservatives, Liberals, and Labour were at once against it. Apart from a few ultra-Tories, the Communists alone seem to want the suppression of the Communists—they admit quite frankly the tide is running against them here and that a healthy spot of martyrdom would do them and their numbers and their cause all the good in the world—it has already roused considerable sympathy here and in France for their French "comrades." No wonder no one is anxious to play into their hands. All parties gave Benes a tremendous reception at the last debate of this term. The various club meetings are also well attended—the Conservatives' Annual Dinner was a brilliant affair, sparkling with notabilities; the Labour Club's four-hour debate on Russo-Finnish affairs (on the motions mentioned above) was crowded, sustained, as noisy as usual and markedly "lively." Such are Oxford politics at the moment—business is very much as usual, discussion is free and controversy willing. I hope there is as much broad-mindedness, freedom and liveliness in Australian Universities today. The broad-mindedness of the English undergraduate is at least one beacon in a dark world. The Englishman's respect for and understanding of liberty is an object lesson for the Dominions and the world.

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## Ways to Peace

We are constantly being reminded of our war aims, but, as yet, little has been put forward by any of the Allied Governments of specified peace aims. Press and radio make great use of such phrases as "a war to put an end to beastiality" or "a war to save Western civilization." We are frequently told that we are fighting "to make the world fit for decent men and women to live in," and that "Nazism must at all costs be finally and irreversibly crushed."

So far so good. If these are our war aims, it seems the right thing is to go ahead and accomplish them. I do not wish to quarrel with such as are stated to be the war aims of the Allied forces, but I think the exact meaning of such phrases should be examined in a closer context, and from these a more constructive policy of what is to be done after the war built up. Sincere peace aims seem inevitably to resolve themselves under three categories—political, social and economic. We who live in democratic countries and who ostensibly uphold the democratic system of government as one for which we are willing to fight, should examine these aspects of our national life closely and critically before we talk glibly of making the world fit for decent men to live in. In other words, we should be ready to admit that we, too, must put our house in order before we can justifiably hold up our politics-economic system as one which can be a model for those unfortunate countries which have been brought under the so-called menace of Nazism.

We must ask ourselves questions. We say, for instance, that we must restore the political integrity of such small and less powerful countries as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Denmark. How are we to do this? Are we to be content to extend credit to the Governments of these countries in order to give them an opportunity for national reconstruction and then see that this is maintained by political treaties backed by superior naval, military and air forces?

What about Germany? We say we must crush Nazism. Well and good. Nazi philosophy in many aspects is an evil the world would be better without. We like to believe that millions of Germans hate Nazi philosophy, but what are we offering in place of it? Will we be willing or will it be sufficient to extend credit to a Social-Democratic Government in Germany in order to give it a chance of national reconstruction on different lines?

Then let us consider our social and economic organization. Are we to be content, after the war is over, to maintain in its entirety a social ethic which accepts vast inequalities in the distribution of national wealth? The cost of war, I hear someone say, is rapidly levelling inequalities of wealth. What about taxation in England at the present moment? What I feel is more to the point is whether this levelling of inequalities is only a war-time expedient. Will our national policy continue it after the war? If we feel that a levelling of inequalities of wealth is a good thing for human society, are we going to accomplish it through a planned economy directed by a central authority? True democratic ethic rather jibs at such a suggestion because it smacks of the planned economy of Russia or the semi-planned organization of Fascist Italy and Germany.

These are only a few questions we, as Allies, should ask ourselves, and in their answers must be found our peace aims. As a way to a better peace, I feel it is most essential that such problems should be discussed by all sections of the community. Present-day youth has surely demonstrated its sincerity in its willingness to fight against Nazism and all it implies. That sincerity will not be impaired by thoughtful discussion of the problems which must arise after Nazism is destroyed. No one can tell what forms the solutions of these problems will take, but by constant discussion and pooling of ideas a method quite in keeping with democratic tradition, we can, at least, make ourselves conversant with all possible alternatives, and when the time comes we will be all the more ready for reconstruction on a sounder basis. This, to my mind, under the present circumstances, is most emphatically a way to peace.

## Correspondence

### THIS IS IMPORTANT.

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw the attention of all Union members to two new Union regulations.

At the last meeting of the Union Committee it was resolved that the use of cane chairs from the Refectory shall not be allowed on the sunken lawn. Also, that those people who remove any trays, crockery, or other material from the Refectory must return same within 25 minutes.

These regulations may appear drastic, but that they are necessary can be appreciated by anyone who looks at the condition of the sunken lawn after lunch.

There will be a period of seven days before these regulations are enforced. Offenders on and after May 8 will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee of the Union.

Yours faithfully,

ROGER WILLOUGHBY.  
(President A.U.U.)

### HAIL AND FAREWELL!

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

Now that the Union Committee has seen fit to abolish "Phoenix," it is merely beating the air to reprobate the attitude of the members towards the magazine. "Phoenix," it would appear, has ever been disreputable and a disgrace to the University. That it has been praised in Oxford and Cambridge, that last year a French University wrote asking for copies, that Mr. Charles Jury willingly consented to write a preface, and later asked if he might review it in a publication of the English Association of New South Wales apparently means nothing.

There is a fairly general, and, where it exists, very strong feeling, that the members of the Committee have greatly blundered. They are past all reason, jealous of the reputation of the University; then let them, in the first place, consider this small point: from now on this will be the only University in Australia which has no official annual publication, and therefore exchanges of magazines with other Universities (and elsewhere) will be impossible. It would be unfortunate if it became known that we are being steered complacently into a backwater; and to some the spectacle of zealous sailors beating the wind out of their own sails may well appear funny.

Subject to the approval of the Arts Association, a new magazine is to be published under its auspices, but it will be altogether a smaller thing than "Phoenix." The policy of the editors of this magazine, however, will be very much that of past editors of "Phoenix." The publication will be primarily what is known, and dismissed, as a literary magazine, but this simply means that social cackle and drivel about graduates will not be given space. Work from graduates and the members of other faculties is most decidedly invited. It is hoped that the magazine will appear in the spring, but contributions will be received immediately. In its darkest hour, it is said, the phoenix shines brightest, but it thirsts for a gift of blood.

[Note: The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the Editors of "On Dit;" indeed, the President of the Arts Association thanks them for granting it space.]

D. B. KERR.

### ESPERANTO.

(The following letter was put in the "On Dit" box by a literary genius with a strange sense of humour.)

Dear "On Dit,"

A goo-goo boop a-diddy yum; Ha Ha Tiddy.

I think so, don't you?

OSCAR McSTINKLETWURP.

\* \* \*

And "On Dit" replies.

Dear Oscar,

A bee-bee goop didd-a sac; Ha Ha diddy?

A. TWURPLESTINK (Do you?)

P.S. We hope this doesn't make Oscar Wilde!

### NO MORE LUXURY?

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

Argument has been rife of late concerning the democratic or undemocratic nature of the suppression of the Communists. Surely the arguments have been away from the point. Democracy is a luxury incompatible with the efficiency required by a nation at war. We cannot be bothered with fiddling laws and freedom if we are to achieve victory. If we intend to do this, we might just as well have stayed out of the war.

The answer to such questions as to whether it is right to suppress the Communists is, "It is necessary, and necessity knows no law."

Yours, etc.,

R. R. SOBEY.

### LET'S GO DIGGING!

The Editor, "On Dit."

Dear Sir,

What is this priceless thing University students seem to have in this country that makes them immune from participating in anything to do with the armed forces of Australia? I know very well I'd be told that the position of students in the army would be impossible, as their time is fully taken up in studying at their various courses. Maybe that's so; but it would be a pity to see them going along to one parade a week at night time so as to gain an elementary knowledge of rifle drill, wouldn't it? I was most amused the other week to see your announcement extraordinary, as it was so stupidly announced, concerning the inter-Varsity sports. I've never seen or heard of a more childish procedure. As if it matters whether they are held or not when such larger stakes concerning countries, not Universities, are in the balance.

This war, as everyone knows, is, and will prove itself more so, vastly different to the last. With the fate of the East Indies in the palm of the God of War's hand; and subsequently if Japan takes these outposts of Holland, Australia will find herself in no enviable position, as U.S.A. says she can't help us, I can't see how anyone of you people down here can't volunteer for some service. If you all got together you could demand a special branch of the services to be at your disposal; so that you could fit your services in when lectures allowed you. You all have holidays, so why not make more use of them than you have in the past?

As "On Dit" once said, "South Australian people look to us for an example; well, why not give to them?"

Perhaps there are some exceptions to this general "conscription" of the students. The final two or three years of the Radical course are the only ones as far I can see that should be exercised. These men, when they get their degrees of M.A., B.S., should be immediately conscripted into the Australian services of the army, navy, or air force. The engineering students would form a strong backbone to an Engineering Battalion, where they would use their already useful knowledge to a useful purpose in helping the country's welfare in time of war.

Also, why haven't the technical teachers in the University volunteered to teach certain branches of technical work to the R.A.A.F. trainees? I suppose the Council won't allow such a gross sidestep from their doctrine to allow people, who are indirectly saving them and theirs, to be taught things that they (the Council) demand should be paid for.

The coal strike in New South Wales also affords an excellent outlet for students all over Australia to prove their worth.

Why shouldn't we as a body volunteer to do the miners' work while the strike is in progress? If we did this you can bet your bottom dollar that it would soon bring the strikers to their senses. Perhaps there again many of you would say: "What about our work?" I say what about it? I feel sure that the Council, if they saw fit, would not jeopardize your chances in the exams. Anyhow, I leave it to you and to my seniors who have far more influence in the students' welfare than I have; but I can't think of a better way to serve your country without fighting exterior enemies.

I leave it in your hands.

TURNER.

## King Hitler's English Broadcast

German reports assert that Britain will be crushed and the Nazis will be over here—by April 22 next. Hitler will be crowned king, and we have secured the text for his broadcast; here it is!

"Mein Englisch it may not be quite B.B.C.,

But dat doesn't matter a pfennig to me.

I am Adolf der First,  
Und I don't care a jot,  
If my accent's der worst,  
It's King's English—so vot?

I schpeak to you all, as der Fuhrer und King.

Vot joy und vot blessings to Britain I bring!

Der Dachsund forgives  
All der crimes of der war,  
Und der Bulldog receives  
A good shake of der paw!

Ein Blitz Coronation in hand I have put,

Mit sceptre und crown vot a figure I'll cut.

Und ult Munich in mind,  
In case anything drops—  
There'll be Himmler behind,  
Mit a few of his cops!

Und so down der Strand to der Bank I vill ride,

Mit Goering, Gott bless him, pressed close to my side,

We vill pinch all der gold  
Und der staff we vill shoot,  
Und return to der fold  
Mit der vaggons of loot,

Mein Gauleiters Churchill und Edouard und Hoare,

Vill be purged if there's any more talk about war.

Der great Treaty is signed,  
Und to end der distress—  
I am leaving behind  
Little Goebbels und Hess.

So all mehu Dominions over der seas,  
Und England und Scotland, go down on your knees.

Be content mit your lot,  
For der die it is cast,  
Thank der Fuhrer und Gott,  
YOU ARE NAZIS AT LAST!

Ve vil now sing Rule Germania, Germania rules der slaves.

DER END OF DER BROADCAST.

—"Parade," April, 1940.

## LAW STUDENTS! COMMERCE STUDENTS!

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## The Business World

The Commerce Students' Association commenced this year by smashing a record completely, for now all ladies taking the Diploma or subjects thereof can have their views expressed through the two lady members of the Committee, Misses Chapman and Jones, who were elected at our annual meeting. Previously there have been only men on the Committee. I think this is a precedent that will be successfully followed upon in ensuing years. (Sounds a good thing!—Eds.) The annual meeting opened with last year's President, Mr. Burgess, occupying all the chair, and he resigned in favour of Mr. Todd, who was elected unopposed. All the officers having been elected, a lively discussion followed as to whether there should be a representative of ladies on the Committee. There were eleven nominations for six vacancies on the Committee, including the two ladies who were elected in the voting following. The meeting successfully closed and an enjoyable supper followed.

The year's activities will include numerous talks by some of Adelaide's eminent business men upon interesting subjects of particular use to those in Commerce.

Also there is to be a ball, a dinner, a week-end, one for men, and also one for ladies if there are a sufficient number of ladies to warrant it. (Warrant what?—Eds.) And finally visits to various factories and commercial institutions. Thus the year should be very successful both socially and educationally. Copies of the programme will be printed shortly and distributed among the students at the lectures.

# WINTER SPORTS WELL UNDER WAY

## Wins for Football, Baseball, Soccer, and (for a wonder) Basketball

### Football

With another win to our credit, this time against Underdale, the A's now occupy third position in the premiership table. The B's followed up their draw of last week with a good win against Banks, and the C's recorded a draw against Prince Alfred Old Collegians.

The play of the A's, after a spectacular start in which they scored 9 goals 6 to 1 goal 2 in the first quarter, degenerated into a mad scramble, fitting in well with the state of the ground and the quality of the umpiring.

The large scoring in the first quarter was due to fine combination between Abbott, Dunstan and Ligertwood. These three men played well throughout, and Ligertwood finished with a tally of six goals. Abbott initiated many attacks from centre and he combined well with Shierlaw on the wing, who played another good game.

Hill roved well and scored two goals this week. He worked hard, but must overcome the bad habit of running on with the ball after taking a mark when he is marked by at least two opponents.

The backs had very little work to do, but what had to be done was carried out very efficiently by Kleinschmidt, Magarey at centre half-back must watch his man closer, and Steele must improve his kicking still more.

Scores: Varsity A, 17.15; Underdale, 6.10.

Goalkickers: Ligertwood 6, Mansell 3, Betts, Page, Hill 2, Madigan and Gratton.

Best Players: Dunstan, Ligertwood, Shierlaw, Gratton, Abbott.

In a fast game the B's beat Banks by 1.4. Berndt played another good game, but he must train harder if he is to make the A side. A feature of the play was the excellent use of handball, which extricated them from difficulties on many occasions. A's, take notice.

Scores: Varsity B, 10.18; Banks, 9.14.

Goalkickers: Gun 4, Harris 3, Stevenson 2, Berndt.

Best Players: McMichael, Law Smith, Wallman, Harris, Evens, Berndt.

The C's started their convivial football with a draw against Prince Alfred Old Collegians. Apparently they can stand up to their refresher at half-time better than their opponents. Varsity, 6.13; P.A.O.C., 7.6.

And now the brighter side of football. The brightest dance of the year, the football dance, will be held on June 15. Forget about your bruises by coming along to what will amount to our "Victory Dance." Tickets may be obtained from the committee, J. D. Hill, J. Hodge, J. S. Skipper. Remember, Football Dance, June 15.

### Lacrosse

On Saturday the A's played a final practice match against St. Peter's, Glenelg, probably the strongest team in the competition. St. Peter's won, 7-1. The start of the match showed both teams to be of an even standard, with University having most of the play. Varsity opened the score from a shot from Snow, and the backs were able to hold down St. Peter's to no score for the quarter. In the second quarter St. Peter's took their share of the game and scored two goals, to leave the score 2-1 in their favour at half-time. This was mainly the result of Varsity's poor position play, and St. Peter's, combining well, were definitely in command in that quarter.

After the long interval St. Peter's still held most of the play. Varsity's position play in attack was again weak. There were too many players trying to force the ball to the goals, thus crowding the forwards and spoiling their chances. The backs con-

tinued with a steady game, and only a few quick flashes by St. Peter's got past them.

The form showed by the team was generally good, and is promising for the rest of the year.

A combined "B" and "C" Grade match was played against the St. Peter's "B's," and although they lost 1-7 they put up a good game. A feature of the match was the extraordinary good play of the new players, who played two quarters each. All players are urged to practise regularly.

Competition matches in "A," "B," and "C" Grades start on Saturday.

## Ball! Ball! Ball!

Come along to the  
RUGBY BALL  
on SATURDAY, MAY 11  
at 8.15 p.m.

### Athletic Club

Next Friday it is hoped that a large crowd will be present to witness what will be the most outstanding meeting the Athletic Club has held for many years. Never before has the competition for the cup been so open, there being no less than six competitors with an even-money chance.

Records this year will be going as they have never gone before, as we have likely record breakers in five events, namely, the shot put, half-mile, one mile, the discus and javelin throws. It will be worth coming a long way to see Jack Tregoning throw the 16-pound shot some unknown distance over 40 feet to break his own record, and with any luck the State record. Jack has gone into strict training under our brilliant coach-trainer, Bull Creighton, and has given up all forms of indoor sport.

Several schoolboy champions of 1939 will this year be participating in the events along with the old stagers such as the conscientious secretary, Spog Rowe, Offie Gratton, Cooney Steele, John Hill and Robert Craven. It is unfortunate that this year we have lost Bill Parkhouse, who in previous years thrilled the crowd with his phenomenal mile-running, not to mention his pole vaulting. Nevertheless, without Bill it will be worth your while to come along and see in action some of the best athletes in the State.

The programme has been arranged so that events are in progress throughout the whole afternoon, and Misses Thornton and Monfries will be operating in the grandstand enclosure, all business being cash. If wet or fine, we are informed that neither will use the conventional umbrella.

### Boxing and Wrestling Club

At the boxing practice held in the Gym. last Monday there seemed to be nothing but flying fists. The display was highly spectacular, with a little skill shown now and again.

Ted Johnson, our instructor, had a round with each member, and you can readily imagine how knocked out he was at the end of the practice. However, most of the member seemed to enjoy the sparring, and it helped a few to get rid of a lot of their excess avoirdupois. LADIES! try our new slimming treatment.)

Wrestling practice will not be held next Friday because of the athletics.

### Rifle Club

At the range of 900 yards on Saturday, although the day was fine and the wind easy to follow, there were plenty of "birds" flying around. Our captain, J. A. R. Dunning (Gorry! Dinning) and Cliff Starling both finished with 48 out of 50. C. J. Starling obtained an eight-shot possible, but finished with two fours.

On the previous Saturday O. Hodgson won the Novice Trophy with 54 from V. L. Hawke, a close runner-up with 53 out of 60.

The practice for the Inter-Varsity is in full swing now. On Sunday the club visited the Magill rifle range for practice at 200 yards with a 2½-inch bull.

Dinning continued his run of good shooting with a 149 out of 156, winning the trophy, a rather worn and green-looking hat badge. A few rookies started off with bulls, but came a flop in the rest of the round.

Speaking of bulls, two of the opposite sex came wandering down the hill into our range of fire, and our two honourable, or otherwise, markers came out of their dugout, and, mounting Shank's ponies, herded them off, with a cracking of whips, which took the form of thrown stones.

Next Saturday will be an M.D.R.U. shoot, so the probable Inter-Varsity team should get some idea of their form.

## Varsity Sports

NEXT FRIDAY

### Hockey

The club made rather a poor start on Saturday, when all three teams lost. Before the matches the following captains were elected: A's, J. M. McPhie; B's, G. J. Aitchison; C's, R. Jones.

The A's were unfortunate to lose 1-0 in a close match in which they had as much, if not more, play than Argosy.

Park played well, though both he and Wardman were inclined to be erratic.

Clark also did well under the circumstances, though Harry H. seemed to nudge him occasionally. Yates, though not his best (his underhand tactics being less successful than his under-table ones) was quite fair.

The forwards, particularly Kirby, were much improved, but could not finish off their attacks by scoring, which made things rather difficult.

The B's and C's did quite well, losing 2-1 and 3-1 respectively. Considering the number of new players, this was quite satisfactory.

Scores:—

A's lost to Argosy, 1-0. Best Players: Park, Clark, Kirby.

B's lost to Knightsbridge, 2-1. Goal, Bowen. Best Players: Milne, Hewitson, Hill.

C's lost to Y.M.C.A., 3-1. Goal, Jones. Best Players: Hart, Jones, Irwin, Pope.

### Basketball Club

The A's and B's started the season in fine style on Saturday, both teams recording wins. Congrats. to the victors!

The A's, playing against L.V.B.'s, established an early lead, which enabled them, though tiring badly, to keep on top and snatch a one-goal victory after a very exciting last quarter. Best players were Ruth Grant and Marg. Cowell, and Mary Matters, playing attack wing for the first time, was very impressive. Scores were 23-27.

The B's beat Y.W.C.A. very comfortably, despite the absence of anything approaching system in the game. Ros. Halls, in the goal ring, played a game and a half, and Helen Ferris used her head to great effect. Sue Blackburn was a tower of strength, and Pat Fraser, in between attention to particularly unruly stockings, put in some forceful defence work. The final score was 37 goals to 25.

And now for the tragedy—the C team very much aware of its unusually high standard, set out eagerly and confidently on the long trek to Trinity Gardens only to find, on arrival, that the match should have commenced just one hour earlier! A forfeit was the order of the day. Inefficiency somewhere—yes, and doesn't the culprit feel ashamed? The disappointment of the Varsity C's was only exceeded by the rage of their speechless opponents who had not appreciated the long wait—and all for nothing, too. Our humblest apologies to the C's.

### Rugby

We had two matches last Saturday, one against R.A.A.F. at 2 p.m. or thereabouts, and one against Adelaide at 3.15 p.m. In the match against R.A.A.F. we won, 6-3. Bubbles Richardson distinguished himself by scoring a try, as also did Thomas, who is a new-comer to Rugby. Unfortunately, none of the players were able to kick, so there were no converts. Goodfellow made several good runs at outer-centre.

In the first half the front row were not getting down soon enough, and as a result were caught on the hop. Varsity were good in the line-outs.

In the second match we beat Adelaide convincingly by 37-13. At half-time the scores were 11-8 in our favour. Until half-time the play was fairly even, with Adelaide forcing the pace, but after half-time Varsity backs and forwards combined well and passed the ball across field and back and confounded our opponents. Those who scored tries for Varsity were Richardson 2, Smith 1, Adams 2, Waterman 1, Osman 1, Jeffries 2, Edwards 1, Osman 1 convert and 1 penalty, and Jeffries 1 convert. Osman's place kicking was very weak. Varsity were very poor in line-outs, but were strong in open play when they forced the pace. The Adelaide forwards were always first in the rucks, and broke through repeatedly, giving the Varsity half a drubbing. Smith was the best player in the back line, although Steward sold several dummies.

### Soccer

The Soccer Club opened the season very successfully by winning the first match.

Scores: Varsity, 2; Hellenic, 0.

The team played very well as a whole, and the forward line pressed home the attack from the beginning, scoring both goals in the first half.

The defence, however, played a great part in the winning of the match. Credit must go to Lon Parsons (right full-back) and to Norton Jackson (centre half) for playing an excellent game and proving such great obstacles to the opposing forwards.

Best Players: Parsons, Jackson, Kuckel.

Goal Scorers: Luscombe 1, Costello 1.

### Women's Sports Day

The Women's Hockey Club is conducting a sports afternoon on Wednesday, May 8, starting at 2 p.m. and invites anyone in search of an afternoon's fun (women only, of course!) to join in the events. Talent is scarce, so don't be afraid, freshers. Entry forms are posted on the Science and Lady Symon notice boards, and payment may be made to anyone on the Hockey Committee. Faculty events as well as individual, and a cup at the end of them for the brightest team, so roll up and make it exciting.

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