

Last Thursday, Union Council recommended that there be a general increase in union fees to \$90. This is the second fee increase in as many years and it certainly won't be the last if the Union is to proceed at its already over-indulged pace. It has already been accepted by many members of council that yearly fee rises are going to be a part of what one Union member has called "accepting continuing responsibility". Responsibility is surely to students and that does not include increasing fees each year just because the Union must keep face and not admit that it is unable to continue offering the services it does except at increasing cost to students.

There are areas within the Union where spending can be cut such that the problems of fee increases will not become an annual spectre as we eventually see drastic reductions in overall Union services to students. It was initially hoped that Council would accept the finance committee's recommendations and a fee rise to \$94 would be accepted. With its considerable prunings of expenditure, the Finance Committee hoped that credence would be lent to the whole facade. Instead, resistance to this plan was the initial response as Councillors made it known that there were going to be concerted attempts to cut back spending to prevent any fee rise.

After hours of much haggling and daunting soul-searching, it was accepted by these same Councillors that, short of going too far and cutting too many "services", the fee rise was going to have to be invoked to save the day.

All was to be in vain as hands wet with blood from so much selfless hatcheting were raised to vote for the fee rise.

No real cuts had been made, no real blows struck and all that was left were the ragged remnants of attempted reallocation of funds and *STILL THERE WAS A FEE INCREASE!*

The attack upon Union spending did not go far enough. There are two courses that the Union has before it. *AND IT MUST FOLLOW EITHER ONE OR CAUSE STUDENTS TO SUFFER*

THE UNION MUST EITHER :

1. ACCEPT THAT THERE HAS BEEN OVER-SPENDING AND THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE A REASSESSMENT OF THE SERVICES THE UNION CAN ADEQUATELY PROVIDE TO STUDENTS WITHOUT IMPOSING ON THEM FOR ADDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR AFTER FUCKING YEAR! This would certainly mean curtailing one of the areas of Union control in the hope that the university will take over its maintenance. This would then mean that the Union would be directing itself QUALITY in its services. Priority areas could then be adequately financed and the burden of increased fees each fucking year would not appear. Or,

2. CONTINUE AS IT HAS BY INCREASING THE FEE TO 100 FUCKING DOLLARS FOR 1976 - otherwise financing would be piecemeal if a half-hearted fee rise were accepted. The Union would then have only one alternative left: TO HOPE THAT THINGS WORK OUT and that the fee rise which is UNDENIABLY going to occur in

1976 will not go beyond the \$110 mark. This could be prevented if the fee is increased this year and Council addresses itself to the problem of curbing expenditure during 1976. BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF THE CUTS WERE MADE NOW AND THE FEES WERE KEPT DOWN, HUH?

Those who are saying that students are getting nothing for their money and using this as a justification for not cutting SERVICES now, but increasing the fee seem to READILY FORGET THERE WERE STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED THIS UNIVERSITY BETWEEN 1971 AND 1975 WHO GOT NOTHING BUT STINKING DIRT AND NOISE FOR THEIR FEE.

THEY ARE THE ONES WHO SHOULD HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT PAYING FEES!

THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HELPED PAY FOR THE UNION COMPLEX!

SURELY WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE IT WITHIN THE MEANS OF EVERY STUDENT - AND I MEAN EVERY STUDENT - to be able to afford these services.

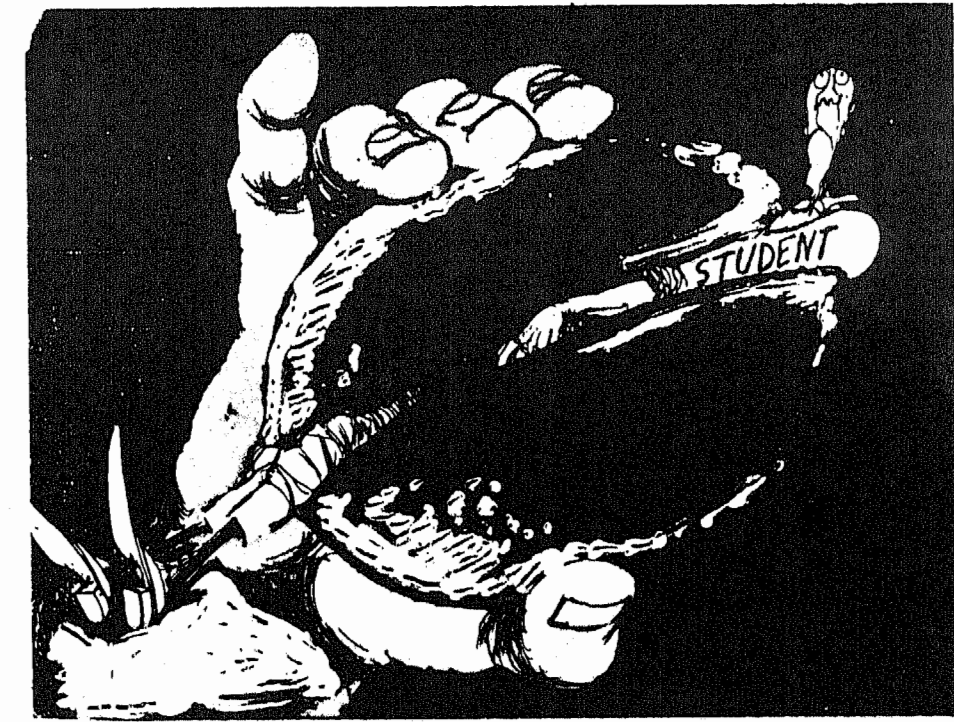
Remember, \$100 is a lot if there's no work over Christmas! Make sure Union Council acts responsibly.

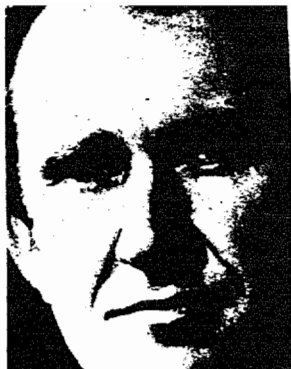
ON DIT

special...

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373.05
05. MEETING - UNION HALL - 1 pm TODAY BE THERE!
23.10.75
43. 20.

union
cost





Events in Canberra have shown how desperate the liberal-country coalition is to gain control of the lower house. It is impossible to believe the whole tactic of supply denial was one of spontaneous and immediate concern as was the stated claim of Malcolm Fraser. With even the smallest amount of insight it can be seen that this was no spontaneously arranged debacle, politics just doesn't work that way, it is neither spontaneous nor creative. It is just plain impersonal, immoral and dead. The events of late are not so exceptional other than that the accusations and mudslinging have been thrown to the people to decide upon. It surely must be a grave day when we march on the streets to keep a government in office. Surely it is no more this than to keep another one from taking over that position, almost by default and then only when the ball is not in their court.

With Bob Menzies emerging from the depths of antediluvian reaction Fraser's brigade surely dipped into the bottom of the proverbial barrel to get champions for their cause

The whole situation was geared to immediacy. Fraser hoped that there would be enough ill feeling against the Whitlam government for people to act without any thought. He was surely hoping that there would be sufficient within the populous and within parliament to call a general election to oust the 'discredited government.'

He hadn't bargained for what has resulted support coming only within the senate where by his own covert manipulations he was in a controlling position to reject the government supply bills.

There was no headlong rush by the populous demanding that Whitlam face the people to account for his sins. Possibly Fraser's alternatives were not as attractive as he hoped they would be. Or was it a matter of better the devil you know rather than the one you don't. It becomes increasingly harder to accept that a party with such a reprehensible background as the liberals have would change its spots. In dragging Menzies to the fore the true colours emerge as blue as ever. Don't be fooled by pigs in lambs clothing !!!!!!!!!

Whatever the result, this fiasco will prove one thing and one thing alone, that the liberal forces in trying to gain support for themselves only served to show how solid the labour movement was and how reactionary the liberals still are. The surest way to chaos is to allow the travesty of a liberal re-election to eventuate.

A.U.S. secession - the scandal-mongers are wet behind the ears.

In their campaign to discredit AUS and its policies the originators of the secession attempt show a remarkable parity with their counterparts in Canberra who want people to re-enter the twilight zone of the backward policies that have been their hallmark for so many years.

Even the most perfunctory glance at what it is that AUS does will be enough to satisfy students that AUS is not the big bogey the conspirators are making it out to be. One area, and by far one of the least in real priorities, that affects thousands of students every year is that of travel, where costs are well below commercial rates for overseas flights and tours. Don't let them fool you, if AUS is not wanted on campus then the travel office will go, it will cost more than \$2.50 to get the benefits of AUS travel and then only on a low priority basis.

AUS is not only travel it also provides various insurance, dental and medical schemes at much reduced rates to members of AUS. These also will not be offered to students. If we secede then we no longer are members of AUS, we would no longer receive the benefits of such association and services on this campus would be greatly reduced.

If those who would condemn AUS were to attempt something constructive for a change then surely this would be to everyone's advantage. A hastily conceived referendum without adequate public discussion can only serve to distort the issue.

Do you see those scandal-mongers rushing off to become involved in AUS. No of course not. It isn't difficult to become an elected member. Rather they would prefer to continue their destructive work from outside. Their policy is to let everyone else do the work, then when the reactionaries disapprove they come from out of their closets to act as the bastions of moral virtue within the University waving big sticks in chastisement.

It is the responsibility then of every student to assess the issues and not be blinded by the tactics so far invoked by the anti-AUS lobby. They have refused to follow certain proprieties in the running of their campaign. They did not notify the executive, as is the custom, of the proposed referendum so that there may be adequate discussion presented to students of the issues of both sides. Their facts have been blatantly confusing and wrong and their stance is irrational in the light of what AUS provides for students.

Any money granted to AUS as fee payment goes on the condition that AUS provide services to students, which is basically what AUS is. There is no way the Students Association could provide commensurate services. Therefore the aim to have direct benefit for the students of this campus would fail because

the Union would then partition the sudden \$11,500 windfall to help it get out of the mess it's got itself into. (see other article on the Union) Who then loses when fees go up, the students do. not only in not belonging to AUS they have lost a large interest in their own money as it goes back to the Union to save their face. The only alternative is to not secede.

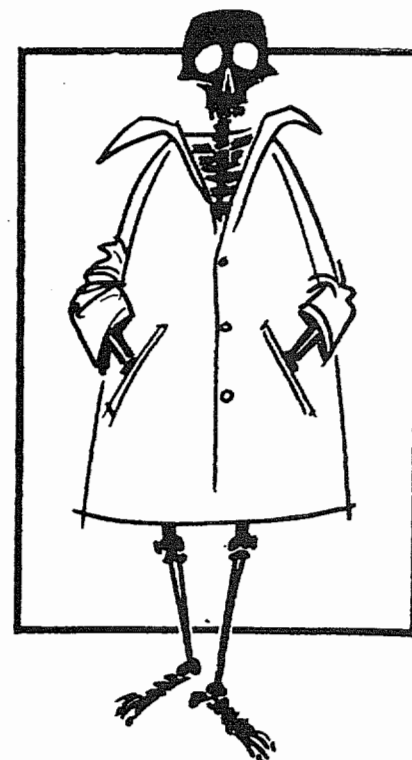
it is admitted that as with many growing institutions AUS needs some re-organisation of its structure and many AUS representatives would agree with this. But that change won't come about through the action of little boys who possess hatchets and think theirs is a mandate to protect students money by cutting in areas where they have only a personal vindictiveness as their moral base.

If the Students Association were to secede then we would still have to pay a percentage to AUS for this year and the money we would save supposedly thereby would then be utilised by the Students Association here for and on behalf of the students here. Such myopia and backward logic is not only indicative of their naivete but also their gross misunderstanding of economics and especially the economics of the Union through which the money would be handled.

If the secession question is resolved in the affirmative then we will see no AUS benefits accrue on this campus, our rights to travel benefits will be lost, membership in the various student groups will cease and an effective student representation within Australia would lose our support. It is not only responsibility to ourselves

but to those who will come to University here next year to not only show we don't want to secede but that we do want AUS as our union.

Therefore I urge you all to vote NO in this referendum.



- . Delete planned additional typist from budget (\$6,000) but reorganise typing duties in specific areas.
- . No free teas for Union Council when it meets (Save \$350).
- . The Union House budget has been cut by reducing cleaning hours, which are now half they were a year ago.
- . Reduce capital budget by \$5,000 to \$15,000. This covers all capital items (equipment, furniture, room alterations, etc.) for the whole Union for 1976. \$15,000 is a bare minimum.

Cuts considered and not made include:

- . Cut in "On Dit" budget to \$10,000 or to zero allocation. It was left at \$13,500 since Council felt the paper and associated benefits (broadsheets) was essential.
- . Various staff cuts. None were seen to be possible or practicable for various reasons (vital functions, contracts). For these reasons, the Union would gain little in 1976 from closing the theatres, or the gallery or the craft studio.
- . Child Care Centre - regarded as important, and something the Union has strived for for several years. By acting now the Union can get a child care centre as from 1976. No action now will mean the Union will probably never get a child care centre.
- . Not installing the new sound equipment (value \$25,000) in Little Theatre and Union Hall for a saving of \$3,500. This is needed for student radio, and would deteriorate if not installed.

There will be a General Union Meeting this Thursday, 23rd October at 1.00 p.m., Union Hall to ratify the \$3 fee rise and associated services. A general meeting obviously will not be able to go through the budget item by item, but it can, I hope, give the Council its feeling on whether the services should be maintained for an increase in fee, or whether there be reduced services for a minimal fee increase.

Martin Andrew
Chairman
Union Council.



1975 Version

20¢

OR



1976 Version

25¢



1976 Version

20¢

YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO,