

HONI SOIT

The Journal of the Sydney University Students' Representative Council

Volume 17.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1945.

Number 18.

DISMISSAL MOTION LAPSSES

COUNCIL MOVES CONFIDENCE VOTE

The meeting of the S.R.C. on Tuesday night to consider Honi Soit was again well attended by members of the student body.

The motion calling for the Editor's dismissal lapsed when the seconder withdrew his support. A report of the debate is printed below.

(a) The Motion.

Mr. Harrison (Engineering): I wish to move the following motion: That the Editor be dismissed because her policy is contrary to that outlined in her letter of application for the position of Editor.

Mr. Redrup (Agriculture): I second the motion.

On request from the President, the Secretary read out the full text of Miss Wilson's application. The main points were:

1. I am in an especially advantageous position as I can represent both technical and non-technical faculties.

2. With regard to qualifications, I have contributed in the past to many University journals, done freelance newspaper work, had administrative and routine experience in the Department of Education.

3. I will give paramount importance to presenting the views of the S.R.C., reports of Council meetings, and sub-committee meetings.

4. I conceive it to be the Editor's task to raise impartially all issues which affect student life and to examine them objectively in the light of their effect on students and the University as a whole.

5. I would consider it impracticable to publish all letters submitted, but would endeavour to see that they covered as many important topics as possible, and where opinion is diverse, all shades of opinion should be represented.

6. It is axiomatic, of course, to make no alteration in letters without the written consent of the correspondent.

7. We must have a clear and accurate account of meetings with an attempt to convey also something of the general atmosphere of meetings, indicating the tenor of questions and discussion.

8. I shall endeavour to publish an accurate account of the activities of faculty societies.

The motion was then discussed.

Mr. Harrison: The present Editor has not kept to the terms of her application. Many letters have pointed out that she should reform her policy. It seems, then, that it is a case of retaining her or sacking her. Addresses are not clearly or accurately reported (e.g., Mr. Menzies). Her aim seems to me to be to propagate discussion by attacking various organisations within the University, in a destructive manner.

Miss Wilson (proxy for Miss Mumford, Medicine): An outline has been given by Mr. Harrison of the manner of the appointment of an Editor. I disagree that this was the manner of my appointment. I regard my application to have been ill-considered in some respects; however, for two weeks I was not attending the University and I wrote the application rather hurriedly, the night before my fourth year examinations began. However, if Council considered the other applicants solely on the grounds of their applications, their judgment would have been very inadequate, for these consisted simply of "I apply for the position of Editor of 'Honi Soit.'" I have with me a statistical analysis of the material appearing in "Honi Soit" up to the present, and I will later quote figures to show that my policy of giving prominence to S.R.C. affairs has been carried out, for this occupies the highest percentage of space; also, letters occupy third-highest percentage, the second being taken by sport.

Mr. F. W. Fowler (Student Senator): It is clear to me that Mr. Harrison has not forgotten the article written by him for "Honi Soit." He is determined to

wreak personal vengeance on the Editor. The form of the motion indicates either that he has quite personal motives or that he is completely bankrupt of ideas. There are a number of things that Mr. Harrison could have done if he was concerned about "Honi Soit" other than moving for dismissal. The policy of the paper could be discussed on Council, and Council's feeling on the matter could be made known to the Editor. Council would then be given an opportunity to see if its opinion had been taken account of by the Editor, who is, of course, not bound to follow any such suggestions.

Mr. Harrison did not do this. Instead he took advantage of a minority view on Council concerning the blasphemy and obscenity issue and hopes to gain support from it.

Mr. Harrison: I regard this as an attack on my integrity. I did accept Miss Wilson's apologies. I called the meeting of engineers to discuss "Honi Soit," and did not myself raise the matter of the article. Mr. Fowler has suggested that dismissal was not the only course open to Council. In the past, however, he has repeatedly said Council can impose no restrictions upon the Editor.

Miss A. Collins (Evening Students): I would support the motion for dismissal on the grounds that she has shown:

A lack of maturity and responsibility, balance and objectivity, failure to report meetings, use of unworthy means of expression, childishness.

(b) Personal.

Mr. Redrup: Mr. Fowler has said that the move is selfish and personal, and has even threatened to resign. This procedure, like that of Thackeray's Jarvice, is a well-known political move.

Mr. L. Cashen (Pharmacy): This issue has developed into a personal squabble between members of Council. Issues are not being debated sincerely. Many people want the Editor's dismissal, but for fear of being labelled "non-intellectual," are not prepared to demand it on the grounds of obscenity and blasphemy.

Mr. B. Yuill (Evening Students, proxy for Mr. Kitching): In her application, Miss Wilson stated that it was axiomatic to make no alteration in letters without the permission of the correspondent. Her action in regard to my letter jeopardised my chances at the E.S.A. election. The general opinion among the evening students is that it was a poor show.

Miss Wilson: This letter is the only one published in any issue of "Honi Soit" this year that has been altered. I have never refused a letter on grounds of personal abuse.

Mr. N. Hush: What is amazing is not that one letter out of the hundreds or so we have published has been cut, but that many have not received this treatment. Everything possible was done to allow Mr. Yuill to express his opinion of our action.

We held over publication of his second last letter for one week with a view to suggesting to him that he re-write it, in view of the muddle-headedness of the argument, and the very bad grammar. This he was unwilling to do, so we published it as written. Moreover, had he provided a sub-title for his policy speech, it would have been printed, as have his later requested titles.

Mr. Redrup: One would be entitled to assume a certain level of fair play in "Honi Soit." The VE Day mass enjoyment campaign was not approved by "Honi Soit"; the implication was that the march was organised by Ex-servicemen. Might not honest relief have been a motive? Such behaviour was considered unintellectual by "Honi Soit." In the article reporting the demonstration, I am held up to ridicule as a student "wearing his granpappy's medals."

Miss Wilson: There was no mention of Mr. Redrup in the article referred to. Moreover, the article was not a report, but rather a piece of fantasy in the Festival issue. So far from deploring the celebration, it suggested that it should have been more energetic.

Mr. H. Nicholson (Arts): There are several unstated premises in the motion. One is that the policy stated by the Editor could be carried out. I myself protested against the notion of impartiality at the time of election as hypocritical, a cover move to put Miss Wilson in a position ostensibly superior to those who admitted that they were partial.

(c) Reasons.

Miss M. Jackson (Arts): When the move for the insertion of the caption regarding Council's responsibility for the views expressed in the paper came up, I was prepared to support it, as it seemed that otherwise Council's relation to "Honi Soit" might be misunderstood. However, all manner of arguments were used to support the motion—for instance, many of the objections were to the views expressed; these only clouded the issue. Here we have a further demonstration of the fact that this motion is not genuine. The movers are attempting to capitalise on the situation, otherwise all this could have come up before. It is obviously impossible for an editor to be impartial. Editorials must be concerned with vital issues of the moment. The present reasons suggested for dismissal come from one or two disappointed contributors, who imagine they have the support of a great number of students. I consider that the Editor's selection of material has consistently presented both sides of issues. In comparison, look at Mr. Sayle, who consistently failed to report Council meetings at all. She has done the greatest service to this Council by bringing forward detailed accounts of meetings.

Mr. Redrup: Miss Jackson suggests that we awaited this opportunity. It might,

Owing to the lateness of the S.R.C. meeting held on Tuesday, it was impossible to bring out both an ordinary issue and a report of the Council meeting.

A full revue of the Honi Soit controversy will appear in next week's issue, which will consist of eight pages, if printing difficulties can be overcome.

Our thanks are due to Pinnacle Press for bringing out the last issue, and to Keen Typesetters and T. V. Bennett & Co. (Printers) for making this issue possible.

EDITOR.

however, take fifteen issues for students to decide on their attitude to "Honi Soit." My faculty wished Council to define its relation to "Honi Soit."

Mr. G. Burfitt-Williams (Medicine): I supported Miss Wilson's application as I hoped to see more attention given to the "technical" faculties. How many meetings of the S.R.C. have been reported factually? The only sub-committee reported at all has been the post-war development sub-committee. I must say that she has been more reliable than Mr. Sayle. Many of the criticisms levelled at her are due to the fact that the paper is too small.

Some of the reasons advanced by my faculty for her dismissal were that the paper was mormonic, unworthy of the University, lacking in tact.

At this point the Chair requested that members confine their remarks to the terms of the motion.

(d) Ex-Editor.

Mr. Gibbons (Ex-editor): I should like to make some remarks about the way Council elects its editors. It usually results in a little-known person being elected, for the partisan views, if any, of the person are not known. Inconsistency between practice and policy has often been a good thing, for often it is the practice rather than the policy which is to be commended. Inconsistency is no ground for dismissing the Editor.

Mr. Fowler: It certainly might well be that the policy actually followed was superior to that originally projected. It is, however, indicated in the motion that the divergence is a dangerous one. A council might elect an Editor who stated that his object was to present an idealist position. The objection would then have to be not to the Editor's policy but to the electing body.

There are certain faculties which express dissatisfaction, but which have no real participation in University affairs.

As regards Miss Wilson's application, an impartial view is impossible, and people should have realised at the time that they were making impossible demands. One of my main criticisms of a paper would arise if an Editor were not strong enough in expressing his views. There is no objection to an editor taking a strong line. There would only be objection if no opportunity were given to the opposition to express its views. In this controversy, no argument of a serious nature has been advanced.

Mr. P. Foulkes (visitor): There are no substantial grounds for this dismissal motion. "Honi Soit" is only too glad to accept help from students of any faculty. I would suggest that ignorance rather than insincerity has been shown by the movers of the motion.

Mr. Grettan (visitor), Vet. Sc.: I would question Mr. Macadam's right to vote on this motion. The meeting which he has taken his direction voted on Mr. Harrison's points, not on the dismissal of the Editor.

Mr. McAleery (Law): Most of the discussion to-night has been really little more than personal abuse. This is not the true University spirit. I certainly do not intend to vote on this motion.

(e) Impartiality.

Mr. Redrup: Miss Wilson, in her application, held the laudable view that the Editor should be impartial. An attitude of tolerance is essential, for it is statistically impossible for one person always to

(Continued on page 2)

SPORTING

SPORT: Jane Connor, Anne Leech and Dick Klugman.

DEFEAT AVENGED

Johnson Brilliant

University made no mistake about Western Suburbs this time, winning, 25 to 10, with a nice display of open football. Varsity, although frequently on the defensive, were superior in both backs and forwards.

Johnson was brilliant. His try was scored in typical Johnsonian style through half the opposing team. Piper was a little uncertain. The backs are in excellent shape—their defensive play being outstanding.

Travers added to a growing reputation as an intelligent forward, his line-out play being particularly effective. Barton, although amusing the crowd by his frequent need of Zambuk, played well at breakaway—both his tries (he now has 13) being a result of nice positional play. Fallon and Keller are a rugged pair, and were always in it. It will be a pity if such an honest rucker as Crooks is displaced when Stenmark returns. The team can ill afford to lose tight packing forwards.

Our first points came from a nice penalty goal by Piper, 3—0. Wests attacked and Travers repeatedly relieved with long line kicks. They nearly scored when a Wests man was brought down inches from the line. He tried to crawl over, but Referee Tomalin spotted it, and the penalty took play back to half-way. Byrne, with a penalty, brought the scores to 3—3. Johnson then went through beautifully, but his pass was intercepted. Travers, with supreme optimism, had two attempts at drop kicking penalties from half-way. Again Johnson shot through, and again the pass was intercepted. Back on our 25, as the ball rolled loose, Bow snapped a pass to a Wests centre, and he kicked a great field goal; 3—7. Then Johnson, with a superb run, scored wide out. Piper added the extras with a nice kick; 8—7. Travers dummied prettily and, fat as he is, flew up the line. From the ruck, Johnson went the blind and inpassed to Barton, who dived over. No conversion. Half-time: Varsity 11, Wests 7.

Wests attacked, but play came back, and from a ruck on their 25, Walker nicely gave Barton an opening, and the red-headed forward dashed across. Shortly after, Piper, who ran well to Wests 25, was hurt. Travers dropped back to full-back, and Piper, obviously dazed, plunged into the rucks. Vanderfield, who throughout the game was showing all signs of a man acutely nervous about Curtis' ability, was left well in the rear as his vis-avis snapped up a dropped pass and flew goalwards. Piper converted; 19—7. Curtis is probably the fastest winger in Union at present. The only person he didn't leave far behind in his run was Referee Tomalin. From a penalty in front, Piper goaled; 22—7. Curtis gathered a Wests crosskick and gave Connor a high pass, which he held beautifully, and the big centre showed surprising speed to score in the corner after a 30-yards dash. Piper converted; 25—7.

Wests attacked, and diminutive Bill Bow scored close in. No conversion.

Final score: University 25, Wests 10.

—A.G.C.

2nd XV.

Scoring one try to their opponents' two, this team owes its 14-12 victory to Gummins' kicking. Not only did he kick four goals, but his general play, featuring some very determined runs, seemed superior to that of at least one First Grade back.

3rd XV.

Suffering its third defeat in the last four games, this team again gave a very poor display. The back line, which, with the exception of the half and one winger, consisted of replacements, seemed incapable both in attack and defence.

GOOD WORK, GIRLS!

University Firsts had an easy victory over Y.W.C.A. III on Saturday, 29-11. Despite the score, it was a good, sporting game, and University players showed form better than their average.

From the opening whistle University went ahead, and led 8-3 at quarter-time. The result was never in doubt, and the team had no difficulty in increasing its lead throughout the match.

Rosalind Ormiston delighted team-mates with her accurate goal-throwing, and, although showing a tendency to dodge backwards too often (thus enabling her defence to beat her to the ball on a number of occasions), played an outstanding game.

Moya Englert exhibited her usual fighting spirit, and Anne Raynard again showed out to good advantage. Neridah Ford was especially handy around the edge of the goal-circle, as well as reliable in taking that important first pass from the centre.

The three chief faults evident from Saturday's play were:—

(i) Passes were too slow and high and often careless. (N.B. Marine!)

(ii) It took too many of them to get the ball safely down the court.

(iii) Attacks were too ready to dodge BACKWARDS, thus giving their opposing defences increased chances of securing the ball.

Our thanks are due to Mary Gillham and May Gray, who ably played as reserves in the team.

The results:—

University I 29 (R. Ormiston, 48 attempts, 27 goals; M. Gillham, 11 attempts, 2 goals) defeated Y.W.C.A. III 11 (with 30 attempts).

P.S.—Certain members of all teams have been conspicuous by their absence from recent practices! With the semi-finals only a few weeks off, this shows a very poor team spirit.—M.F.W.

University II, regaining their former standard after last week's lapse, defeated Balmoral I on Saturday, 33-15 goals.

University II were slow to start, and seemed to lack combination against the unusual tactics of their opponents. The score at the first quarter was five-all. This fact gave the team an impetus to go forward to the attack. Dawn Quinton netted some very nice goals from difficult positions.

Anne Leech played her best game this season, dodging and passing accurately, and so producing, with the combination of Myf Murphy and Beverley Bryce, the most effective side line pass. We are indeed sorry that she has found it necessary to withdraw from the team.

Betty Bown, who once again helped us out, and Marie Daly, as defences, gave effective resistance in the goal circle, giving the University goalies the necessary opportunities.

Final score:—

University II 33 (D. Quinton 14, J. Learks 19) defeated Balmoral I 15 (Y. Irvine 4, M. Irvine 11).

St. Joseph's, a team of wiry youngsters, met the Thirds on Saturday. The match was by far the most rapid and best played this season. A final score of 23-22 in St. Joseph's favour shows the evenness of the teams.

With every player on her toes, Marian Lazarus did her best to convert their efforts to goals. After a strenuous morning match, to net 70 per cent. was splendid work.

Judy Oatley showed up as a dependable and untiring player, while Lorna Latimer, though a stranger to the team, did her best to keep with a slippery opponent.

Thirds, there is nothing we cannot improve with some organised practice—enough to make us the rightful premiers. How about it?

COUNCIL MEETING—Continued from page 1.

be right on all issues. I would defend her original conviction that she should be impartial. Related to this is the fact that Miss Wilson has made no effort to get a truly representative staff.

Mr. G. Duncan (Science): Non-adherence to the original application is a quite insufficient basis for a dismissal move. In my report at the time of election on the applications for editorship, I made it clear that we could expect no editor to be impartial. We cannot, then, accuse Miss Wilson of deception.

(f) Editor.

Miss Wilson: I agree with Madam President that most of the discussion tonight has not been relevant. The reason for this is not far to seek. The present motion is simply a cover-up for quite other things. On the point of my general policy, when I took on the editorship, I had no idea of the limitations the size of the paper would impose. My policy has been an impartial one in the only possible sense, namely, impartiality in the selection of material for publication. Mr. Burfitt-Williams has recognised that the paper is limited by its size. Little space is left for other material when a page is devoted to letters, another to sport, and another to a report of a conference or a council meeting.

In the bringing out of the paper, a very large amount of time is spent by the staff, in writing, sub-editing, arranging typography, proof-reading, laying out pages, inspecting page proofs, etc.

Members of the staff invariably have to work for hours at night in the "Honi Soit" office, and sometimes right through the week-end. This involves a good deal of personal sacrifice, and a tremendous amount of work.

On the question of choice of staff, I was not acquainted with Mr. Hush, Mr. Terry, Mr. Manchester, or Mr. Shineberg before taking over the position, and I knew nothing of their political or other affiliations.

I mentioned previously the analysis that has been carried out of the material appearing in "Honi Soit" to date. In reply to Mr. Burfitt-Williams, many sub-committees' activities have been reported, as this analysis shows.

I found it impossible, however, to report all sub-committee meetings. The publicity officer appointed by Council especially for that purpose himself resigned, recognising the impossibility of his task.

I should now like to present in some detail an analysis of the material appearing in the paper. This shows that the greatest amount of space has been given to accounts of S.R.C. affairs—2,062 sq. inches; the next to sport—1,589 sq. inches; the next to letters—1,568 sq. inches. Subjects directly concerning the faculty of medicine received 237 square inches, economics 143, engineering 36, science 183.

Accusations of "Freethought" domination of the paper are shown to be baseless by the analysis, for only 58 square inches (0.6 per cent) have been devoted to the activities of this society, as contrasted with, for instance, 109 sq. inches given to the matter of S.R.C. finance.

I would then consider that I have rigidly adhered to my policy of impartial selection of material. All faculties have been represented, every vocal point of view has found a place in "Honi Soit" this year.

Miss Jackson: Two hours ago I asked the movers of the motion to state their grounds. No satisfactory ones have been given. The airing of an application written nine months ago proves no basis for dismissal. The argument that the paper is not "representative" has no force at all, for how can one represent mute beings?

(g) Honesty.

Mr. Redrup: I came to this meeting puzzled. I came with a feeling that something was wrong with "Honi Soit." At the commencement of this meeting I seconded the motion for dismissal, but I am now convinced that the way to improve the situation is certainly not through dismissal of the editor. I did not, at the commencement, understand how the staff was appointed, or the tremendous amount of work involved in production of the paper. I consider the only honest thing I can do is to admit that I have been argued out of my position. I will, therefore, withdraw my seconding of the motion.

This decision was loudly applauded.

Miss Watt: Is there another seconder to the motion?

As there was no seconder forthcoming, the motion lapsed.

Mr. Duncan: I will move that this Council expresses its confidence in the Editor for her handling of "Honi Soit" throughout the year.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

INTER-VARSITY HOCKEY CARNIVAL

Help Required

This article was nearly called "Our Own Trumpet." For the best part of four or five years the University Men's Hockey Club has had little attention drawn to itself. Perhaps the unkind reader may say that it has done little to merit attention. Maybe so. We would have to argue the matter out at some time more convenient. Anyhow, it now hits the headlines and comes surprisingly alive with the announcement of an Inter-Varsity Carnival. The details of it do not take long to outline. It is to be played off during the coming vacation, from August 21st to 23rd, and it is expected that most of the Australian Universities, including Perth and Hobart and possibly the University Colleges, Canberra and Adelaide, will participate.

An Inter-Varsity Sports Carnival is a highly important event at any time, but, seeing that no Hockey Carnival and few Inter-Varsity gatherings have been held since 1939, the forthcoming carnival becomes one of particular interest and importance. For this reason, and despite extremely short notice, the Hockey Committee is doing its utmost in the way of preparation to ensure the successful running of the carnival. The Registrar, Mr. Selle, and Professor Harvey-Sutton, President of the Australian Universities Sports Association, have expressed their commendation, and we have also received encouragement from the Melbourne and Adelaide sports delegates.

Thus far all is well. It now remains to present the less happy side of the picture. Here is a specimen of our troubles in the words of a telegram to our secretary from one of the universities: "Can you billet team of thirteen? Can't come otherwise." On the whole, some hundred visiting players are expected. There is no need to enlarge on the accommodation and billeting difficulties here presented. Some of the colleges within the University have kindly consented to place a number, and members of the Hockey Club will billet others. For the remainder we are forced to make an appeal for help to the University at large. Really, it is a matter which deserves the most serious consideration, even among those who are not conscious of any interest in hockey or in University sport in general. Particularly an appeal is made to those who are engaged in University sport and who may be in a position to provide help in the matter of billeting, to give us that assistance. As many as fifty generous volunteers are needed who would be willing to billet one or more visitors for a period of three or four days, commencing Monday night, August 20th. Names and addresses may be left at the Sports Union office. Time is short, so do not delay. For want of a little hospitality the event of the year in University sport may well fail, and the efforts of the Hockey Club to pioneer the revival of Inter-Varsity gatherings may be unsuccessful. Dream of that!