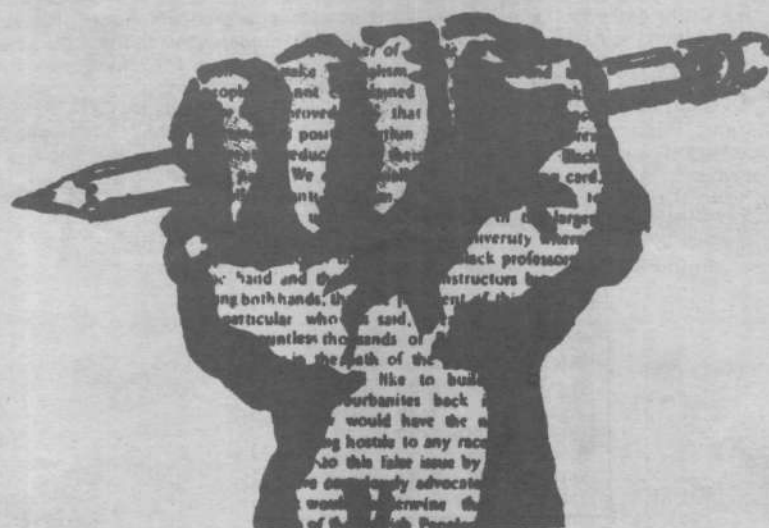


Lot's wife

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STOP PRESS!



**A special edition in
conjunction with the
Education Chair,
and the
Public Affairs
Committee.**

WEB OF DECEIT

by Kim Kerr



Students this week will be voting on whether the Monash Association of Students (M.A.S.) affiliates to the Victorian Students Union. The A.L.P. Club having led the charge for a new National Student Organisation last year, has done an incredible about-turn and is now supporting a State-based student union.

The origins of this inexplicable change of mind go back to December last year when students from over 50 Australian tertiary institutions met to discuss a replacement for the then ailing, now dead, Australian Union of Students (A.U.S.).

In conjunction with elections held for Monash Delegates to this conference, a referendum was put to gauge student opinion on possible structures for the new Union. Students voted overwhelmingly in favour of a National Student Body, with education as its first priority. This result theoretically bound Monash delegates to vote accordingly when new structures were being mooted.

However, at the Conference the Labor Left faction to which the Monash A.L.P. Club belongs dropped its commitment for a National Body and instead sup-

ported a series of State-based student organizations. This about turn stemmed from the realisation that their faction would be unable to effectively control any new organization with a revitalised membership. This lack of control would in turn effect the ability of the Labor Left faction to steer student activists into the Socialist Left wing of the A.L.P. However the management of the Labor Left grouping felt that they could control State-based organizations in areas where they were relatively strong. These State-based unions would replace the role of A.U.S. as a means of promoting the Socialist Left within the Student Movement and the A.L.P. From this belief sprung the need for a Victorian Students Union, a union which could be manipulated for the Labor Left's factional advantage within the A.L.P.

One of the main beneficiaries of a new State Union would be Socialist Left parliamentarian Gerry Hand. Hand gained A.L.P. pre-selection with the help of S.L. students associated with the leadership of A.U.S. The demise of A.U.S. had meant a drop in the number of recruits for his faction within the A.L.P. It is no wonder

that Hand has apparently given both moral and material support to the organizers of the V.S.U. push. It is rumoured that the V.S.U. posters appearing on campus have been part funded by Hand.

The question of Monash's affiliation to this new union would normally be carried out via a vote at a Student General Meeting. However at an S.G.M. two weeks ago, the M.A.S. Constitution was purportedly changed to include referendums as a way of making student decisions. This meeting has been challenged because of the way in which quorum was achieved. The A.L.P. Club controlled Administrative Executive who were responsible for the running of this meeting placed loudspeakers in the Main Dining Room, opposite the S.G.M.'s venue and broadcast the proceedings of the S.G.M. to students inside that room eating their lunch. They then proceeded to count these students as active participants of the meeting. A little more than 150 students were present at the S.G.M. this is well short of the requisite 650 students required for a valid S.G.M.

After gaining these "referendum powers" the A.E. secretly passed a

resolution calling for a referendum of the affiliation of Monash to the Victorian Students Union. No notice of this proposed affiliation was given to students so as to allow debate on the merits and demerits of the referendum proposal.

There is no choice for students to decide on what kind of structure they would like to participate in. We are being offered the choice of a State Union or nothing at all. Students at Melbourne University have been given the choice and are expected to affiliate to a National Student Organization. This makes Monash's possible affiliation to a State Body all the more ridiculous.

Students should be concerned with the way in which the A.L.P. Club has behaved on this issue. The way in which student opinion has been ignored is frightening to say the least. The A.L.P. Club's inability to accept the preferred choice of a National Organization leaves students as the only losers.

This edition was orchestrated by
Andrew Watt and Tony Bean.
Typesetting courtesy Smurf
Incorporated.
It was produced on the Graveyard
Shift, when the rest of you were under
your doona's.

Editorial

The issue of Student Unionism is without doubt the most important issue facing Australian students today. Since the untimely demise of the Australian Union of Students (A.U.S.), students in this country have been faced with a number of crises, most notably the fees threat.

The response to the suggestion that tertiary fees be re-introduced could at best be described as ad hoc; at worst, as a disgrace to student self-determination. That the fees proposal was, at least temporarily, defeated could be put down to little more than luck.

Some students were not so fortunate however. Overseas students are now faced with the often insurmountable burden of tuition fees. These students, and those sympathetic to their plight now

rue the day A.U.S. was disbanded, leaving them without a credible, national organization to fight for their education.

A replacement for A.U.S. has been a long time coming. Recently an ill-conceived suggestion for a State-based Union, the Victorian Students Union has been mooted. This week Monash students will be given the opportunity to cast judgement on this plan.

A referendum is to be held, concurrently with the Lot's Wife and M.A.S. elections. This is the most important question for us to answer this week. Whoever we elect as our student representatives, they cannot hope to effectively press student opinion on the Federal Government unless Monash is affiliated with a National

Student Organization.

To support the V.S.U. would be a tragedy. Not only would it be useless in approaching the Government (the Education spokespersons from all parties have denounced State-based unions), but it would involve an enormous waste of our money. The questionable "organizers" of the V.S.U. have decided that to affiliate with their yet to be formed body requires a minimum payment of \$50,000! This amount only entitles us to the dubious privilege of belonging. Any ongoing action will require further contribution. Such money cannot be allowed to be simply thrown away.

This special edition of Lot's Wife has been brought out to inform students about the importance of the referendum. Our on-campus

student leaders have been quick to contribute articles. It is interesting to note that students representing all of the normally warring political factions have put forward their views.

Many students regard student politicians as pursuing meaningless objectives. However their position does allow them to have the facts at their fingertips. As editors we urge you to vote NO to a Victorian Student Union and demand a National Body. More importantly we urge you to read the opinions contained in this special edition of Lot's Wife and decide for yourself.

If you have never voted at an election before this is the most opportune time to start. The future of your education does depend on it.

STUDENT UNIONS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

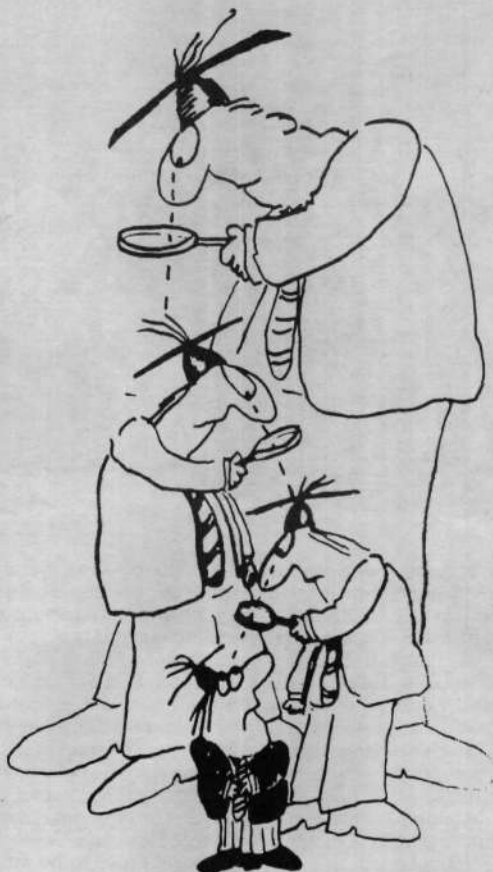


by Scott Dennis

With the demise in 1984 of A.U.S., tertiary students have been left defenceless and at the mercy of the Federal Government: a Federal Government that considered reintroducing tertiary fees and one that has somehow seen fit to increase fees for Overseas Students. The student voice that has cried out in protest at these moves has been divided and thus has lacked the power to potentially influence such decisions.

The advantages of a National Student Organization are obvious. Such an organization is favoured by the majority of Monash students, as was shown in last year's elections. When asked "Do you believe that there should be a national organization to represent students in Australia?" some 95% of the responses were answered in the affirmative. Furthermore, when students were presented with five distinctive forms of affiliation possibilities, the proposal incorporating a "National Organization of Campus Student Organizations" received overwhelmingly support (49.5% of the vote), whereas the proposal for State Regional Committees received a mere 11% of the vote. Quite obviously then, Monash students could see the necessity of a National Student Organization in order for tertiary students to present a **United** voice when fighting the bureaucratic powers that be. The situation is even more vital, as is exemplified by the plight of Overseas Students, who were left unprotected in the wake of the Federal Government's decision to increase the already exorbitant fees that they are subjected to.

The importance of a National Student Organization can be seen even more so in the light of comments of parliamentarians. The Minister for Education, Susan Ryan, has let it be known on many occasions that the Federal Government would only be interested in dealing/negotiating with a National Student Body, and not with several State-based Student Unions (and rightfully so too!) Seven separate State-based Student Unions all fighting at cross-purposes cannot possibly hope to present a Unified Front. There is no way in which such a set-up can hope to oppose any possible Education cut-backs (which may or may not be in the pipeline) or present any sort of realistic opposition to tyrannical gestures



which a Federal Government may impose upon tertiary students. (Hopefully this will not happen.)

The advantages of a National Student Organisation are both manifold and obvious. It is only through such a unification of student voices that issues of importance to students can be effectively represented to a Federal Government that is responsible for the payment (or, as the case may be, non-payment) of your TEAS cheque. The issue of the increase in fees for Overseas Students is one that cries out urgently for immediate action. Due to this lack of a National Student Organization, students were unable to provide any sort of effective backing for the Overseas Students Campaign Against Full Fees, (O.S.C.A.F.F.) to base their representation upon. Furthermore, the proposition for a Tertiary Loan Scheme also needs to be fought on a National level, and not be represented to the

Federal Government by diverse, State-based unions.

I am, however, not entirely unsympathetic to the proposal for a National Federation of State-based Student Organizations, a proposal that has the backing of the A.L.P. Club. However, I am possessed of enough foresight to realise that this proposal is, by its very nature, at best an unrealistic pipedream. Whilst such an organization may be possible to get off the ground in two or three states (at a highly generous estimate), that is precisely where it will stop and will be left floundering at that level. As a direct consequence of this, tertiary students will be left in an even worse position as there will be a definite division between those states pushing for a National Student Organization and those states fighting for Federation of their State-based Student Organizations. All that is likely to be achieved by affiliation to a Vic-

torian Student Union is the spending of **\$50,000** of student money in the form of an affiliation fee!

The proposal for a National Student Organization that received the overwhelming support of Monash Students was one that incorporated the following ideas:

- ★ Education number one priority
- ★ Provision of welfare and services for all students
- ★ Responsive to needs of women students
- ★ Students formulating and voting on policy
- ★ National Federation of campus student organizations
- ★ National Student Newspaper

This National Federation of Campus Student Organizations which was a joint proposal from the Socialist Left and Labor Unity faction of the A.L.P. Club, specified a National Student Union, much in the same vein as the old A.U.S. set-up. However, shortly before the National Student Summit in Sydney last summer which was held for the purpose of initiating the new National Student Organization, the Socialist Left faction of the A.L.P. decided, for reasons which I do not intend to go into here, to give State-based Unions backing. The idea is such that, after each State establishes their own Unions, these separate State-based Unions would federate into a National Union. A nice idea in theory to be sure, but unlikely to get off the ground due to certain States' insistence of voting the way their constituents directed them to: that is, for a National Student Organization.

What is needed is **not** blind allegiance to either the Victorian Student Union or the Australian Council of Tertiary Students (A.C.T.S.), but rather the issue needs to be discussed in the cold, hard, post-electoral light of day. After all, it is the future both of our own education and of the education of those to come that is to be discussed, and surely this is deserving of a great deal of rational thought. What is unequivocally called for is a National Student Organisation that has the power to present a totally Unified Voice representative of all tertiary students, and that can stand firm in the face of any possible threats that students may receive from either this or any future Federal Government.



A. USTRALIAN C. OUNCIL OF T. ERTIARY S. TUDENTS

The Only Alternative

Early this year, a group of student from different campuses all over Australia met in Adelaide to form the Australian Council of Tertiary Students (A.C.T.S.) These students representing diverse political views all held the belief that students would best be represented by a strong national student organisation.

Their belief was reinforced by the knowledge that students in the National Student Ballot had overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of a National Student Union. In response to question one which asked 'Do you believe that there should be a National Organisation to represent students in Australia,' 95% voted 'Yes.'

Clearly students realised that only a National Student Union could deal with the Federal Government on behalf of all students. It would be impossible to achieve this unity if there were six State-based Unions each with their own views and ideas. Issues such as TEAC, tuition fees and overseas visa charges are all handled by the Federal Government. Students need a National Student Organisation to represent them on a National level.

A.C.T.S. has written into its Constitution a commitment to concentrate only on education and student welfare. Some of the innovative ideas which have been canvassed by A.C.T.S. in the area of Student Welfare include an effective student discounting scheme, the organising of a bulk buying arrangement for student organisations so as to maximise the size of the discounts offered to them and to form a "cultural service" wing to co-ordinate the Australian tours of international academics, bands, theatre and music troupes. There will be no repetition of what happened with A.U.S. where more effort was spent pursuing foreign policy objectives than was spent in trying to improve student welfare.

At its height, A.U.S. spent over \$5 million in student funds. This money was obtained by deductions of our student fees. Most of this money was wasted on Socialist Left hacks who held paid positions in the Union. A.U.S. acted as a springboard for Socialist Left hacks into the Australian Labor Party. With this in mind, it is not the



least bit surprising that Socialist Left students operating through the Council of A.L.P. Students (C.A.L.P.S.) have been at the forefront of the campaign to back the Victorian Student Union. Like A.U.S., the Victorian Student Union will have paid positions. The Victorian Student Union has admitted that its structure will contain at least eight fully paid positions. Included in this figure will be four fully paid Executive positions. Undoubtedly this expenditure will consume the greatest part of the Victorian Student Union budget.

A.C.T.S. in contrast will use student money to hire a professional lobbyist in Canberra who will represent student interests to the Federal Government. It is intended that the professional lobbyist will spearhead the campaign against the proposed introduction of tertiary fees. This will be done by:

- 1) gaining information and clarifying the governments intentions;
- 2) attempting to secure the appointment of students representatives to any Departmental Committee established to examine the issue and;
- 3) preparing submissions outlining student opinion and presenting them to the Government, the Finance Department and the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Committee.

A.C.T.S. believes that a lobbyist with an understanding of the intricacies and technicalities of the Parliamentary system will best represent student interests. The Victorian Student Union on the other hand will perpetuate the lack of professionalism which has in the past characterised student hacks. A.C.T.S. believes that it is time that students had an effective and professional voice in Canberra. Not only will A.C.T.S.'s proposal prove to be more effective, but it will also be cheaper.

In the National Student Ballot, students made clear that they wanted an end to faction student unions. It is clear that the proponents of the Victorian Student Union have refused to take note of student wishes. They have formed a faction ridden organisation which embodies all the faults which caused the downfall of A.U.S. It is dominated by the Socialist Left which at a party level includes the like of "Bagdad" Bill Hartley and George Crawford. This faction has shown itself to be wholly concerned with its own partisan interests and has been at the forefront of attempts to undermine the Hawke Labor Government. On a student level, it has with equal venom attempted to undermine any attempt to form a National Student Organisation in conformity with student wishes.

To date, the Victorian Student Union has been given no mandate to represent students. Not a

single campus in Victoria has affiliated to it. So far its only purpose has been to provide a forum for Socialist Left hacks to meet and discuss factional politics.

Despite the fact that these proposals for a National Student Union embodied in A.C.T.S. had wide support from students across the political spectrum, the A.L.P. Club at Monash University has done a complete about face and has turned against the idea of a National Student Union. It was not to long ago that leading Socialist Left member, Mary-Anne Toy wrote "A strong National Student Union is essential to the future of education in this country." In last year's student elections, the Monash A.L.P. Club's A.U.S. delegation claimed "if we don't have an effective National Organisation, then things we take for granted, like TEAS, could be eliminated. For these reasons, it is essential that students support a National Student Organisation by supporting A.C.T.S."

Stephen Kenmar

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Let's wife

STUDENT UNIONISM

Writing from the perspective of one who arrived at University as A.U.S. was in its final death throws, I think it reasonable to say that I speak for many second year, and most first year students.

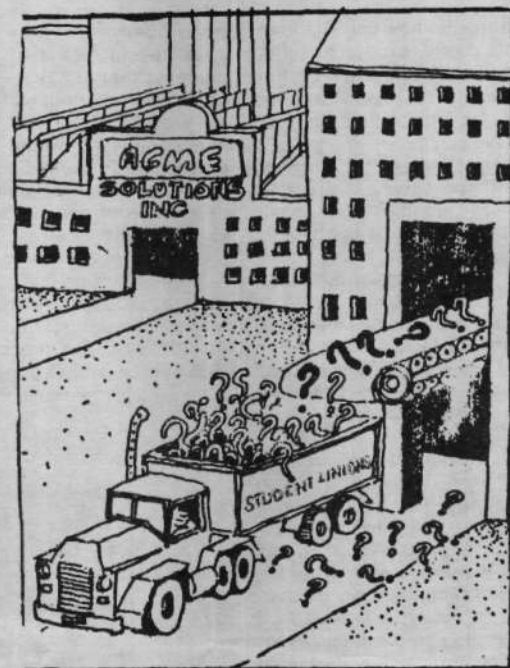
I am only vaguely aware of the reasons why A.U.S., the previous national union, went into solvency, and even less aware of the merits and demerits of some of the proposed alternatives. Despite this lack of awareness, however, we are being asked to give our assent to a new student union, of which only a handful of the most politically active have any knowledge.

As I understand it, the coming referendum will present students with a choice between a state based Union — or none at all. It appears that those who are preparing this referendum have, for reasons known only to themselves, neglected to publicise a third alternative — a new national Union.

No doubt, there is a natural reaction against a structure that has failed once before, yet, unless the reasons why A.U.S. failed are fully explained, and these problems are corrected, the new Union will only go the path of the old A.U.S.

Personally, I do not know enough of either 'sides' arguments, for and against a national based Union, to really advocate either sort of Union. Some points however, do stand in favor of a national Union.

- (1) The purpose of any Union is to represent its members, and achieve the interests of its members, whatever they may be. Having spent six years as a member of the Electrical Trades Union, I know from personal experience that the more powerful a Union is, the more it is listened to, and the greater the benefits it can deliver to its members. In short, the greater a Unions power — the greater its ability to satisfy its members wishes.
- (2) Since 'power' is what is required to have your demands listened to, how is this power best achieved in a Student Union? Unlike Trade Unions, we, as students, do not have industrial muscle. Nevertheless, we are still potentially very powerful, simply because of our numbers. We represent



possibly the single largest pressure group in Australia today, yet the present government seriously considers introducing tertiary fees, introduces visa-fees for overseas students, cuts back education spending, etc, as if we don't exist. The new Union, then, must be one which most effectively speaks for the greatest number of students and can utilize the sheer weight of our numbers most effectively in our interests.

(3) There is nothing intrinsically self-destructive about national based Unions, per-se, as the history of the trade movement shows. Historically, it has been the smaller sectional Unions which have folded in the past, and are collapsing first today. The problem with A.U.S., was not that as a national Union it was destined to collapse, but some particular problems with its structure, or the people on it.

(4) As the list of delegates to A.U.S. shows, the new members of A.U.S. come from essentially the same political party as the old members — the A.L.P. Club. Essentially, then,

we have the same group of people, with the same sorts of ideas, being transferred in toto from one structure to another. The result? As you can guess, a repeat performance of A.U.S. and its demise. To completely blame a structure, and admit no fault on behalf of its members, is to push a groups credibility too far.

(5) Given that a National Union is the one which theoretically can represent the greatest number, it is, naturally, the one which is to be desired to represent our interests. This, however, must be balanced against the possibility that a state based Union, though less representative of students as a whole, and consequently weaker, may be better than no Union at all — at least as a stop-gap measure. The problem with this, however, is that affiliation with the state based Union will cost us \$50,000; once we pay that sort of money, we are backed into a state system for the foreseeable future, if only because of the investment we have made.

Summarising — Though A.U.S.

was not without its problems, any national Union will always be stronger and able to achieve more for us than any state based Union. Simply — the more who speak, the greater our voice. The problems with A.U.S., which led to its demise, are not related specifically to its national structure. If a state Union is adopted, before these remaining problems are solved, we will only have a repeat of the last debate — leaving us once again without a Union, and even less choice of forming one next time. Firstly, it is not possible to adopt a state Union as a temporary measure, because of the economic straight jacket in which we will be placed.

To date, virtually all of the debate concerning Unions has been presented representing one side only — that of Vote for a State Union; V.S.U. Rather than trying to capitalise on people's ignorance of the issues, those responsible for the referendum would be better employed to present both sides of the case, rather than only one which possibly suits themselves.

Unless both sides are presented before the referendum is held, I would urge everyone to vote against the proposal. To vote 'yes' in a referendum, in which you are presented with no real alternatives, would be to commit Monash University to a Union which may not be the one which will best represent our interests.

P. Nugent

P.A.C. Chairperson

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M.A.S. Treasurer slams Victorian Students Union as a waste of student money

by Stan Gallagher

At Monash University Union Fees are compulsory. As we all know, full time students must part with \$240 odd each year as a pre-condition to enrolment. M.A.S. receives its fair share of this compulsory fee; over \$400,000 this year.

It is my belief that M.A.S. must always ensure that it spends student money responsibly.

Responsible expenditure simply does not involve committing \$50,000 to an off-campus group that exists in name only.

Despite the rhetoric of "grass root student involvement," Monash students will have little control over the Victorian Student Union and receive few, if any, benefits from it.

Even if, as is highly speculative, V.S.U. manages to affiliate any of Victoria's major campuses, it cannot hope to adequately provide a voice for students where it really counts. In CANBERRA.

The now defunct (national) Australian Union of Students of which I had the demoralising experience of being an executive member, could not afford to place an office

in Canberra. So how can Victorian Students alone expect to influence the Federal Government, the Government that provides the money for universities in Australia? We can't.

With state groups all duplication each other's services in a cost inefficient manner, V.S.U. will mean Monash students pay a lot for very little.

Only a national organisation with an Australia wide revenue base can maintain the research and publicity facilities needed to present our case to the Federal Government and the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Committee.

V.S.U., despite the amount it will cost Monash Students, will have little money left after it has covered its extravagant 'administrative costs.' Once it has paid its numerous salaried office bearers and hangers on, its budget will be lucky to stretch to a monthly letter to the Minister for Education to remind her that V.S.U. is open for business. V.S.F. will then be back to campuses such as Monash asking for yet

more money.

As Treasurer of M.A.S., I advise students that M.A.S.'s 1985 budget would be seriously stretched if we are forced to fund V.S.U. All M.A.S. services would feel the pinch. The Student Employment Office, for example, would have little chance of expanding its services in 1986 as a result, despite an obvious need for it to do so.

Another certain casualty would be the proposed M.A.S.-funded Monash Student Dental Service. As an aside, the proponents of V.S.U. at M.A.S. have gone quiet on

this scheme of late, presumably because they have realised that with the V.S.U. in, the Dental Service would be out.

When student politicians realise that your student fees are not inexhaustible, then it is clear that extravagance and waste have reached unprecedented levels.

In short, M.A.S. and Monash students cannot afford V.S.U. So vote 'NO' and wait until a more effective cost efficient proposal comes up. That way we will eventually get the sort of services your \$240 per year warrant.



M.A.S. Treasurer, Stan Gallagher pointing to the Victorian Students Union new headquarters.

Australian Democrats Student Organisation

A.D.S.O. is the roof-body of Australian Democrat students. There are active Australian Democrat Clubs at a number of campuses (e.g., Flinders, Monash, U.N.S.W.), as well as individual supporters right across the country.

The role of A.D.S.O. is to promote Australian Democrat policies on issues such as conservation, industrial democracy, disarmament, and parliamentary reform, as well as promoting the concept of "keeping the bastards honest."

We apply these principles to on-campus matters. For instance, whilst many of our supporters favour a NATIONAL student union, we believe that fair debate is required before students are forced to make up their minds on this. Hence, we strongly OPPOSE the affiliation of Monash with the Victorian Students Union at this stage. The whole question of whether to affiliate to a State, National or other Union has not been debated properly.

We urge students to vote NO to affiliation with the V.S.U.

Peter Taft
National Convenor,
A.D.S.O.

W.A. Students vote against State Unions

In referendums held on Western Australia campuses early this year, students overwhelmingly rejected affiliation to a State Student Union. Students were obviously concerned with the inadequacies of a State Union confronting a Canberra Government on issues like TEAS and Education Funding.

This result followed close on the heels of a huge vote in favour of a National Student Organisation when students across the country voted on the future directions for student unionism in Australia.

This hostile response has not deterred minority elements within the Southern States from pushing for State Unions. Both Melbourne and Monash Universities will decide this week whether to go it alone in a Victorian Union.

The affiliation to a State Union is being fought by students from across the political spectrum, who are determined that the Australian student movement will not be split.

Australian Young Labor in favor of a National Student Union

The annual conference of Australian Young Labor held recently in Melbourne called upon the Federal Labor Government to support a National Student Union. It rejected as unacceptable other structures believing them 'to be counterproductive to the Student Movement.'

This action confirms existing Labor Policy on Student Unionism and is theoretically binding on all Young Labor members. This in turn raises the question of the Monash A.L.P. Clubs support for a State based Student Union. A.L.P. party members with the Club may face disciplinary action from the rank and file. This seems more than certain because of the large number of Labor activists currently fighting the formation of the Victorian Students Union.



Lot's wife

TOWARDS A NATIONAL STUDENT UNION

When setting about establishing a new student union we must not make the same mistakes made when the Australian Union of Students was established.

One of the fundamental problems with A.U.S. was its lack of support at State level. In 1984, 80% of the union's membership came from Victoria. Campuses in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia were not interested in a National Union until they had established their local network.

The major campuses in these states still have no commitment to a national union until their states have been established and are working effectively.

The logical step is to set up a Victorian student union — such as the proposed Victorian Student Forum which has the overwhelming support of Victorian campus representatives — and build a regional organization as is being done in every other state in Australia.

Once this has been done the state union will be able to merge with all the other unions to establish a federated structure which will be able to deal at a national level and still maintain a regional

network. This will best be able to deal with attacking government decisions at both a state and national level.

The only people who are attempting to establish a national union are some Liberal students like Mark Heywood and a few naive and inexperienced opportunists. What would a Liberal be doing by trying to establish a student union when most are anti-Union? The answer is that they hope to fool students into opting for a repeat of A.U.S. so it too will fail.

While we would all dearly love to step into a National Student Union straight away, this is unrealistic given the tensions that existed after the collapse of the Australian Union of Students. To opt for a National Union, prior to establishing regional networks and State Unions would alienate too many campuses and states.

There is no point in having an unrepresentative National Union for its name sake only. I urge everyone, therefore, to vote YES to the Victorian Student Union as this is the first step towards an effective and representative National Union.

Stephen Wettenhall

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AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS NEED A NATIONAL STUDENT ORGANISATION



Senator Susan Ryan
Minister for Education

"In addition to it being in the interests of students to speak with a united voice on issues of concern to them, it is of considerable assistance to the Federal Government to be able to deal with a national, representative body which is well informed about the views of students."



Senator Peter Baume
Opposition Minister for Education

"Student Representation at a national level is essential for a Government to make the right decisions concerning Australian Students."



Senator Michael Macklin
**Education Spokesperson,
Australian Democrats**

"It is clear that the best way for students to organise themselves is via a national union. Any other way will not get their message through to Canberra."

No political party in Australia will deal with six separate student organisations. A move towards state unions means no arguments being put to Canberra on issues like TEAS, Education Funding, and Student Welfare. All these problems need the student movement speaking with one united voice.

VOTE NO TO THE VICTORIAN STUDENTS UNION