

TABLOID UNDERGROUND

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF 'STUDENTS IN DISSENT'.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL CONSCIENTIOUS CITIZENS OF THIS STATE:

Dear Friend,

You are all aware of the crises that has arisen concerning the suppression of unofficial student newsheets and the persecution of those students involved, through the actions of the Education Department and High School Principals.

You've seen the television, radio and press. We ask you to consider these issues - straight from the Horse's Mouth - so to speak.

Underground newsheets began with one question in mind. Is Freedom of Speech, and Freedom of Opinion desirable in a democratic society? In Victorian High Schools at present, the only 'legitimate' means of student expression available is through the media of 'official school newspapers'. We have found through experience that some articles just don't get in. These newspapers in fact are heavily censored - before printing has begun - by the Principals of the respective high schools. All articles not in line with the Principal's 'responsible opinion', or criticizing in any way the school or sectors of society usually end up in the waste basket. The 'Underground Press' therefore was begun by concerned secondary students wishing to express their views and fears about the world, society, and the school system. This was its motive, not a desire to 'subvert' or overthrow the society, which we dearly believe is based on the undisputable truths of Freedom, Justice and Fair Play.

We ask: Are we to be taught democracy and yet not permitted to practice it?

Are we to be told of our tradition of 'justice for all' and yet experience the unjust and dictatorial powers of 'government officials'?

Are we to be told that we must not 'bear false witness against thy neighbour' and yet watch helpless as false accusations are levelled at those students whose only aim is to develop democracy to its fullest?

These questions and others are forced to our minds - We ask your help to answer them.

We quote the Principal of Melbourne High, Mr. R.E. Thomson:-

"Independence of thought is the basis of the questioning spirit which underlies all the great discoveries made by man; in their search for truth men of enlightenment have questioned and analysed assumptions made by their predecessors taking nothing for granted... Students are not expected to take the view of one authority or teacher."

If you wish to help our cause, please get in touch with your local Member of Parliament, write to the press, or express your views on the radio talk-back programmes.

Yours sincerely,

Fabian Willmore

Fabian Willmore.
President,
Students in Dissent.

In recent press reports there has been a great amount of conjecture and assumption regarding the nature of S.I.D. It must be made clear that our representative groups in suburban high schools are essentially self-governing. Twelve schools in the metropolitan and country areas have completely autonomous undergrounds with the aims that are generally speaking sympathetic to those of S.I.D. itself. These dozen or more schools produce their own newsheets while S.I.D. distributes Tabloid Underground to schools in which underground newsheets are still in the process of being established. In general T.U. serves as an essential link between the individual underground movements.

Each of these afore mentioned schools contains groups of between ten and fifty students writing and distributing for S. I. D. At present several new schools have started to print their own newsheets and our current rate of expansion is indicative of S.I.D.'s increasing influence. Since SID is independent of any political group or club we must have funds to pay for the paper and the use of a press. If you can help in this regard would you please send any donations to

S.I.D.
C/ 66 Chatsworth Rd.,
Frahman,
Victoria 3181

If you are at present a secondary school student and would like to obtain copies of Tabloid Underground or wish to print your own underground news sheet write to the above address and include a telephone number at which we can contact you.

We can help with press, paper and instruct you in methods of distribution etc.

SID appreciates the support offered to us by outside organisations but we cannot afford to become affiliated with them at the cost of alienating ourselves from the interests of secondary school students. However we are willing to publish any notices of forthcoming venues of a politically educational value to students, irregardless of the groups responsible for their organisation.

Any such advertisements should be posted to the above address at least a month prior to date set for the activity.
