

But perhaps Mr Adams could help me with a small social problem.

A colleague of mine is rather fond of violence and believes it to be a useful means of getting one's point across in any medium (especially real life!). During a recent conversation, as he was lauding the good sense of Peckinpah and his ilk to portray the real violence of our world, and I was wondering which came first, the serpent or the egg, he accused me of intellectual arrogance.

Dear Mr Adams, would I be placing myself at actual physical risk if I countered that my colleague is "intellectually sleazy?"

SUZANNE KNIGHT
Neutral Bay NSW



"I'd give her a very limited shelf-life."

Alternative must be real

Grey Sheridan's article on the secession of Macquarie University from AUS, (B. May 8) needs to be commented on for a number of points.

The two main groups supporting the secession were the Liberal and Centre Unity students. The Liberal students produced 6000 leaflets and Centre Unity slightly more.

The left-wing supporters of AUS not only produced more but also produced a large, costly array of pamphlets that the moderate students couldn't match. The supporters of AUS were clearly defeated

and this defeat would have been larger except that the moderate vote was split by those who wanted to fight the extremists from the inside rather than seceding.

The Maoist vote is non-existent at Macquarie and on a national scale it is hard to see the moderate-Maoist dialogue continuing once their common enemy is defeated.

Even though the old monolithic AUS is dead, it is quite possible that a reduced

version will continue to operate on those campuses which have rejected secession.

The secession movement was first instigated by Liberal students and it has been given renewed impetus by the participation of Centre Unity groupings. The amount of secessions, contrasted with the existence of a continuing nucleus of AUS, means that we are faced with the possibility of two organisations claiming to represent Australian students, if the proposed alternative body becomes a reality.

The last point I would like to make is that another way to interpret Macquarie's vote is that 73 percent of students don't care if we even have a student body. Even those 1519 students who voted for secession did not necessarily vote for another organisation.

If this alternative body is to be a real alternative and not another AUS with a different face, then it is important that students should have the right to decide whether they wish to belong to it and that the undemocratic compulsory membership principle should be buried with the ashes of the old AUS.

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