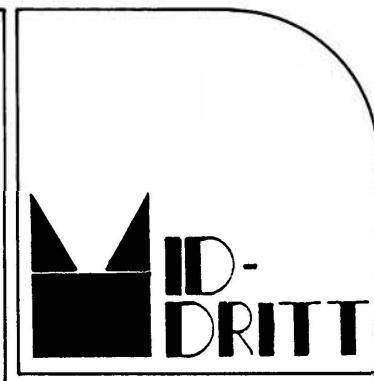


EDITORIAL



In the legal world, comments on the activities and performance of the legislator and the judge provide much of the staple diet of columnists and readers alike. It is our undoubted duty to voice our concern over laws, judicial decisions and events which may serve to undermine the Rule of Law in Malta as well as abroad. As we go to press however, it becomes apparent that lack of space prevents us from here dwelling at length on the implications of the events of the past few months and that a proper discussion of the present predicament of the Rule of Law in Malta must be reserved to a future edition of our journal.

At the same time we remind our readers that ID-DRITT does not only serve as an outlet for academic research but also as a forum for different opinions. The Editorial Board has already been asked to introduce a regular slot for letters to the Editor and similar comments and while we are examining the most suitable ways to meet this request, we continue to invite articles and comments which stimulate opinion and provoke response. If this journal occasionally carries some controversial article, be it on freedom of the press, Marxism and Law or judicial review of administrative discretion, the aim is certainly not to annoy some readers and please others. Rather, when our readers turn authors and are tempted to put pen to paper and contribute articles and comments, the pages of our journal can only reflect their widely varying opinions. Reader-participation is indeed the lifeline of any periodical and without the contributions of lawyers and law students alike, our law journal will quickly disappear.

Punctuality in publication is, unfortunately, unusual in legal periodicals serving a small jurisdiction. While we trust that this shortcoming is forgiven, one should explain that funds, advertisements and sponsors remain increasingly hard to find, and since lawyers, notaries and law students are notoriously busy people, writing articles, editing and proof-reading tends to be a lengthy process. These factors notwithstanding, we hope that busy people will continue to take time off to prepare articles for publication, and that our journal's production standards will continue to improve at a par with its academic level. 1984 is the year in which the University of Malta Law Society's journal celebrates its fortieth birthday and while we believe that ID-DRITT has a continued function in serving the legal community in Malta, the advent of technological innovations such as 'electronic publishing' would certainly render a look ahead at the next forty years of our journal's life a presumptuous and futile exercise. Yet, whatever the future has in store for us, we cannot escape the reality that, in the legal sphere as in others, it is our *present* values, initiative and creativity that will fashion our future.

J.A.C.