

## NOTES AND NEWS

### ASLP MEETING

On Thursday, 10 March, at 5.15 p.m., Professor J.C. Smith will speak to his paper "The Sword and Shield of Perseus: Some Mythological Dimensions of the Law". Professor Smith (who teaches in the Faculty of Law in the University of British Columbia) is currently a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney. His interests are diverse. He has published a book of essays on legal philosophy entitled *Legal Obligation*. He has two more books forthcoming: *Content and Form: The Dialectics of Law* (with S.C. Coval) is the culmination of their joint work and publications developing a 'causal theory of law'; the other book is a collection of materials with introductions and commentary by Professors Smith and Weisstub entitled *The Western Concept of Law*. The book will shortly be released by Butterworths. Professor Smith is also working on a book dealing with the jurisprudence of negligence law.

The meeting will be held in the Staff Common Room, Level 13, Sydney University Law School, 173-175 Phillip Street. Drinks will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

### HUGO GROTIUS' QUATERCENTENARY

The Australian Society of Legal Philosophy and the Australian branch of the International Law Association are organising a special meeting to mark the quatercentenary of the birth of Hugo Grotius. Grotius (1583-1645) was a Dutch jurist, statesman, philologist, poet, theologian and historian - a "man of all-embracing learning". But there are three areas in which he made contributions that are of special and lasting interest to lawyers. His treatises, *De jure praedae* and *De jure belli ac pacis* are arguably the most important seminal works on international law. Grotius is also considered by many to be the "father of Roman-Dutch Law". Finally, Grotius tried to develop a secular version of natural law theory. Secular natural law is undergoing something of a revival, and it is timely to undertake a reappraisal of Grotius' ideas.

A special seminar has been arranged for Saturday, 9 April, at which four papers will be delivered dealing with each of these aspects of Grotius' work: "Grotius - Father of Roman Dutch Law?" (Dr. R.A. Bauman); "Grotius and the History of Social Thought" (Dr. Knud Haakonssen); "Grotius and the Law of the Sea" (Professor Ivan Shearer); and "Grotius and the Law of Nature" (Professor Lauchlan Chipman).

### DR. S.N. VERDUN-JONES

Dr. Verdun-Jones of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Simon Fraser University, will be in Australia late in 1983. He has agreed to deliver a paper to the Society on the right to refuse treatment. Members will be notified of the precise details closer to the event.