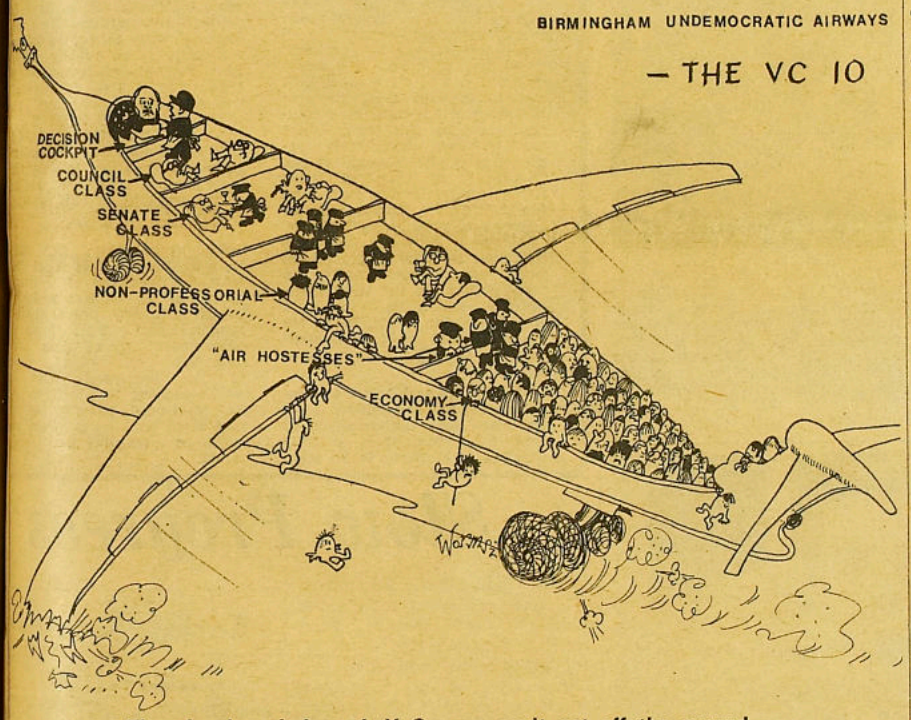
REDBRICK
Birmingham University

No. 748 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30th Price 3d.

STRIKE ACTION THREATENED

ULTIMATUM TO UNIVERSITY

Ray Phillips.



The plane's unbalanced, V.-C.—we can't get off the ground.

A mass strike and protest demonstration. That was the decision, taken by Guild Council last night, if the University authorities do not accept the "Student Role" document in toto by November 27th.

The real significance of the amendment lies in the words in toto. The University Council have already asserted that there is a considerable part of the present "Student Role" document which they CANNOT accept. (That is representation on what many feel should be the most important committees, i.e. Finance and General Purposes, and Planning and Priorities.)

This means that a mass strike and demonstration is almost certain for November 27th.

After more than three hours of heated argument, Sue Jackson, Vice-President of the Guild, proposed the amendment to item four of the motion, that "this Council urges Executive to direct action if Student Role is not accepted in toto by the University Council by November 27th." When asked precisely what she meant by "direct action," she replied: "I mean strike, I mean blow the place up . . ." at which point Council erupted in applause and stamping. The amendment was carried by 47 votes to 17.

There had been calls for strike, boycott of lectures and more militant action all evening. The controversy, violent at times, centred on Section Four of the motion passed by the Emergency General Meeting earlier in the day. It read: "(This General Meeting) urges Executive to withdraw 'Student Role' if a decision of its acceptance by University Council is not taken on October 30th, 1968."

Several members of Executive demanded more militant action. Chris Tyrrell, Guild Secretary, accused the University of "systematically and successfully manipulating the Executive." "But," he continued, "we cannot withdraw Student Role and leave a vacuum. If it is withdrawn we must have more militant action."

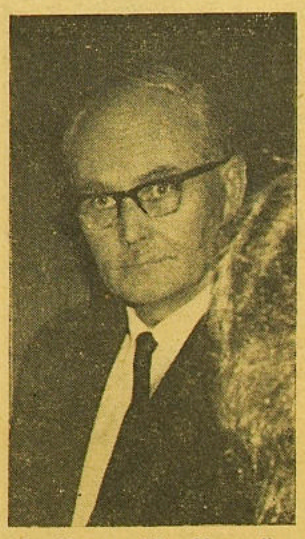
Charles Critcher asserted unequivocally, "I can give your four examples which occurred today, of instances where the University deliberately misled the Guild Executive." He went on: "There is no sense in continuing to negotiate with people who have no intention of telling the truth. University Council do exactly what Sir George Farmer (its chairman) tells them."

However, he expressed real doubt as to whether a policy of direct action would receive the support that would be imperative to its succeeding. Nelson Bathurst, Guild Treasurer, denounced the University as "playing cat and mouse with us," and suggested that the best initial form of direct action would be a token strike.

He was speaking in favour of an amendment which called for a mass withdrawal from lectures next Friday, November 1st—ostensibly so that everyone could attend the General Meeting. It was eventually defeated, but it was subsequent to this that Sue Jackson proposed her new amendment.

This both allowed University Council time to discuss Student Role and the alternative of direct positive action if the document is not accepted.

Afterwards, Ray Phillips, President, commented: "This gives us time to mount a campaign."



Dr. Hunter, Vice-Chancellor.

Confidence at General Meeting

OVER a thousand students packed the Deb Hall and the Council Chamber for the extraordinary general meeting of the Guild yesterday. The motion before them was substantially that which was printed in Tuesday's emergency edition of "Redbrick".

Chris Tyrrell introduced the proposal for the establishment of a joint commission to inquire into the whole structure of the University. This was a positive step.

Ex-President of the Guild Charles Wright opposed it, saying that a general meeting should be held in three weeks, in order that more time should be given to discussion. After an hour's discussion, at the suggestion of Miss Jane Grove, this proposal was merely added to the original motion.

A further proposal that the commission should be responsible to general meetings rather than to Guild Council or Executive was also passed.

Paul Hardman then proposed that all meetings of Senate, Council and their committees should be open to anyone who wished to observe their proceedings, although their right to discuss certain confidential matters in camera was later recognised.

The meeting also expressed its disgust at the treatment of the Guild representatives by the Senate last Wednesday. The clause calling upon Executive to withdraw the Student Role document if agreement was not reached by University Council on Wednesday 30th had been withdrawn by the Executive.

A new clause demanding a decision at an Extraordinary Meeting of the University Council to be held before November 27th was substituted. After a lengthy discussion today's ultimatum was reinstated by the General Meeting, which at this point was found to be inquorate and the validity of the voting was a large issue.

The meeting had already lasted for three hours, much of which had been wasted on procedure. Only 400 students were now present; however, the meeting continued and discussed the rest of the agenda, expressing distress at the intended absence of Sir George Farmer, Pro-Chancellor, and ending with an overwhelming vote of confidence in Executive by those still present.

'OCTOBER 27th DEMONSTRATION ACHIEVED NOTHING'

By Linda Potter

LAST Sunday over 100 students from this University joined the 30,000 protesters in London. The mile-long crocodile of demonstrators, brandishing banners and blowing bubbles, looked at times more like a bunch of Mardi Gras paraders than the group of fanatical anti-American chanters that it proved to be.

As we marched along the embankment from Charing Cross, it soon became clear that carnival-spirited as it might appear, this demonstration was a mammoth gesture of support for the N.L.F., a 30,000-strong support, which emphatically demanded by implication a prolonging of the war until the N.L.F. has won.

Vietnam demo : was it all a big laugh for some ?

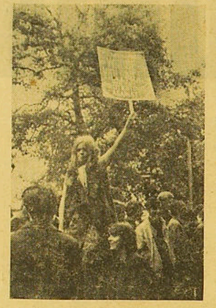
The main march was peaceful enough and the organisers tried hard, by means of tannoys and microphones, to keep the marchers on the official route. Yet the mental aggression of the demonstrators was frighteningly obvious, as the chanting and shouting of slogans like "We want L.B.J. — dead", "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh" and "Seig Heil", outside Downing Street, grew in tumultuous roaring, accompanied by intermittent charges, as the demonstrators linked arms and sought to close any gaps in the march, and thus maintain their solidarity.

Along Fleet Street, the crowd jeered at the officials of the "Daily Express" and "Daily Telegraph", but reporters and security officials behind the safety of windows and guarded doors merely waved and smiled back. Massive contingents of police, blocking narrow side streets in anticipation of the intended breaking away from the main group by the Mao-ists, and coachloads of police protecting buildings, were scarcely required.

The sheer mass of demonstrators was impressive, but might not the impact of the mass have been heightened if people had walked for three hours, simply in silence? Anyone can shout, and much sympathy from onlookers for the march was lost, because so often it just appeared as a bunch of aggressive and exhibitionist loudmouths, who had nothing better to do on a Sunday afternoon than shout with the rest in an atmosphere which bordered at times on mass hysteria. The sombre implications of the cause for which people were marching often seemed overlooked.

Certain by-products of the demonstration still leave a bad taste in my mouth. First, the march was used as a springboard for numerous other unrelated causes, such as Biafra and Rhodesia, which detracted from the impact of a solid front of 30,000 marchers. Secondly, the silent and patient forbearance of the police threw into ugly relief the militant minority, who tried to provoke them for no reason at all, by throwing coins, fireworks and jabbing them with banner poles.

It seems that the demonstration, especially the nasty scene in Grosvenor Square, was an attempt by some people to make martyrs of themselves. Perhaps we feel we haven't suffered enough—we can't really complain of police brutality or foreign oppression—so afraid of being complacent and contented, we ferment a violent situation, in which we can suffer and thus feel righteous sympathy with others who are suffering thousands of miles away!



I do not think that October 27th achieved very much, other than to create further antagonism towards students—well, we've presented the ratepayers with a £250,000 bill after all—and to demonstrate the dignity of the police in face of, at times, incredibly undignified behaviour on the part of some marchers.

Hut dwellers

At Newcastle it has been suggested by a Ratepayers' Association that students could live in disused Army barracks. Apparently the presence of students has devalued property in the areas in which they live, but the idea is not designed to get rid of them.

PERSONAL COLUMN

GERALD S. HITMAN is surquedrous.

FREE Car Maintenance Classes—Everyone welcome. First meeting Tues., Nov. 5th, at 7 p.m. in Lecture Room 203, Haworth Building, Chemistry Dept.

HALLOWE'EN is tomorrow night.

METHSOC, Sun., Nov. 3rd: "What does Christianity mean in the local church?" Sister Walker (Friendship House, Lambeth), 4 p.m. at Selly Oak Methodist Church.

DOWN with tights!

CHESS Club meets every Wednesday (CR1). Handicap tournament. All welcome.

GERALD Hitman wears a glass eye.

AND that's not all.

MECH Eng. 3 wish to thank all the girls who walk past their department and brighten up their lectures.

MANOR on Friday for fireworks.

JUDY, I hate your spotted pants.

COME back Bobby, all is forgiven.

IT'S not the pants, it's the spots.

FIREBALL, Friday.

DISCO dance, food, fire and fun this Friday at Manor.

GHOULS and Zombies free.

SHOCKING the way people nick envelopes.

SAILING Association Social: Tuesday, November 12th at 8 p.m. Founders. Bar, disco, go-go-boy, DJ. More details later.

SORRY about last night, people.

COME to the Sailing disco.

MIN Eng. is a dying race.

CONGRATULATIONS Bob 'n' Aud.

BUSA Social, Nov. 12th. Founders 8 p.m.

THURSDAY 8 p.m. Founders, 2/6.

OCCULT Soc. meets Monday, November 4th at 5.15 p.m. Lecture Room 1, Arts Block. Mr. W. B. Blewett, Vice-President of the College of Psychic Science, will speak on "Evidence for Survival of Life after Death."

HAVE harmonium, can't travel. Anyone going to London next weekend with large van, etc. Please contact Dave Hurd.

VISIT Funstone National Park. Bring all the family.

DILETTANTE Society. Mass crusade and very extraordinary general meeting today, 5.15, Lesser Hall. All dabblers must attend.

MOUSE, cat, porter and Sioux pursued by Ubiquitous P.

WHO shoves leg in it and zips it up?

spectator

THE Paris bookshops are already full of hastily-compiled studies of "The Student Revolution." English publishers have been slower off the mark, but any number of books can be expected in the next six months. One, at least, is being compiled by members of this university.

Much of this material is merely ephemeral or merely sensational, but behind it all lie fundamental questions about the nature of university education. We will be discussing the more important studies as they appear, but meanwhile there is some point in returning to consider the offerings of the periodical press over the last summer.

The August 'Encounter' printed one of the most important symposia on university education to have appeared so far. In it, two very distinguished intellectuals, Raymond Aron, the French sociologist, and Sidney Hook, the American historian and philosopher, presented their own highly articulate and persuasive condemnations of the movement towards revolution in the universities, and many of their arguments are directly relevant to the situation in England. In another article, Goronwy Rees enquires into the impact of events overseas on British students.

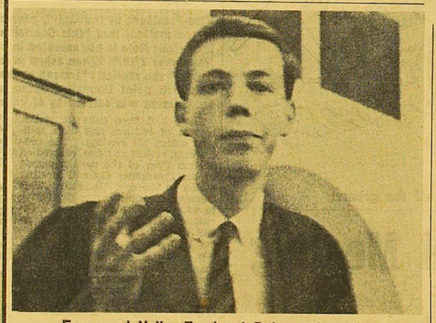
The "Encounter" symposium puts forward what must be called the conservative viewpoint. All three writers posit a "them" (students) and "us" (teachers) dichotomy, and all assume that the universities must be protected against the attacks of student radicals. But theirs is not the mindless reactionary response of the "Telegraph" or the "Express," or even of those British academics who have been filling the correspondence columns of "The Times." Aron, Hook, and Rees are conservatives, but to some people (those who have condemned the "capitulation" of the Vice Chancellor's committee to the National Union of Students, for example) they must seem dangerous revolutionaries themselves.

The French and American contributors were responding to a situation quite unlike anything that has been seen in this country, or is likely to be seen. For them, the "student revolution" means an organised attempt by a small minority of radicals to destroy the universities as they exist at present: the constant fear is that the universities will be converted into "schools for revolutionaries." They see the catch-cries of "participation," "democratisation," and "relevance to life" as cynical rationalisations to obscure what is really going on, and as fundamental challenges to the ideal of academic freedom.

Yet Aron speaks for the others when he says: "In spite of everything I personally cannot help hoping that a new university, more living and more suited to the times, will come out of this upheaval." And Rees points to what he sees as the real centre of reaction, which lies not so much in individuals, but in the institutional structure itself: in "the overwhelming conservatism which animates the machinery of university government, the formidable capacity of dons, professors, lecturers for obstruction and delay, or, to speak truly, the sheer bloody-mindedness of many a faculty, senate and council." Most of all, one has to take into account the working of that first principle of university administration: NOTHING MUST EVER BE DONE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

In England, the universities cannot claim to be threatened by deliberate subversion. Those who argue in such terms, we believe, are guilty of an exactly parallel kind of anti-intellectualism to that which the "Encounter" writers charge against the MOUVEMENT DU 22 MARS and the STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. The universities must change: to deny this is as much a form of fanaticism as the attempt to destroy them altogether.

One of the things that must be fought against is what Rees calls the "element of irrational opposition to change which is inbuilt into any university administration." This issue of "Encounter" provides some definition of what needs to be preserved and is worth reading for that reason. But what needs to be thrown out and what put in its place are questions which are barely raised.



Emmanuel Vella, Freshers' Debate champion.

(Photo: Pete Mills)

Corrupt Freshers

LAST Wednesday's debate was the final one of the Freshers' Tournament. A packed house hurriedly rejected a private motion and proceeded to give its full attention to the six speakers.

Miss Kathy Riley, proposing the motion that wealth, not power, corrupts, painted a dire picture of the corruption of the rich Regency gentleman, to be followed by Mr. Gerald S. Hitman, who amazed the house by trying to oppose the motion with stirring Communist quotations. Undeterred, Mr. Emmanuel Vella dared the bicycle chain and denounced Mr. Hitman, receiving considerable support at the end of his speech. Mr. Graham Bolitho announced that he was going to the judges and kept his promise. An American visitor, Mr. David Wortzel, was very profound. Finally Miss Kate Raw returned to the motion and declared that she was all in favour of corruption.

After some singularly boring noises on the floor of the house, Professor Frazer Mackenzie delivered the verdict of the judges; his colleagues were Rev. Bob Hughes and that well-known wealthy and corrupt Bahamian Perry Christie. This proved to be the best speech of the evening, and will be long remembered for its offer of a job in Italian Opera to Mr. Hitman. The first prize went to Mr. Vella, and the second to Mr. Bolitho.

Slow Progress

THE Education Committee has, according to Charles Critcher, its Chairman, been making progress this term, although this has been slow.

The work of the committee, which was set up at the beginning of this term, is spread over three sub-committees; for Staff-Student Relations, Academic Affairs, and Sixth-Form Relations. So far this term, the Staff-Student Relations committee have issued a statement containing recommendations on how these committees should be run.

This statement resulted from Charles Critcher and Val Smith having attended the staff-student committee of five different departments. It is hoped that statements for circulation among these committees will be produced in the future with recommendations for various areas of discussion.

The Academic Affairs section exists to look into and advise on courses. However, the "constructive suggestions" which it hopes to make to each faculty on the question of exams and syllabuses can only come from going into the departments and from co-operation from officers on staff-student committees, Charles Critcher said.

The third sub-committee—dealing with relations with sixth-forms—has begun its work of going into schools, giving talks on student life and helping with debates and theatre work. A discussion was held last Wednesday in a local school on Student Power, and when dates are fixed for further functions such as this with schools with which correspondence has been taking place, it is hoped that more students from the University will volunteer to take part in them.

Social Service activities

Immigrant Teaching :

There will be no immigrant teaching today, as it is school half-term. Details of teaching projects are being reviewed. Please see V.O.S.A. notice board for new arrangements.

I.V.S. Hospital Visits (Hollymoor) :

Meet 1.40 in the old entrance hall on the Union today and every Wednesday.

I.V.S. Working Weekend :

November 2nd, 3rd. Meet 9.15 at Towers Centre, 318 Summer Lane, Newton. Activities include decorating and visiting a children's home. Contact Pete Morgan for further details.

Poppy Day :

Volunteers wanted to sell poppies in Edgbaston next week. If interested please sign list on Committee Service notice board.

Shopping Day for Handicapped :

December 4th. Helpers Wanted. For details see Committee on Service notice board.

Other Projects :

Details of projects covering a range of social work are given on the committee on service notice board in the old entrance hall. Committee members will be in the External Affairs Office 1-2 every day to give further information.

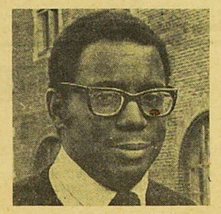
THE CARNIVAL IS OVER

BY PETE BROWN

LAST Tuesday night Guild Council debated the future of the proposed Festival for next term. After almost an hour's discussion in which time various members had expressed their doubts, Roger Hird proposed that the idea of Festival should be completely abandoned and Carnival should go on as in previous years. This motion was heavily defeated and Festival was declared to exist.

Festival, as Events Comm. see it, should be successful in achieving its several objectives : "To involve as many people as possible from the City and the University ; to increase our own student participation in various activities, which will have a special emphasis on community action ; and to increase the amount of money raised for charity." It would follow from this that a more favourable impression of students would be created.

To achieve these aims Festival has been divided into four sections. Community Action will involve projects of social work which it is hoped will be carried out by Departments and Halls of Residence as separate working bodies and it is hoped that in some cases certain firms and industrial concerns can be persuaded to sponsor several of these projects. The Charities section will take charge of many of the usual Carnival activities such as the production of a new style "Rag" magazine which will possibly incorporate a Festival programme and entitle the purchaser to cheaper admission to certain functions, the street procession which will take place as usual on the Saturday and possibly a charity football match, bingo evening and a midnight film, the proceeds of which will all go to charities "which pay on us for support."

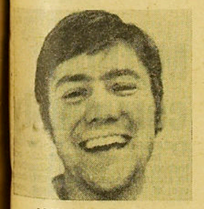


ELVIN McDAVID
(Events Committee Chairman and Festival Co-ordinator)

"With the support of a good body of students I feel certain that the Festival will be a tremendous success and objectives will be achieved."

No stunts

It is emphasised that all "non-productive stunts" will be abolished and the usual car tickets will also go as these have been found to be more expensive to produce in relation to the amount of money they bring in. The Entertainments section will deal with the usual Carnival-week dances and it is also hoping to arrange a concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and at least one large-scale concert by popular artistes, something along the lines of last year's Francoise Hardy concert being envisaged. Evenings of folk, jazz, ballet and opera are also hoped for. Altogether the Entertainments section is expected to net about £500 profit which as well as providing a surplus for charity, should also allow some subsidy to the Arts section of the Festival if this is necessary.



JOHN BUTCHER
(Carnival Chairman)

". . . Under the new set-up, Carnival as we have seen it in the past is an integral part of the complex we are calling Festival . . ."

G.T.G.

The Arts section is to be divided into two sections, internal and external. The latter will consist of a Drama Festival run by G.T.G. to which it is intended to invite at least two foreign student groups, those of Frankfurt and Lyons, both of which have strong connections with the Midlands, as well as several British student groups and possibly the Phoenix theatre and the Inter-Action Group.

The productions which G.T.G. intend to perform will be those which will be taken to the Drama Festivals at Nancy and Lyons. Fringe activities such as poetry and jazz sessions are also planned. The Internal Arts section intends to arrange several exhibitions of student art and at the same time Film Soc. is arranging a Film Festival and plans to make a documentary of Festival as it happens. It is the arts section of Festival which has caused the most speculation in relation to finance. It is calculated that professional theatre companies will cost about £150 and the cost of accommodation for the visiting student groups will amount to a maximum of £300, some of which may be paid by the University if Senate makes a favourable decision.

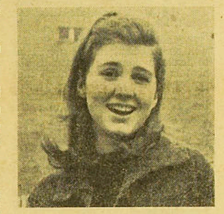
These high costs may be covered by the income from the sale of seats if the performances are well patronised. The publicity arrangements for Festival will also be expensive as a vast campaign will be necessary to ensure success.

Approval in Council was only one of the hurdles which Festival has had to overcome since the idea was first formulated last year. Two weeks ago it seemed that the University of Aston was not going to participate at all, and would carry on and produce its own "new" Carnival.

Aston

Aston had already declared that it would no longer participate in Carnival "as it now stands," i.e. as it was in 1968, and now it seemed that it would also refuse to participate in the activities proposed by Birmingham. Apparently this idea stemmed from an article in the Aston "Sun" where Carnival Chairman Roger Keevil was said to have severed all links with Birmingham University and was proposing to run an entirely independent Carnival. He was quoted as saying of Birmingham—"they don't have a Carnival Chairman as yet and anyway Edgbaston were not much use last year."

The following week, on October 15th, a letter from Keevil was printed in the "Sun" in which he explained that he had been misquoted ("inflammatory misquotations"). He said—"Far from wishing to sever relations with Edgbaston I should be delighted to see them participate in Carnival 46. My remarks were intended to draw attention to the fact that last year their contribution was not as large as one would have hoped, and that this year they seem, regrettably, to be showing the same lack of enthusiasm so far."



LINDSEY STOKER
(Internal Arts Chairman)

". . . anxious to preserve the germinal idea of the Festival—that it should draw largely on student work."

Thrashed out

Anne Fodon, Aston's Cultural Affairs Chairman, insisted that there was no disagreement between the two Universities and the only difficulties would be those of each half's respective responsibilities which would be thoroughly thrashed out. Anne, who at the moment is organising Aston's side of Festival, hopes there will be no formal structure at Aston but that all will participate and the various sections will co-operate without the need for "a central me."

Her major problem has been to get interest in the Festival, and this she has been trying to do since July. At one point Anne thought the whole idea had been a mistake but she is now beginning to get the support she needs. She thought it would be more difficult at Birmingham as the matter seemed to be wound up with Union politics.

Carnival in its old form is now being integrated into the Spring Festival. Carnival Chairman, John Butcher, plans to do away with non-productive stunts, but the traditional procession remains.

Problems

Obviously Elvin McDavid, as Festival's chief organiser, has many problems to overcome before he can afford to forecast success with absolute confidence. Several people with experience of large-scale organisation still doubt whether Festival can be efficiently organised. Derek Palmer, last year's Carnival Chairman, thinks that Events Comm. are not aware of the vast problems which were involved in organising an ordinary Carnival, never mind something on the scale of Festival, and thinks there is no hope of making an overall profit. "The problems," he says, "make it completely impracticable."

He also complains that the idea of arranging Community Service activities on a departmental basis is going to mean that people cannot do "a bit of everything" which to many students is the basic appeal of Carnival.

In spite of the obvious difficulties it entails, it is hoped that Festival will be a success, both from the point of view of enjoyment and also in raising funds for charity, but to ensure this success, as much enthusiasm and activity by students as is possible is necessary. A successful Festival will set an example for future years and should promote better relations between students and the people of Birmingham.

ALAN BARR
(Community Action Chairman)

". . . Community Action is attempting to mobilise a large scale student workforce for Festival week to carry out projects of direct benefit to the city . . . I hope that all Hall J.C.R.s, Departmental and Guild societies will consider organising a project . . ."

U.S.A.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Catharsis not necessary evil

DEAR Sir,—It is very sad that your initial edition should have contained an editorial as reactionary and complacent as your remarks on examinations.

Its most pernicious and surprising idea was that we should await reform in the secondary school first! Are local education committees and grammar school headmasters, Speech Day orientated pillars of the Establishment, ever likely to imitate such radical changes?

Surely such pathfinding is the natural function of the University, an institution where we expect the open-minded discussion of ideas of all kinds, a practice which increasing student participation should merely confirm.

I do not believe that examinations measure anything except examtaking ability. As measures of that they are far from consistent, and as measures of anything else they are very imperfect, if not downright misleading (I suspect that most members of staff could not even clearly identify the qualities they are allegedly trying to assess.)

It follows that it should be possible to evolve some system which is more logical and, just as significant, fairer to those who at present become sanatorium inmates, suffer worse forms of mental breakdown, or choose suicide.

It would not do to be dogmatic about the details of a system which would improve on this, but, for example, I do not think it is too difficult to envisage a scheme of more continuous assessment which would by-pass most of the disadvantages which you mentioned last week.

I am unconvinced that the catharsis that the whole University suffers every summer is a necessary evil, a sort of essential spiritual self-scourging to renew the flesh for another academic year, and I believe that a process of rational experimentation can produce a better alternative. This will not be an easy process. But I think it is a worthy aim. To succeed would be to undermine one of the most unpleasant features of 20th-Century life.

BRIAN B. KIRKLAND
(E.P.S. III).

Patience is a virtue . . .

DEAR Sir,—I am sure that it will come as a surprise to our radical and vociferous brethren that there is, in fact, a department in the University where staff and students get on well together, and discuss, quite openly, and amiably, problems and grievances. I have a feeling that our revolutionaries will probably be a little disappointed at this, too.

There are, of course, major problems which are not so easy to resolve, but which will be raised at the staff-student committees and, I feel confident, a solution found. I hope that the attempts of certain minority groups who would like to poison friendly staff-student relationships, and prepare for a pitched battle between the virtuous idealistic students on the one side, and the big bad C.I.A. agents of the staff on the other, will find no sympathy in our departments.

In fact, I believe that the methods at present being used by the student power-faction committees, can have no other effect than making what is a basically reactionary body even more reactionary. The ideas might be very nice, but the way that they are attempting to be passed on must antagonise the staff.

There are things which are radically wrong: the whole conception of the lodgings regulations for example, and the administration of the refectory for another, and these things can be put right by tactful diplomacy with firm insistence.

The shift in the balance of power will certainly come—but under no circumstances can it arrive by pigheadedness and smear campaigns. The North Vietnamese won't negotiate while under the threat of bombing, why should the Vice-Chancellor negotiate while under the threat of illegal meetings?

French students took power suddenly last May—but six months later they are no better off, and in some respects, are worse off than before their "revolution." And in certain respects, I can't help feeling that the present unrest, claimed to be the result of "lack of communication" and "tyrannical rule by industrialists and non-academics" is merely an excuse to have a "revolution," which we envy so much of the French, the Germans and the Mexicans. "If they can revolt, let us, too!"

Students in Britain are really too well off to complain. If they want to make a concrete demonstration against the system, why don't they send back their £360 a year? But that would mean giving up the car, the beer, the cigarettes and the lover/mistress, wouldn't it?

Let's face it, the things that are wrong can be put right by firm representations. But give the new Vice-Chancellor a chance, he can't go back on his promises now. We'll gain far more by being patient than by rushing in and trying to force his hand.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR A. HENSHAW,
French IV.

Making of the autocracy

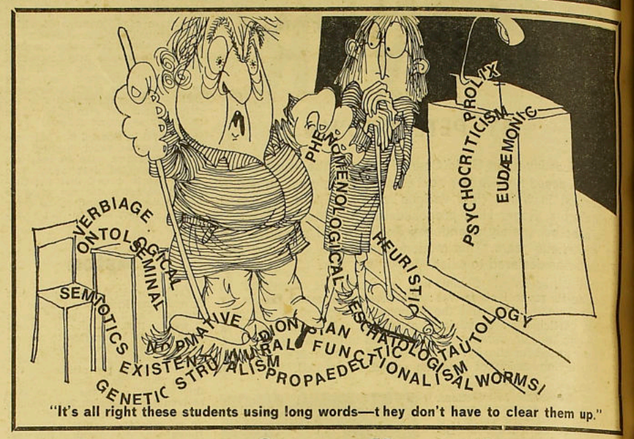
DEAR Sir,—On Wednesday last week I attended the meeting called by the ad hoc reform group because I had received the impression from the pamphlets and your front page story of last week that there was a danger to the freedom of personal views.

The various people who spoke presented a somewhat confusing picture of grievances concerning student participation and student apathy.

At 3 p.m. a gentleman in a blue shirt with a round collar jumped up and said that if we were to march to Senate we had to leave at once, and he led the way. Since the question of whether to march to Senate, and if so with what object, had not been discussed, nor a vote on the issue taken, I did not join in.

It seems that there is a danger that we might replace our apparently inefficient democratic methods of arriving at decisions by autocratic ones, at the disposal of self-appointed leaders.

Yours, etc.,
JOE BOSSOM.



"It's all right these students using long words—they don't have to clear them up."

Spreading the umbrella wide

DEAR EDITOR,—We the undersigned, being long-standing members of the Labour Party and of Socialist Union, wish to reply to the four law students who ask: "Why has no one ever thought of forming a Labour Club?" The short answer is that such a body has not had, and will not have as far as we can see, any useful role to play.

Socialist Union is historically a Union of the full spectrum of Socialists in the University, and remains so today. This University is very unusual in its socialist unity, and we do not envy colleges where Labour Clubs "live peacefully side by side," because this is not what happens.

The tradition of unity here is so strong that all types of radical groupings have become federated to S.U. before long. We suggest that the writer's description of S.U. as "extreme Left-wing" is something of an ill-informed prejudice built up from the countless smears that dog all left-wing groupings. If they think that the S.U. umbrella is not being spread wide enough, they have merely to attend the regular 1.15 General Meeting where this can be discussed.

As to the question of L.P. and Government speakers, everyone knows that crowds can be drawn for a big-name speaker, but these are thin on the ground, and the work involved in securing just one such speaker is absolutely enormous. Serious socialists prefer to leave this spade-work to Debsoc, Open Lectures, etc.

As for other L.P. speakers, we seem to remember huddling around a table to discuss the Government's Budget cuts with the secretary of Sparkbrook Labour Party (a member of the "Group of Labour Loyalists"). This was a well advertised meeting, but the so-called "middle of the road progressives" (whatever that means) of Law III were nowhere to be seen.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER CLIPSHAM
KEVIN BREHONY
DAVE BUTTRICK.

Broader education from technology

SIR,—The time has come for many students in the arts faculty to reconsider its views about the barbarians on the other side of the campus. There undoubtedly exists in many "Artists'" minds a peculiar breed of snobbery about science and technology in general.

This snobbery is usually defended by claiming a literary education offers a broad-mindedness, a platform from which to spring to any sphere, a cultural education which affords us the best method for the development of our imagination. On the other hand our scientist shows no consideration for social activity and human affairs, but remains in his whirlpool, drawing more and more swiftly into his world of numbers, remaining oblivious to life around him.

There is much that could be remedied with the teaching and application of science. If science and technology were taught as a knowledge relevant to history and a form of natural philosophy, as opposed to an esoteric pursuit, it could become a basis for a new broad university education, certainly broader, than the arts faculty affords us at the moment.

A more "considerate" attitude in science would not then be amiss, but I also think that a revaluation of the arts faculty's attitudes would not be far off the mark either.

Science and technology have been, and still are, the most powerful spiritual and moral influences of our age. Anybody who ignores and passes over the sciences and its history, is ignoring the greatest advance of ideas that history has yet witnessed. In this respect I think the arts education, if it sets out to offer a broadminded education, is incomplete.

I do not claim that this broad education is what the arts faculty is or should be aiming at, and this might explain my own position. But since many Arts students defend their studies here and subsequently criticise that of the sciences, by this claim of a broadminded education, I think that it is time for them to reconsider their own position.

DILWYN KNOX,
1st Year Italian Renaissance Studies.

Mythical community

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Atkinson's article in last week's "Redbrick," and indeed, many controversial articles in circulation at the moment, make use of the term "academic community." Anyone who has witnessed the poor quality of student thought and participation in group seminars, will realise that the concept of a genuine academic community at undergraduate level is totally unrealistic.

Those who are concerned with moving a "restructuring of the university"—another cliche phrase we are constantly bombarded with—will have to come to terms with the reticence and sedateness of the average undergraduate, and with the fact that most subjects have to be taught from the point of view of the ignorance of the student and the authority of the lecturer.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MELANIE C. ORR,
English III.

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SCHIZOPHRENIC FANTASIES

G.T.G. has always come under fire for one reason or another. Though the standard of production can be high – they won the Grand Prix at the World University Theatre Festival at Nancy in 1967–the group is often criticised for being "cliquish" and "exclusive". Mark Burke once commented: "They're so in they've gone out the other side." In this article, two postgraduates, one a psychologist, present their own analysis of G.T.G., a case-study of a sub-culture.

Waiting for Godot.

Fresh blood for Rep. programme

DEAR SIR,—It appears to be fashionable at the moment to criticise in detail events which have not yet taken place. Two current examples of this are the attitude of certain members of Guild Council to the proposed Arts Festival and, in last week's "Redbrick," Mike Walker's mis-informed remarks about G.T.G.'s Autumn Term Activity. I should like to clarify the latter.

Mr. Walker seems to be concerned about the apparent non-use of new members in three comparatively small cast plays which together form our two-week repertory term. Despite his apparently extensive researches into other theatre communities, his statement of the facts concerning our own organisation contains one error and one omissions.

Firstly, in order to allow as many people interested in acting as possible to take part in the Rep., I have deliberately increased the size of the cast of "Phaedra"; it does not, as Mr. Walker suggests, number eight, but 13. Six of these are new members. Four of Mike Dickinson's cast of six, and three of Steve Wright's cast of five are also new members. If your reporter had bothered to ask me, I would have told him.

As well as this error, Mr. Walker omits to mention the following facts:

1. "The Car Cemetery," also to be staged this term as a major production, has a cast of 14, 11 of which are new members.

2. The evening of Samuel Beckett plays to be staged this term and at the festival, has a cast of 11, five of which are new members.

3. G.T.G. has opened an experimental workshop (Mr. Walker please take especial note) that is designed specifically to involve new members who are not actively concerned in major productions.

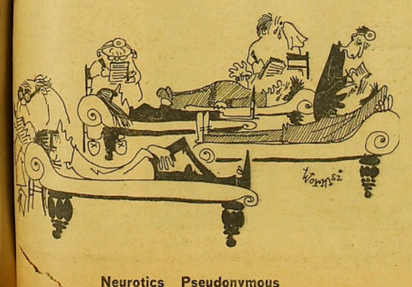
4. Many of the freshers who approached G.T.G. at the beginning of term expressed a greater interest in production assisting and organisational work, and all who did so are being used.

It is difficult to see how a theatre group which, in the space of 11 weeks, mounts seven separate projects, four of which are major productions, can logically be called "fat and lazy."

My reason for writing this letter is ultimately to make a request. Would it not be possible for a reporter, writing about the activities of a Guild Society to contact that society and clarify his facts before setting his idiosyncracies in print?

And if Mr. Walker wants to make constructive criticism of G.T.G. activities, would it not be possible for him to wait until the activities have actually taken place?

ALAN BOOTH,
G.T.G. Chairman.


Neurotics Pseudonymous

G.T.G. IN A MENTAL BLOCKADE

"ACTING OUT" is a well-known schizophrenic symptom. (We are tempted to stop here). The schizophrenic feels the need to test his fantasies in a social situation. Although opinions differ as to the aetiology of this condition, certain classic characteristics of schizophrenia are universally recognised.

These are disturbances of the normal thought processes, bizarre patterns of behaviour and psychological withdrawal from social situations into a private world of hallucination and delusion. The reader will not be surprised to learn of the widespread occurence of such traits among the student body. But in fact schizophrenia seems so extensive here that its victims have formed their own club which masquerades under the misleading title of the Guild Theatre Group.

This esoteric community has erected a mental and behavioural blockade around itself, insulated against the everyday and the mundane, inaccessible to the normal channels of communication, immune to external criticism. The initiative to this clandestine sub-culture, having fulfilled the strenuous criteria of mental aberration, must then wedge himself through terms like "Brechtian" and "existential." Such words, intoned with reverence, are met with small secretive smiles, redolent of small secretive knowledge. Truly this is the world of the inexplicable abstract, the intangible fantasy. A private universe of tattered nerve ends and tangled cortical connections.

Just as the nudist represses his sexual drive by displaying his sexual equipment, so the G.T.G. member is in danger of losing his individuality by never appearing in public without his psychological lifts. The fervour with which they flaunt their paper-thin personalities is only paralleled by the chemical engineers in their drinking bouts.

At regular intervals the University is presented with G.T.G. excursions across the boards of the Deb. Hall. Their cultural commandoes, in the more experimental of these guerilla raids, seem concerned only with consuming their own schizophrenic fantasies. We can only conclude that the intention is to remove the group from intelligent criticism and to entrench its members deeper in their paranoid delusions. Obscurantism as private therapy can be forgiven, but the proselytizing obscurantism of their dramatic enterprises must be viewed with suspicion and distrust.

The mental content of the paranoid schizophrenic is composed of delusions of persecution and grandeur. There is often an expansive delusional system of omnipotence, genius or special ability.

Let us not look forward to the G.T.G.'s new season of exhibitionism with trepidation, but with scientific curiosity, tempered if possible with sympathy.

A PERSONAL REPLY

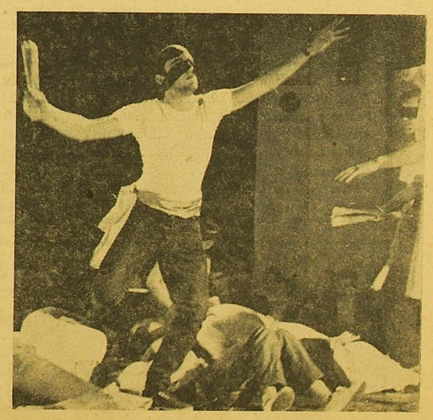
IF a theatre group is to fulfil any worthwhile function within the society in which it operates, it must respond to the criticism which that society levels at it. Different individuals—and the Guild Theatre Group **is** a collection of individuals—will react in varying ways to criticism, some certainly resenting it, but it is ultimately only by an awareness of external and self-criticism that anything can be learned, that artistic experience can improve.

But criticism takes various forms, of varying value. If the author of the above article, is concerned with the artistic quality of G.T.G., which the very writing of the article would suggest, then he should criticise with a view to improvement. This involves criticism of the work we are doing, and of the position we adopt in University society, not invective against the social life that members of the group choose to live.

by Graham Padden

The amount of work we do, probably more than any other society, demands our continual presence in the Union; so that social life, or part of it, tends to be very public. But the fact that we **are** so evident surely makes us more not less "accessible to the normal channels of communication"? We are all willing to talk about the work we do, and would welcome discussion, either 'live' or in print, which is constructive and educative. But criticism of the sort which appears above can be of no value to the Group, the Guild, or, ultimately, the author.

We can only respond to "intelligent criticism" if there is intelligent criticism to respond to.


"Game": the insanity of war.

REDBRICK

ACTION AT LAST

AT last the Guild is taking action which will involve not just a few students but the whole of the student body; negotiation is fine as far as it goes but when the University gets as obstinately entrenched as it has now, our only recourse is to direct action. Representation on Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning and Priorities Committee is the most crucial demand contained in the "Student Role" report, and without it all the rest is meaningless. For all other committees are subordinate to the decisions of these two. In trying to keep student representatives off these two committees, the University is attempting to deny us any real influence in the way we are educated and the way in which we live.

It is unfortunate that we have to resort to such direct methods but we are rather like the suffragettes in that we have no vote and when our arguments are met with unreasoned opposition we can only revert to such action.

This is all too likely to happen while we have a University Council composed mainly of people whose knowledge of academic affairs is rudimentary to say the least. What can we do when we are confronted with people who have not the time to give the Council the attention it deserves—people like Sir George Farmer, whose business commitments understandably force him to view the University as of second importance, and Ald. Mrs. Crosskey, who said last night: "I'm afraid I won't be at the meeting of University Council tomorrow. Anyone who pays good money for Stratford tickets isn't going to throw them away, least of all me."

It is this which raises the question of the validity of the system of university government as at present practised. The structure was set up seventy years ago in conditions vastly different from those which exist today. It is not relevant to the academic community which we are trying to forge; no academic matters should be under the control of Council, which is totally unqualified to deal with such subjects. As one lecturer said last week, "in a society which values democracy the autonomy of the individual, and freedom of learning and research this irresponsible and undemocratic structure cannot be right."

While recognising the worker's right to withdraw his labour it is very strange to think of students going on strike. It is vastly different from a railway strike; we cause inconvenience and financial expense to no one except ourselves, but the position in which we will probably find ourselves will make such a desperate measure unavoidable, and when it comes support must be unanimous.

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FREE THEATRE or 'Knickers to the Lord Chamberlain'

HAIR HAPPENING NUDES— BARRY KYLE, EX-CHAIRMAN OF G.T.G. DESCRIBES CURRENT TRENDS IN THE THEATRE

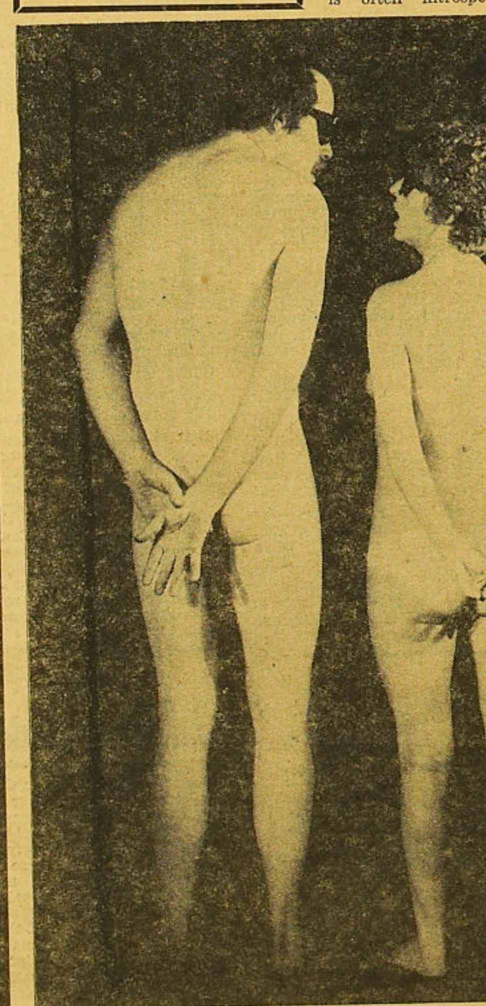
MODERN Engilsh drama has held hands with the Left for 12 years now. It is generally recognised that there w[as a] revolution in the British Theatre in 1956, which was spearhe[aded] by John Osborne's "Look Back in Anger." It was the er[a of] indignation and protest when the anti-hero belatedly made [...] pop music and drama. The Leftist dramatists and direct[ors] Wesker, Osborne, Littlewood, Brook, Marowitz—spoke in terms [of] stimulating action, of art agitating for political change.

Their ideas were best codified by the German paterno[...] Brecht, who believed in a popular, activist theatre and [...] Marxist vision of fate. He believed that political occurr[ences] such as unemployment, declaration of war, etc., were wro[ngly] regarded by people as "acts of God" beyond their control, [...] earthquakes and thunderstorms. Similar stuff to C.N.D. [...] Brechtian theatre sets out to illustrate the authoritarian pres[sures] operating on the individual.

Fine fury from the Bloody Fifties —red flags, beards and folk song. The Angry Modern Theatre, however, went the way of most of the New Left in the late '50's—aimless and unsystematised, it became just a beautiful wail. The Left is notoriously bad at simple public relations (the Wilson administration?) and much the same has happened in the theatre.

It is truly amazing how many otherwise enlightened people, when hearing the term "modern drama" look either bored or disapproving and say "oh—kitchen sink?"

Not only is the essence of the theatre's revolution misunderstood, but few know about the 12 years of constructive theatrical experiment that have followed. Whose fault? Well, not the audience's. Experiment is often introspective and the



"What nudity as beautiful as this?" Scene from "The Nudist Campers Grow and Grow." (Photo: Bill Angove)

theatre, like film, is at lea[...] guilty of bolting and lea[...] audience behind, sitting [...] cart.

Now, 1968, the avant garde [...] is apolitical, just as the hippies [...] initially apolitical. It remains [...] ist insofar as its interests are [...] revolutionary—yet the aim is not revolution of society, but [...] lution of the mind. "No pe[...] Vietnam without peace in [...] Self."

The vanguard of this move[...] has just arrived in London [...] the American Love/Rock [...] "Hair." Indisputedly this [...] the revolutionary voice of the [...] The shock of "Hair" is n[...] obvious as the publicised [...] scenes. Rather, it is the fact [...] for the first time in the his[...] the modern English theatre [...] has arrived which works by [...] ing the senses instead of [...] the mind. "Hair" basically [...] story, no characterisation [...] ting.

The running order is ar[...] the middle could have been [...] end; the end at the beginning [...] this is not a pretentious [...] gimmick; it simply doesn't [...] "Line" is provided by the so[...] of them). Songs which ar[...] beautiful (e.g. "What a [...] work is man"—word for w[...] Hamlet), and always lo[...] powerful. There is one p[...] touching song about fel[...] cunnilingus.

The show is nerve [...] batteries of lights shine [...] audience, strobes flash [...] gyrate, shriek and strip [...] and modern. Life unco[...] (literally) its pubic hair [...] ceremony of youth and [...]

For despite its calc[...] scenity (the actors chor[...] at the audience at one [...] does not wallow in sexu[...] selfconsciously celebrates [...] is like sunshine.

But there is something [...] deeply beautiful about "H[...] Greek drama, like Pete[...] "US" and "Oedipus," it co[...] immensely striking sense [...] semble. In "Hair's" Hippy [...] there is the feel of a liv[...] developing on stage. [...] amongst its actors is the [...] shared faith in a new dra[...] way of people living toget[...] is what makes it so com[...] documentation of the new [...] Revolution. In creating [...] munities functioning on [...] common values, there is [...] dence of an alternative [...]

The dynamics and the [...] works of "Hair" are im[...] one other reason. The[...] some years faced eclipse [...] T.V. There are many [...] drama (naturalism p[...] which these media si[...] better. For the theatre [...] it has to exploit its uni[...] age: it is a live, plastic [...] This has encouraged the [...] pation with "audience [...] tion." Of course, partici[...] a new technique, for [...] people it has meant [...] things. Aristotle thought [...] catharsis; Brecht— "[...]

"The Tribe" gyrate in the London production of "Hair." (Photo: Morris Newcombe)

[...] now it tends to mean [...] action on the part of the [...]e.

[...]ticularly good example re[...]s a production of Ed Ber[...] The Nudist Campers Grow [...]w" by an excellent London [...], "Interaction." The play [...] couple in a nudist camp [...] down to naked flesh and [...]ies. When you enter the [...]—a cellar in fact—you are [...] a fig leaf—"just in case [...] to join in." The girl in [...] (a member of the audi[...] joined in, but then she was [...] the company to sit in the [...] at every performance and [...] Big Peel. I saw the show [...] and only once did a [...] member of the audience [...] plunge and join in.

[...] a large, ungainly man, [...] withdrawn, who had more [...] me anyway, took off [...] and walked into the [...]. It should have been ex[...] or defiant, or lecherous— [...] spirited—but instead he was [...] uncertain. For one split [...] there appeared with im[...] clarity an expression on his [...] said: "Well, what do I [...]? Help me for Godsake." [...] disappeared behind a cur[...].

[...] the most obscene and [...] thing I have ever seen. [...] an ugly man appeared [...] stage and lost dignity, but [...] he was let down and lost [...] dignity. Simone Weill [...] that obscenity was when a [...] made into a mechanism or [...]. This was it. The moral [...] show was that participation [...] mean liberation.

[...]tion" is the aim of the new [...] theatre, but it means some[...] different from what it meant [...] politically orientated '50's. It [...] mean stimulating political [...] or informing public opinion, [...] release of prejudice and in[...]. The Inter-Action group [...] carried this attitude through [...] to education.

[...] of their activities are [...] towards creative play ses[...] with children and the [...] retarded. This kind of ex[...] work, led by the com[...] director, Ed Berman, is very [...] very exciting. At one regu[...] session Berman had with a [...] mental patients in a Lon[...] hospital, one woman came out [...] obsessive image at a group [...] session. "The tree is fallen" [...] peated. Berman later dis[...] the woman had just had a [...] ectomy. By imagising her [...] she had at least partly [...] ed it.

[...]peutic drama is certainly [...] momentum. Many people [...] beginning to think this is [...] drama will in future operate [...] the theatre.

[...] other modern drama pheno[...] has been the Happening [...] this country, and shaped by [...]pean Dadaists of the '20's,

they have nevertheless been highly influential. What is a Happening? The Dadaists furnish examples: Hans Arp, when in the army answering a roll-call by blowing his nose in the flag; Jean-Pierre Duprey urinating on the Eternal Flame at the Arc de Triomphe and putting it out. All these could loosely be called "Happenings." Pop groups have long been using flashing lights on their acts: this they call a Happening.

Hard to define therefore, but most art Happenings or "Events" have been the presentation simultaneously of several unrelated events. They have developed a notoriety for using violent shock-tactics and being totally incomprehensible. This is as intended. It is meant to be a sensual, not an intellectual experience.

One of the best Happenings was the Nude-on-the-Trolley event at the Edinburgh Festival, 1963. It was secretly organised by a young American, Ken Dewey, who wanted to show the delegates of the drama conference an image of themselves.

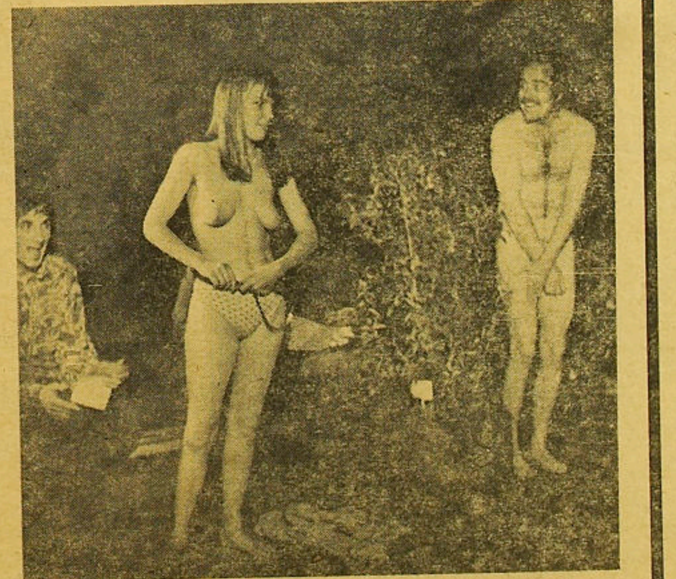
At an agreed moment Charles Marowitz, who was in on the plot, rose to put a resolution to the conference that they officially accept his own personal interpretation of "Waiting for Godot." The resolution slowly became ridiculous, with Marowitz declaring that Beckett's play was really and truly about the American Civil War.

At this point organ music and edited recordings of the week's speeches began very quietly. The actress, Carol Baker, who was on the speaker's platform, got up and ran out of the hall with a wierdy who was beckoning to her from the back. A woman and child walked through the conference hall pointing to the delegates as if they were museum pieces. People appeared on the gallery of the hall shouting to the delegates: "**Me,** can you hear **Me**?" On the same gallery, a nude was wheeled through on a trolley. Of course, all this came as a great shock to the delegates, like Sir Laurence Olivier, and an outraged discussion followed. It had succeeded. The conference, bogged down until the Happening, became truly alive and exciting. Dewey's Happening was a catalyst.

Many people would argue that "Hair" and "Happenings" are not representative of the theatre as it still exists. Only last Thursday week "The Times" announced that 82-year-old Ben Travers, who wrote farces in the '20's, is making a comeback after 16 years. His new play, "Corker's End," opened a week ago at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.

Can one classify **this** as modern drama? Well, I would say no. The theatre of "The Mousetrap" and Ben Travers now has a limited life. Laughs for the fat-bottomed lady will only last as long as the fat-bottomed lady, and she, poor dear, is getting on. And will soon disappear.

Hair grows.



"Take a fig leaf in case you'd like to join in." This girl did. (Photo: Inter Action)

YOUNG BUMLEY

For use in emergency only

EIGHT A.M. yesterday morning saw several devoted members of Redbrick staff and Guild Executive making a bee-line for the several entrances to the University bearing in their arms large piles of rather thin printed sheets of paper which they proceeded to thrust into the hands of bleary-eyed students hurrying to their 9 o'clock lectures. At nine a.m. these were relieved by the less devoted members of Redbrick staff, myself among them, who carried on the good work. The hand-out was of course the emergency edition of Redbrick of which you should all have a copy. Mind you, a lot of people would not take one even though it was free and as many again threw it away as soon as they saw what it was.

Anyway those of you who were good enough to read it will now have a copy which you don't know what to do with. Don't throw it away — there are already enough copies rotting in odd corners round the campus — do something useful with it. Take an example from the student I saw yesterday lunchtime in the "gents." He wandered serenely through the door clutching his free copy, poked his head into every cubicle until he found one aesthetically pleasing and disappeared into it, emerging five minutes later looking relieved —minus one emergency edition of Redbrick.

Other suggestions, paper Concord(e)s, wallpaper, skirts and blouses (kinky), lining drawers etc.

And talking of handouts . . .

Enormous stacks of paperbacks entitled "Directory of Opportunities for Graduates, 1969" have suddenly appeared in the new entrance hall of the Union. The funny thing is that the stacks are staying large — nobody seems to want them. Now let me offer you a bit of fatherly advice — go straight along to the new entrance hall and grab yourself a copy, even if you won't be graduating this year. It's about time you all started thinking about your future because you can't stay here for ever, you know (though some of us are having a damned good try).

If you won't take my advice listen to the words of our esteemed Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, O.B.E., M.P., which appear as the preface to this publication: "It is of the greatest importance that this growing body of students should, on completing their first degree studies, find employment opportunities in which they can make the most of their abilities and of their education." Are you not stirred by these words of wisdom from the man who is so near to all our hearts? (Now then, now then, don't all rush at once. I'm sure there will be a copy for everybody). If, after the first bout of enthusiasm wears off, you decide the content of the handbook is either boring or "just not your scene, man," you can always use it for one of the purposes already suggested for the emergency Redbrick. Only, out of respect, please don't use the P.M's letter for the first mentioned of those.

Gold medal pigeons

I went to the Town Hall on Friday night to see the Incredible String Band and their literaly incredible performance — I won't go into detail as there is a review elsewhere in this issue. Anyway, I was sitting gazing idly around at the "magnificent" decor of the building, strangely enhanced by the wails of the various instruments being played, when my companion started nudging me and pointing at the girl in front of us who I had so far avoided looking at as she was locked in the fond embrace of her loved one and was on a higher plane than myself, so to speak. I at first thought that my companion was making a subtle request for the same treatment but my advances were soon repelled and I realised that I should be looking at this girl's left shoulder which had been rudely soiled by some hateful pigeon.

The sight took me back to my first day in Birmingham. I was hoofing it across Victoria Square to post the first letter to my dearly beloved back home, and feeling all lovelorn and lonely when splat . . . I was hit full on the head. What a welcome to the city of Birmingham! I quickly ran a comb through my hair and hopped on to the first train home, delivering the letter by hand.

My thoughts on these matters lead me to three conclusions. Firstly, pigeons were better shots when I first came to Birmingham though they are by no means bad now; secondly, pigeons are loathesome birds with dishonourable intentions—not, as some people think, innocent, fun-loving creatures; finally, the gentlemen of the city are unaware that such a problem exists and are walking round with white patches on the crowns of their bowlers.

Bumley

VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW

BOOKS
STEVE SCHONBERG

Modern romanticism

"The Boy from the Green Cabaret Tells of his Mother". Poems by Barry MacSweeney (New Authors, 10/-), reviewed by Steven Schonberg.

THE seemingly absurd title, the lurid red-and-green jacket design, the self-consciously fashionable blurb ("in his writing, in his personality, in his following . . .") all suggest that this is yet another attempt by enterprising publishing people to cash in on the current youth craze. They admit that the poems are—not for "young people" God forbid — for "people who are young"; not surprisingly, Mr. MacSweeney is just such a person who also happens to have the astonishingly good luck (or commercial instinct) to be young.

And, unfortunately there is much (perhaps deliberate) childishness and narcissism in his poetry; like titling a poem "To Lynn at Work whose Surname I don't know," and cultivating a pseudo-journalistic style of shortened words.

But a poet of feeling often finds it difficult to avoid the odd bit of sentimentality—for sentimentality, by definition (if it can indeed be defined), is nothing but feeling without the restrictions of circumstance. Or translation: youthful idealism in a world without old people. This sort of contrast is brought out in "Dr Zhivago, love poem":

I leapt into the aisle
hand out
ready to wipe her tears
before they fell
They arrested me for
tearing another
Cinemascope screen with intent

The outside world, the frame of reference, is there provided by the "Cinemascope screen"—but MacSweeney prefers a world of his own—a world of delicate lyricism. Take the simple, almost heartbreaking, beauty of these lines:

The blue cattle of your eyes
grazing on the green of mine.

This is romanticism, but also a romanticism to fit today's world: for the title of the collection is derived from "Au Cabaret Vert," a poem by the French romantic Rimbaud, in which the poet describes the overpowering feeling of maternal security aroused in him by a buxom barmaid. MacSweeney's rendering of this situation is couched in modern images:

Lady powders the nourishing teat
in her platform of bricks.

The most striking quality is the sheer visual brightness of the poems, in which old romantic and new environment are combined in such phrases as "electric violets" (remember the pop record "Neon Rainbow"?). MacSweeney sees himself as a sort of medieval troubadour, travelling from town to town and song to song. And no doubt success to success.

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STATION STREET

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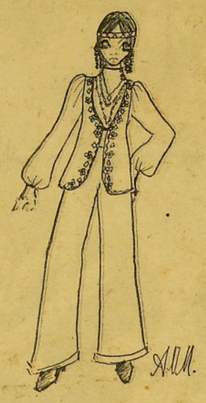
"POLICE"

By SLAWOMIR MROZEK
Directed by GILLES PROVOST
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
at 10.30 p.m.
STUDENTS: 2/6d.
Booking opens Friday, Nov. 1st.



2. Black felt embroidered waistcoat worn over black flared trousers and white crepe shirt.

FASHION
ANNE MOTTRAM

Weskits

WAISTCOAT, "weskit", jerkin or sleeveless jerkin is about the most adaptable fashion trend to appear this autumn. In tweed, with matching skirts, they are appearing in all the shops, starting at £3 10s. at C. and A. They look fantastic over a skinny rib sweater or a floppy blouse. The long jerkin and matching high-waisted skirt shown in the illustration are from Biba's mail-order catalogue. They come in blue/grey or brown/beige tweed and the complete outfit costs only £4 17s. 6d. There is also a toning blouse in flanestre with long full sleeves and a front fly fastening.

A similar outfit would be easy and cheap and would need about 2½ yards of material at the most. Leather and suede skirts with studded waistcoats are well worth the expense—so long as you don't need any other clothes this term.

A smarter and more practical substitute for that long floppy cardigan which seems to find its way into every student's wardrobe is a long knitted "weskit" with self-belt. They look best over a crepon shirt in a contrasting colour with a skirt, culottes or flared trousers; fairly easy to make yourself — otherwise John Craig make them in all colours for about 57/6.

If you prefer dressing up and the look which is a cross between gypsy and last year's hippy make your own waistcoat of black felt and embroider it with silks, sequins and coloured beads which you can buy by the dozen from the Midland Education Centre. Wear it over a crepe mini-dress or a long-sleeved Russian-type blouse and black crepe trousers as wide and flared as possible. Be very extravagant with beads, bracelets and long dangling ear-rings to achieve what one fashion writer called "the ultimate in trendiness." Tie a scarf or headband, Indian - squaw style, round your head.

Footnote: C. & A.—£3—black crepe skirts with matching waist coat for party or evening wear.

Satin or crepe blouses with frills—even with nothing underneath like a cocktail dress.

1. Sleeveless jerkin and matching skirt in mixed amber and dusty blue/grey. Toning blouse in cream, brown or blue. Biba's mail order.

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MARTINS BANK

VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW VIEW

The Incredible String Band. Photo: Pete Brown

CONCERT
GLEN BURROWS

Simple String Band

THE Town Hall is none too sumptuous, but it is Birmingham's very best—balconies, plush seats and all—so one couldn't help noticing the incongruity when the Incredible String Band performed there last Friday. "We're not so cool as we used to be—but we can't see the audience anyway" (says Robin) "they've just got to let themselves go and then our music will come through."

This is their explanation for an apparent ignorance of the presence of a few thousand people, on all sides. Once you've picked up a few threads, their show is a happy, though not exciting, experience—but it's disconcerting to sit around while they chat with each other, and have lengthy practice sessions. Some sort of corny stage patter might have kept up the pretence of rapport but that they haven't the faculty for this sort of arch-showmanship was apparent when they invited a crowd upon the stage to form an impromptu, cacophonic orchestra.

In silence — interminable — people shuffled around—in silence the instruments were handed out—a pregnant silence which was deflated by the mediocrity of the whole experiment. If they're going to use age-old techniques to get laughs they might as well go the whole hog—otherwise the audience has got to use a lot of imagination so as not to get incredibly bored.

Anyway the Town Hall and the expensive - looking programmes struck a false note. The Band would have been more fortunately placed somewhere less formal, playing what turns out to be free, improvised music. You start off a song and never know where it might lead you—if you can manage to hold the pace. They give themselves plenty of leeway in order to make use of all their instruments ("and we're acquiring new skills all the time"). Their voices are bad—especially those of the girls, Licorice and Rose—but not by any standards, since it would be difficult to slap any standard at all on them.

Enthusiasts should not mind this novice's eyeview—the String Band reckon there's room in their hearts for all sorts and conditions. You can listen simply—or you can really "tune-in." I listened simply and was often bored, but their obvious delight in the sounds they were producing saved the show. It is refreshing to hear their well-known songs re-interpreted quite differently. "Swift as the Wind" seemed to gain something from the "Minotaurs Song" as they got carried away in wailing harmony. "Reflections" from the new L.P. (Due for release, shortly) was long and incoherent.

The String Band tie themselves in knots to demonstrate their versatility—and this is the best feature of their performance. Close-up their instruments are beautiful, especially an ornamented gong that Mike plays. Robin talked eagerly about Cornish folk tales, Persian music and his new enthusiasm for Chinese music. They agreed that although the royalties are rolling in and the B.B.C. has bought an option on their planned film, they prefer the simple life and don't care too much for the shekels. They seem a pretty simple set—pleasant and easy to talk to but entirely without any verve or irony in their personalities or conversation. Please—they can't be so easily dismissable—any more profound justification and interpretation of their music is welcome. Members of the audience waved their hands and suggested a wooly enthusiasm for "freak-outs" but surely this couldn't satisfy anyone?

EATING OUT
TANTALUS

Indian

ONCE, not so very long ago, there was only one place in Birmingham to go for a good curry—the Curry Centre, in Bristol Street. Just around the corner from the Scala, by the 11 bus stop, it was ideally situated for students returning from a night in town, and it flourished.

Since those days, the number of Indian restaurants in the city has grown phenomenally, but the Curry Centre kept its place as the best, despite slightly higher prices, until last year. Now, unfortunately, it can no longer hold claims to the premier position, if "Redbrick's" experiences there are to be taken as representative.

Greeted at the door by a bearded, turbaned, disillusioned-looking Indian, the customer is shown to a table by a rather surly head waiter. Sitting amidst the lush, subdued surroundings, one cannot help but be reminded of the last days of the Raj — although the sign "Sahib Toilet" is of dubious authenticity.

We were obliged to sit looking at this sign for over half an hour whilst waiting for our food to be served. Sometimes a long wait is a good sign, as it means that the food is being freshly prepared, but in this case it was probably due more to the restaurant's being fairly full. This in itself is no excuse, as other places rarely take more than a quarter of an hour, even when they are packed out.

The food, when it came, was disappointing—certainly not up to the expected standard. Whilst the boiled rice was not as hot as it might be, the fried rice was gritty for some reason, and not particularly palatable.

The curries were unusual, to say the least. One normally expects Ringhan Josh and Vindaloo to be completely dissimilar dishes, but at the Curry Centre they taste as though made of exactly the same, over-garlicked but otherwise tasteless sauce, with the sole difference that the Vindaloo was very slightly hotter. And the chicken seemed to have been boiled beforehand and thrown into the sauce as an afterthought, rather than actually being curried.

Most disappointing of all was the Meat Dansak. Such meat as there was, was far from fresh, and the remainder of the curry was made up of some anonymous stodge, flavoured with pineapple juice. Even the Brummie sitting opposite said that his Chicken Maryland was not what it used to be, and the two poppodums we ordered still haven't come. So, for the most expensive Indian restaurant in Birmingham (average of 12s. per meal), the Curry Centre is not to be recommended.

Italian

Just across the Ringway from the Curry Centre and in complete contrast to it is Gino's Pizza Bar. Although the attempted effect of an outdoor street cafe does not quite come off, the surroundings are bright and harmonious, and the plastic vines, fishing nets, hanging bottles and Alitalia posters do not look as pseudo as they sound.

Service is normally quick and courteous, although waits of up to 20 minutes are possible when the restaurant is full. As the management goes to great pains to point out, this is because the food is freshly cooked; as indeed the customer can see for himself, for the cooking range is open to the restaurant.

The menu offers a good choice of foods, from the unfortunately-termed "Merrie England Specialities" (e.g. steak and chips) to a wide variety of cheaper Italian dishes, which represent possibly the best gastronomic value in Birmingham.

More than half a dozen Pizzas lie in the price range five to seven shillings, and all are well worth trying. For those who have never tried a Pizza, there is no need for apprehension when confronted by the menu as all the ingredients, with the exception of the basic cheese and pastry, are listed there.

More confusing are the pasta dishes (amongst which, incidentally are listed the risottos) and these can best be individually investigated. Specially recommended is the Canneloni Ripieni con Carne, at 7s., which consists of a seasoned meat stuffing in large pasta envelopes, all in a rich sauce. Also, you can't really go wrong with a Spaghetti at 5s.

The sweets provided are correspondingly good, notably the range of pancakes costing 1s. 6d. each, and a selection of fruit Melbas. In addition, there is a trolley-full of rather garish-looking cakes and trifles, freshly made each day, which we have not yet summoned up the courage to sample.

In conclusion, the restaurant offers a number of liqueur coffees, at around 5s., or a very good coffee-with-cream for 1s. 6d. Gino's is an excellent restaurant, offering superb value and is to be highly recommended.

FILMS
PHIL IRVING

Vive la revolution

THERE is a seemingly endless supply of glossy thrillers moving around the circuits at the moment. A fairly glamorous setting (somewhere exotic on the continent for preference); take a few very rich people; take a few more who want to get richer; take a devious plan to remove the money; start a revolution/kill someone; add quite a lot of sex, all photographed in glorious technicolour, and there you have it. One plastic-coated shiny thriller guaranteed for effortless consumption.

A fairly typical example at the Odeon this week with "House of Cards." George Peppard as Reno Davies, a fast-talking Hemingway-type American living in Paris, getting involved with a group of extreme Right-wing French, plotting a revolution to make France a fit place for themselves to live.

For some reason this is rather more believable of the French than the English.

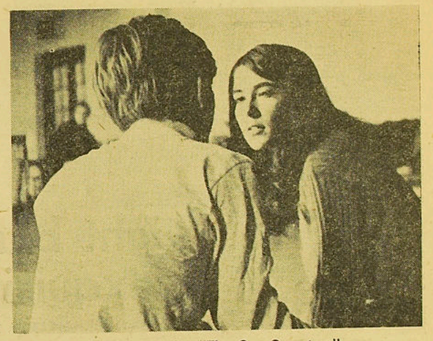
Characterisation is more believable than most of the genre—putting the film slightly above other very similar ones. Overall, it's not really worth the effort.

At the Scala this week Dino de Laurentis, supported by Henry Fonda and Audrey Hepburn, take on "War and Peace." The original book is probably in there somewhere, but unfortunately, one only sees their side of the story. Admittedly, the book is a very difficult one to film, but surely they could have done better than convert the whole thing into Hollywood soap-opera.

Compressed into 3½ hours screen time, most of the book's events either disappear completely or are reduced to such ludicrously short lengths that they lose all continuity; the film falling apart into a series of short sketches. It might have been expected that having compressed the events so much, the film would at least have been fast-moving, but no, it drags horribly

Audrey Hepburn as Natasha is the best performance of a very indifferent cast; they do not convey any sense of time passing, to form a framework into which the book's events can be fitted.

They might have been doing this anywhere, any time.



Rehearsal for "The Car Cemetery".

GTG PREVIEW
SEBASTIAN BERGMAN

Cemetery for everyone

A COMMON criticism flung at G.T.G. and all its members is that it's a "pseudo-intellectual clique catering for the interests of a so-called "artistic minority." From a distance this might appear to be true. Actors, director and stage staff having found a common talking point stick together not so much in defiance of the rest of our student body but move from the difficulty of trying to persuade others that what they are doing is of value to the rest of the community.

This is not to say that I entirely agree with this term's selection of plays but it seems to me that until our university decides to make a more positive approach to all that occurs on the campus, until each individual student has made a more realistic evaluation of his position, and until the students of Birmingham University in particular have made a more positive demand for experiment, we must continue to cater for the mass audience no matter how conservative it may appear to be.

"The Car Cemetery" is not a conservative play, nor have its rehearsals been conservative, nor are its actors — ranging from Jamaica to the Chemistry faculty — each member of this cast has been encouraged to do their own creative work while I have attempted only to give it some shape and discipline. Eleven out of a total of fourteen members of the cast have never performed for G.T.G. before; this meant that one particular element of "The Car Cemetery" has been adequately illustrated — its naiveness, it simplicity. Anyone can understand this simple parable set in the wasteland of materialistic civilisation, with all its connotations of a lost paradise and a sagging society.

The performances are taking place on the 6th, 7th and 8th of November at 8 p.m. in Deb. Hall. This play is for everyone, not just the "cultured" or for G.T.G. It is a play that directly or indirectly affects you all.

sport 1

SOCCER

BROWN MAKES SURVIVAL ODDS-ON

BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 1, NOTTINGHAM 0.

FOR the first time in several years Birmingham looks odd-on to survive the qualifying rounds of the U.A.U. Soccer Championship. A goal by Bas Brown in the 50th minute gave the University team victory over Nottingham and with only Warwick and Keele to play they should go through to the Midland Area Final.

A 1-0 scoreline is not convincing but Birmingham were always on top and only good goalkeeping prevented further goals. Three times in the first 15 minutes the speedy Maile rounded the centre-half only to be thwarted by good saves.

Nottingham's attack was completely overwhelmed by the strong tackling and tigerish attitude of the whole defence. Everyone was working hard, particularly Hughes on the left-wing. Shortly before half-time Birmingham almost scored twice. First Brown, on the right-wing, made the full-back look an idiot by slipping the ball through his legs. His cross was narrowly headed wide by Hughes. He again provided a good pass for Hart to blast the ball just over the bar.

At half-time Birmingham decided to drop a mainly defensive role in an attempt to get the all-important goal. It took just five minutes. A corner from the left was palmed out by the goalkeeper. Maile headed back, the 'keeper again dropped the ball and Brown forced it home through a mass of defenders.

by MEL BIRKENSHAW

Sustaining the pressure Hughes came close with a header from Craine's cross. Hughes' heading ability, despite a lack of inches, prompts a fair comparison with Cliff Jones. Set up with scoring chances Maile prompted a brilliant save from the 'keeper and five minutes later Hughes shot wide.

With ten minutes to go Nottingham managed their first direct shot at goal. Their star inside-forward Headey who had been well controlled by Hart produced a low 25-yard shot which bounced awkwardly and Finch only just managed to bundle it round for a corner. From the corner after a scramble Birmingham escaped narrowly when the Nottingham inside-left hit the post with a curling shot. Eastman promptly cleared the danger but the scare was enough to make Birmingham play the last few minutes very cautiously.

Andy Maile and Dave Hughes who played a large part in the U.A.U. victory, taking on Sheffield at West Hills on Saturday. Photo by Chris Robinson.

2nd XI SOCCER

Brilliant goalkeeping by Jock Lyle

Birmingham University 1, Nottingham 1.

A SERIES of brilliant saves from goalkeeper Lyle helped the Second XI to force a draw in their U.A.U. game against Nottingham. With only Warwick and Keele still to play, the 1—1 draw means that the team should have little difficulty in reaching the Midland Area Final.

With Nottingham unbeaten this season and the second XI having lost only once, the game started at a very fast pace. Nottingham scored from a corner after only 10 minutes, but, unaffected by this, the seconds attacked strongly and came close to equalising. After 15 minutes they did level the scores when a Nottingham defender deflected a swinging corner from Rog Dobson into his own net.

Birmingham were on top until half-time, but from then on they had their backs to the wall. The defence played extremely well, but it was 'keeper Lyle who saved the day.

Birmingham University 11, Birmingham Municipal 0.

Dave Hatton banged in five in this totally one-sided game to take the 2nd XI through to the next round of the Birmingham Junior Cup.

A strong defence and an unstoppable attack combined to put six in in the first half, and five in the second.

Team: J. Lyle; M. Storr, P. Homan; D. Wormley, M. Shaw, D. Barraclough; P. Oldfield, P. Davies, J. Yapp, D. Hatton, R. Dobson.

BASKET BALL

Light blues fall to exquisite T.P.

BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 62, CAMBRIDGE 41.

WITH the scalps of North Staffs and Leeds dangling from their belts, the Birmingham Tower-Power squad travelled to Nottingham last Wednesday, only to find that administrative blunders left them without a court and Nottingham were forced to concede the game. On Saturday, against a Cambridge team with several Americans, the T-P squad rankled by a two-point defeat last year, was inspired to its most exquisite display yet.

John Simons, vaguely like Samson after his temptation, yet still retaining a vestige of his former strength, swiftly stuffed eight points in eight minutes. Goaded by these efforts, the Squad worked the ball well and jump-shot, like it was a sin to miss. "Ulli" Bergmann shot with delectable sweetness, while Neil Dewhurst, Paul Patterson and Keith Booth crunchingly crashed for rebounds. Passing sharply and making use of their heads in defence, Mick Collier, Bob Graves and Vick Gregorian all starred and at the end of the half, the Squad towered by 37 to 18.

To follow this manifest effulgence was difficult and the Squad slowed the tempo. The half was punctuated by the jump-shot of Chris Russell and John Lord, taking the final score to 62—41.

In a frantic flurry, the Squad leader accumulated eight points in a couple of minutes, giving him a personal total of 15 points. Thanks go to the intrepid, tumultuously-applauding followers of the Squad, whose comet of basketball skill flares once more in the University firmament on Wednesday when they play Warwick.

ATHLETICS

RALPH RETURNS

This Saturday the University entertains the Athletic might of Oxford, up on the track, beginning at 2.30 p.m. Ralph Banthorpe will celebrate his triumphant return from Mexico, by running in the 330 yards.

Making a comeback will be "Mush" Middleton in the 660 yards and Perry Christie, former Deb. Sec. Chairman, in the triple jump.

JUDO

Sheffield thrown

Sheffield University Judo Club arrived at the University last Wednesday, with an incomplete team and consequently the fixture was something of a disappointment. Birmingham won the match by 30 points to 10; by one "throw," one "foot-sweep" and one "hold-down" against a single "throw."

The return match promises to be more eventful as a ladies' team will also take part.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Cambridge beaten by record score

BIRMINGHAM 9, CAMBRIDGE 0.

PLAYING at Girton College on Wednesday, the Birmingham 1st XI crushed Cambridge 1st XI by the largest margin ever, nine goals to one.

The game began at a cracking pace and it looked as if the Birmingham team were going to suffer a heavy defeat. However, slowly but surely they began to recover from the long coach journey and the many cream cakes they had eaten for lunch.

From then on, every time the Birmingham forwards got near to the Cambridge goal they scored and praised must go to the Birmingham defence for ensuring that all the Cambridge attacks came to nought.

In the second half, Birmingham maintained their high rate of scoring. Right-inner, Rose Lown, reached a total of five goals and thus keeps her place as top scorer, since Margaret Pike, the other contender, only managed to score one in this game. The remaining three goals were all taken by Gill Smith.

It is significant that the Cambridge goal came from a deflection off a very wide shot.

The 2nd XI also won their match against Cambridge 4-1 and on Saturday continued the winning streak, Ably led by captain Jean Robinson, who scored three goals, they succeeded in defeating the Warwick University 1st XI 5-4 in their second W.I.V.A.B. match of the season.

TABLE-TENNIS

Poor show by Notts.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 13, NOTTINGHAM 2

NOTTINGHAM offered only tcken resistance in Birmingham's first U.A.U. match of the season. The final result was a 13-2 slaughter for the visitors.

The sole exception was R. Judd, the Nottingham number one, who won the two sets and stretched Birmingham's star, England junior Brian Mitchell, to three games.

Birmingham 8, Manchester 7

There was much more excitement against Manchester. After several "thrillers," the score stood at 7-7. Steve O'Neale in good form made no mistake in clinching the final match.

SQUASH

Ahluwalia in top form

THE Squash Team started their U.A.U. fixtures with a fine 5—2 victory at Nottingham. Jug Ahluwalia, playing very well, set the pace with a win over G. Seaman in three straight games. J. McCollum and J. Phipps at two and three eventually lost after very hard fought games, while P. Graetz and W. Perrie had good wins at four and five, also after close games.

The first team are meeting with less success in the league matches, so far, and are a little out of their class in the First Division. Jug, however, is setting a captain's example and playing exceptionally well, has beaten three county players out of four matches.

Following a win over the Staffordshire No. 5 at Coventry, Jim McCollum has achieved the distinction of being asked to play for his county.

talking point

THE closing of the Olympic Games last Sunday, has done nothing to alleviate the complex problem of "Commercialism," or what is supposed to be Amateur sport. The original intention of the Olympic Games was to provide an arena, in which competitors from all nations could assemble and try to prove their supremacy over all their rivals, in conditions which were not only fair but were also seen to be equal for all those taking part. Indeed, even the idea of teams competing in the Olympic Games was completely alien to the intentions of the original organisers.

COMMERCIALISM

The effects of "Commercialism" have been seen in all sports recently, but none more so than in the athletics stadiums of the world. Firms have for some time been supplying shoes to international, but the flow of free equipment being provided has been increasing rapidly just recently. Furthermore, these firms have blatantly contravened Olympic rules, by paying some Olympic finalists to appear in their particular brand of shoes. Some athletes, having had second thoughts about this, have given back their fees, a gesture which has brought this practice out into the open for the first time.

An Olympic Committee is at present sitting to decide whether or not the offending medal winners should be asked to give back their medals. It would be wrong to blame the firms for attempting to boost their sales in a way which society in general finds quite acceptable. They are in the business to make money, and to do so, when and wherever they can. It becomes equally difficult to blame the athletes themselves, when one considers for how long they have had to train; how much money they have spent in travelling and other training expenses, in their quest to reach the top of their sport.

Behind the Iron Curtain, it is standard practice for members of the sports elite to be given jobs which allow them to train when and where they like. They receive generous allowances including housing throughout their careers, none of which the International Olympic Committee seems to regard as a serious contravention of its rules. It is little wonder that the western athlete feels like a poor man's son compared with his eastern rivals.

ONLY WAY

It has become quite evident that the only way to achieve success in the Games is to approach them in a thoroughly professional manner. The choice of Mexico was undoubtedly an encouragement to prepare competitors in a much more professional way than ever before. The rewards for taking this attitude are clearly shown by the results: Russia, America and France all of whom set up special training camps at altitude, all succeeded in winning a considerable number of medals, even though countries like Kenya and Mexico had the distinct advantage, with the Game's venue being at altitude.

The education system has been used in America to provide it with the biggest pool of athletic talent in the world. University scholarships for sportsmen, and women must be considered, if Britain is to improve her standing on the International sports field.

In International Athletics these days, it is no use referring back to rules made for the last century. The time has come to face up to the fact that, if athletics is to become fair competition again, it must be opened up to include all the methods and advantages of society today.

There seems little chance of any liberalisation going too far, because, as a sport it is very poor, even though the sponsors it has got have been very generous, ever since the war. Commercialism is inevitably bound to continue, no matter what the International Olympic Committee say; so why not learn to live with it, and maybe benefit from the money it can bring into the sport?

PETE GRIFFITHS

RESULTS

SOCCER

Wanderers 6, Redditch Wed. 2
Wanderers 2, Shef. Univ. 2nd XI 2
Mermaids 1, Gas Board 0
1st XI 1, Sheffield Univ. 0

sport 2

CROSS-COUNTRY

Good running splits Northerners

by ANDY HOLDEN

THE standard of the field for the Manchester University cross-country relay was much higher than in recent years. This, plus the excellent weather and course conditions, resulted in no less than 12 runners beating the old course record of 10 minutes. It was thus a magnificent performance on the part of the Birmingham squad to gain second place.

The fight for the team title was extremely keen, with Bradford, Manchester, Durham and Leeds contesting the lead on the first few laps and keeping the level of excitement high. By the end of the third lap, Birmingham had moved into the fourth spot with Gavin Jones, John Eley and Roger Brown all putting in good runs.

Malcolm Thomas completed a scintillating leg, pulling Birmingham into 3rd place overall, very close to the teams from Leeds and Manchester Universities. Up until this time their northern rivals had outweighed Birmingham into their positions as likely medal winners, but now thanks to Mal's great effort Birmingham were in with a genuine chance of victory.

Considering the exploits of the previous night Pete Griffiths ran surprisingly steadily on the next leg, and at the final take-over the Birmingham team were only 20 seconds behind the leaders Leeds and 10 seconds behind the Manchester squad. Andy Holden, running the anchor leg, soon overtook the Manchester runner, but in the later stages of the lap, he found that 20 seconds was just too much to take out of British Universities champion Frank Biscoe, and had to settle for second place. Nevertheless to take second place in this company was a wonderful overall team effort on the part of the Birmingham boys.

The Birmingham "B" team also ran exceptionally well to take tenth place with Steve Gibbons and Ron Taylor making outstanding contributions. In fact it took a record-shattering lap by Ricky Wilde, who found the climate of his native Manchester to his liking, to put Aston "A" team just 9 seconds in front of them.

Results:—
1 Leeds University, 59m. 37s.
2 Birmingham Univ., 59m. 49s.
3 Manchester Univ., 00m. 22s.

Guesting in a match at R.A.F. Cranwell, last Wednesday, three Birmingham runners acquited themselves well. Geno finished 6th covering the five-mile course in 27m. 24s. G. Hilder was clocked at 31m. 24s. and following close behind, B. Spearing at 32m. 14s., completing the Birmingham representatives.

GOLF

FIRST, BUT VITAL VICTORY

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 5, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY 1

THE university won its first match of the season, out of six played, against Nottingham University last week. The final score was five games to one.

Two good victories were recorded for Mike Patterson and Allan Cox, winning 6 and 5, and 6 and 4 respectively. For Mike Patterson this was the first success of the present season and at the end of his game he was only two over par.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 2, EDGBASTON 4

Tim Bowdler, doing perhaps more than his share of the work, playing with P. Birtwistle, won one up against Edgbaston. The other winning pair was J. Armitage and R. Linter. It is important to note that Andrew Dathan might just as well have played on his own for all the assistance he received from his partner.

With a match against Bangor next week, the University can hardly fail to improve its record—or can it?

MEN'S HOCKEY

Early goals beat B'ham

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY 2, BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 0

THE University made a disastrous start to the Men's Hockey U.A.U. Championship, when they were beaten by two goals scored in the opening minutes of their game at Nottingham, after bad errors of judgment by goalkeeper Buchanan.

Despite the University's superior midfield play, they were never able to break down the stalemate, and their attacks failed in sight of the Nottingham goal. The relatively low standard of hockey played must have been due, in part at least, to the appalling Nottingham pitch and unspectacular umpiring.

NOTTS. 2nd XI HOCKEY 1, BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 2nd XI 4

The 2nd XI continued their successful and unbeaten run at the expense of an undistinguished Nottingham side. Hill, at centre-forward, netted a fine hat-trick, and Broadway made one of his rare appearances as a goal scorer to get the fourth.

WATER POLO

Third quarter equaliser forces replay

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 1 NOTTINGHAM 1

AN equaliser in the third quarter forced a replay in the U.A.U. Water Polo match at Nottingham. It was Birmingham's second match of the season and the team showed considerable promise.

Nottingham put on the pressure from the start and this resulted in an early goal. During this first quarter Birmingham suffered another setback when Martin Thomas cut an eyelid. Fortunately the injury was not serious but team captain Kevin Moran though suffering from sinusitis substituted and this injected fresh vigour into Birmingham's efforts.

Excellent goalkeeping by Ron Bush kept the Nottingham attack at bay. The equaliser came with a lob over shoulder flick from Clive Bunkley which completely baffled the Nottingham goalie.

(Photo: Chris Robinson)

Rugged tackling failed to halt Old Hulmneians from swamping Birmingham on Saturday.

MEN'S LACROSSE

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT

BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 3, OLD HULMEIANS EXTRA "A" 12.

DESPITE the results of the Lacrosse Team's opening games this season, there is a feeling of confidence within the team that they will soon hit a period of much better form. Indicative of this was a promising display, in the last match, by Steve Tittrer, who rounded the day off with a goal. Further goals from Williams and Farrer gave some respectability to the 7-3 half-time score, and Old Hulmeians three goals without reply in the second half belies the even distribution of play.

Birmingham's principal weakness was the inability to follow up and take the half chances that Hulmeians' superior anticipation turned into goals. During long periods of pressure, the University was unable to score, but comfort can be taken from the fact that the team displayed more co-ordination and understanding than before. Considering the presence of five new players in the team, the prospects for improvement seem good.

CANOEING

LANGFORD PIPS PRINCE

AN open slalom event was held last Sunday on the River Terrie, Ludlow, Shropshire. Weather conditions were not exactly ideal — incessant rain on Sunday, changing the character of the river such that the later competitors gained very little advantage from Saturday practice runs. Though the course lacked imagination, it became very difficult as the river continued to rise, with faster current and upstream gates getting the better of several novices.

Birmingham's captain, Rick Prince, a British International, had a close struggle with Ken Langford, a very experienced fellow international. Rick took the lead on the third run, much to the delight of the Birmingham contingent, only to see Langford show his true class, following him down 3.6sec. faster to snatch victory.

Three Birmingham canoeists, Neil Spinks, Dave Hunter and Peter Gilbert, competing in their first slalom, in the Class II (Novices) event, did very well to finish in the middle of the 40-strong field.

The other Birmingham canoeists, were Pete Gimber, John Rutherford and Ray Maguire (Div. III), who finished around the middle of their class, too.

TENPIN BOWLING

STRENGTH IN DEPTH

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 14, LANCHESTER 2

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY'S Tenpin Bowling team came out of their first inter-varsity match with a resounding victory by 14-2 over Lanchester College, Coventry.

There were good performances by all bowlers in the side, and it was representative of the strength in depth which the tenpin bowling club now possesses.

LADIES' LACROSSE

B'ham L.L.C. never recover

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 11, BIRMINGHAM L.L.C. 7

BIRMINGHAM Ladies' Lacrosse Club never recovered from an onslaught of four goals in the space of a few minutes and were well beaten by the University team.

The speed with which the University team moved from defence to attack and took control of the game can be put down to some amazing play by Linda Boyd (C). As well as maintaining a valuable link she also scored some important goals. Dorothy Mitchell (LA) was marked by a former England player but still managed to take an extremely active part in the game. Pam Got, playing in attack for the first time, adjusted well and shot several goals.

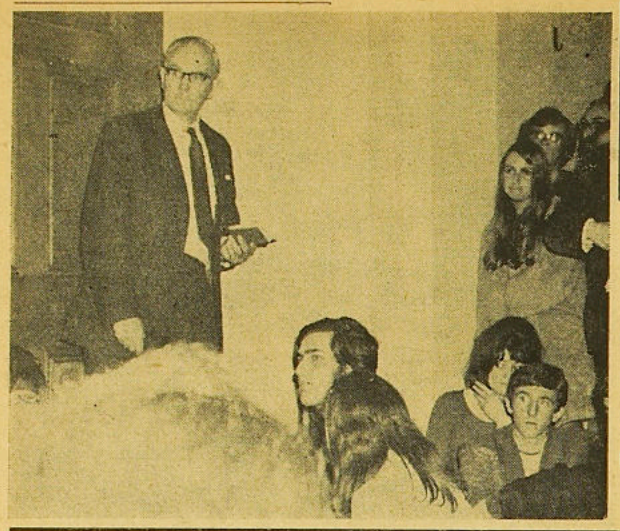
By half-time the score was 7-3. Then Birmingham Ladies directed all their efforts towards shooting goals. Time and again balls were hurled at the goalie who made many good saves. The stickwork of the whole team deteriorated towards the end and Birmingham Ladies took advantage to score several quick goals and make the score 11-7 at the finish.

Morgan scores Birmingham's first try in a second-half come-back in the game against Chester on Bournbrook. Knight and Morgan added to the score but the visitors still ran out 12-8 winners.

THIS WEEK'S SPORT

Wednesday:—
U.A.U. v. Warwick.
Free coach for West Hills—North Car Park, 1.30 p.m.
Soccer. West Hills.
Hockey: West Hills.
Rugby: (2nd XI) Bournbrook.
Squash: Old Gym.
Badminton: Sports Centre.
Water Polo.

Saturday:—
SOCCER
Coventry v. Southampton. k.o. 3.15 p.m.
West Brom. v. Liverpool, k.o. 3 p.m.
Birmingham City v. Oxford, k.o. 3 p.m.
Walsall v. Rotherham, k.o. 3 p.m.
RUGBY
1st XI v. London Hospitals, Bournbrook.
Athletics v. Oxford, 2.30 p.m. Track.



The Vice-Chancellor, Doctor Hunter, surrounded by demonstrators at last week's sit-in. He spoke for over an hour, and heated arguments developed. Since then events have moved dramatically, ending in today's General Meeting and tonight's decision to strike.

(Photo: Pete Brown)

DRASTIC CHANGES IN COUNCIL SET-UP

THE increased attacks on the growing isolation of Executive from both Guild Council and the ordinary members of the Guild by Guild publications are "often justifiable." This admission comes from a discussion paper produced after a recent meeting of Departmental Society committee members.

The paper contains preliminary suggestions for the long-awaited reforms of Guild Council, which are universally felt to be very necessary. The most important point of the discussion paper is the emphasis on increased liaison between Departments and their Guild Councillors; the necessity of ensuring that councillors represent the views of their departments is also strongly emphasised. One way of making Councillors more responsible to their departments is to elect councillors from members of departmental society or staff-student liaison committees; alternatively to make councillors ex-officio on these committees.

The most important suggestion concerning greater communication between councillors and departments is for the holding of faculty and constituency meetings regularly or as the need arises, which would encourage students to take a more active interest in Guild and Departmental affairs. "This is the only valid way to create a lasting interest in the Guild and make Councillors responsible to their departments.

The discussion paper recognises that different departmental societies have different needs, and are concerned with different things, but suggests that the establishment of staff-student liaison committees might tend to make societies concerned more with educational and welfare matters.

This connects with the basic function of the revised Guild Council, as set out in the discussion paper: "Guild Council should deal mainly with the educational, welfare and social problems of its members which couldn't be solved at departmental level, but which involved the Guild as a body, the Students' Union, or making representations at a University Council or Senate level."

Suggestions are also given for the financing of departmental societies and for a changed system of election of Fresher Councillors. The paper will be discussed at next Tuesday's Guild Council meeting, after which further suggestions will be received, and a set of formal recommendations will be drawn up.

Guild Television here to stay

GUILD COUNCIL agreed last night to give £200 per annum to finance Guild television, which has now become as much an established part of University life as "Mermaid", "Wall" or "Redbrick".

It is proposed that G.T.V. will be run by a committee similar to that of the Debating Society, with the Programme Director as Chairman.

The committee will consist of all G.T.V. directors, the Technical Director, a representative from the film production unit, and two representatives from the Guild Council who will reflect opinion but in no way influence the content of programmes.

This means that the Producer will be able to exercise the same final editorial control as the Editor of "Redbrick." G.T.V. will be subject to the Press Council and the Producer will be responsible to Guild Council.

G.T.V. has applied for a grant of £200 per annum. This will be sufficient to produce 20 thirty-minute programmes during the year. The chief expenditure is for wear on the video-tape heads which cost £200 to repair. G.T.V. will have to pay for about half the cost of repairing them. It is responsible for rather less than half the wear at present.

This will leave £100 to pay for films, expenses, taxis etc. The University has been given free, from the B.B.C., 70 one-hour lengths of video-tape and there are 800 more to come. Each can be used 50 or 60 times.

G.T.V. hopes to develop its role in the coming year. Alan Munton said, "We want to do features but as yet we haven't the resources, and we are short-staffed."

Asked about G.T.V.'s relationship with already-established means of communication he said, "We don't see ourselves as competitive to "Redbrick," "Mermaid" or "Wall"; we all compliment each other and our functions are different."

Elvin's followers pledge support

SINCE the beginning of term increasing criticism has been levelled at Elvin McDavid and his Events Committee, our own pages having contained much of this. Doubts have been expressed as to Elvin's ability to efficiently execute his widely varying responsibilities and Events Comm. itself has been criticised for seemingly not merely co-ordinating events but completely taking over their organisation, and thus diminishing the responsibilities of Entertainments Committee.

Two weeks ago 'Redbrick' printed a story on the resignation of Ents. Comm. Chairman, Frances Ody and in the same issue "Young Bumley" was roused to comment on the situation. This was apparently the last straw for Events. Comm. During the week we received a letter from some of their members intended to clarify some uncertainties mentioned in these articles. It stresses that Events. Comm. are attempting to work "within the framework laid down by Guild Council last term." Officially its duties are "to publicise all activities within the Guild throughout the campus by all available channels; to help organise inter-society festivals, conferences and other major events; and to further the cultural activities of the Guild . . . " The letter assures us that Events Comm. has in no way become responsible for most of Ents. Comm's jobs but is merely concerned with "publicity and co-ordination." Finally the members contributing to the letter believe that their vast Festival project can be a success and pledge their "wholehearted" support to Elvin McDavid.

CASH FLOW TO DRY UP?

Students who get their grants from Birmingham Education Committee and who break the law during protest demonstrations may have their grants withdrawn in future. A Birmingham Councillor is to ask the Education Committee to look into this possibility, particularly if it is found that at present, grants can only be stopped when the student is suspended by the University authorities. The councillor felt "this would do a great service to the nation and to the overworked police."

POLITICAL SEMINAR

The first of a series of political seminars is to be held this Sunday, November 3rd at 4.30 p.m. at 24 Constance Road, Birmingham 5. They are being organised by the New Left discussion group and will deal with a specific text each week. The first is by Norman Mailer writing on Hipsters (The White Negro) in "Advertisements for Myself." In future weeks articles by Marcuse, Marx, Debray, Sartre, etc., will be discussed. Further details may be obtained from Trevor Blackwell, Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies.

NO DEMO. FOR ASTON SOCIALIST

IN spite of a turn-out of 30,000 at Sunday's Vietnam demonstration, some people who should have been at the demonstration were not, as they had already been arrested. Among these was Robin Doughty, ex-chairman of Aston University Socialist, who was arrested when the coach on which he was travelling to London was stopped. After questioning the right of the police to search the coach he was taken to West Hendon police station and charged with obstructing the police; he was later granted bail and a 14-day adjournment of his trial.

The search of the Aston coach was one of a systematic series of searches of all coaches bound for London. The coach sponsored by the Birmingham Young Communist League, was searched for offensive weapons twice and stopped a third time; one each occasion the police maintained that they had stopped of their own free will, but one wonders what would have happened had they not stopped. During searches, police removed wooden sticks intended purely for the non-violent purpose of carrying banners, and in one case attempted to remove a hockey-stick belonging to a hitch-hiker who was not even going to the demonstration.

It is interesting to note, however, that in spite of this rather obtuse behaviour on the part of the police, there were no allegations of police brutality in the general reporting of the demonstration—a marked contrast to the allegations after last spring's riot in Grosvenor Square.

See report—Page Two.

GREASE MONKEYS UNITE

EVERY year more and more students are running cars. Since the current cost of motoring is quite high, many of these can only manage it by doing their own maintenance, and yet until now it has not been easy for students to learn about the practical aspects of car maintenance.

At last this omission has been rectified, and starting on Tuesday, November 5th, is a series of Car Maintenance Classes.

They will be completely FREE, and though they are being organied by the Motor Club, they are not restricted to members, and anyone who is interested will be very welcome.

The first meeting, next Tuesday will be in Lecture Room 203. Haworth Building, Chemistry Dept., at 7 p.m. when Mr. H. Ashbury will give a talk on the basic mechanics of a car.

CONCORDE RAG STUNT

SECURITY precautions surrounding Concorde came in for severe criticism during Rag Week in Sheffield University.

An expedition to Bristol made a successful attempt to enter the top security hangar where the Concorde was under close supervision, or so we would assume.

The first attempt to photograph it resulted in a hasty exodus when an alarm bell sounded. One student commented: "We made a hell of a din leaving and why we weren't caught I'll never know!"

The second attempt was a success, after spending two and a half hours inside the airfield the students left, observed only by a herd of cows in the field alongside it.

The stunt has caused consternation, with the result that the Minister of Technology has begun investigations into security precautions at Filton, and the students who pulled the stunt have written to Sir Gerald Nabarro asking him to raise the matter in the House of Commons.

Almost a case of putting the cart before the horse, one might unkindly conjecture.

Wed., 30th
DEBATE
"This House Believes that Marriage is the first resort of the unimaginative"
7.30: Council Chamber

Thursday, 31st
WEIRD HALLOWE'EN PARTY
Bar extension
Buffet
Discotheque
2/6
8 p.m. - FOUNDERS

Thursday, 31st
FILM SOC
"Trans-Europ Express"
Robbe-Grillet - 1963.
7.30 : Haworth

Friday, 1st
"FIREBALL"
Guy Fawkes Dance
"The Kensington Mews"
plus Disco - 5/-
Manor House

Sunday, 3rd
SUNDAY FLIC
"A Patch of Blue"
plus "The Egg & Terry"
7.30 p.m. - 3/-

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