



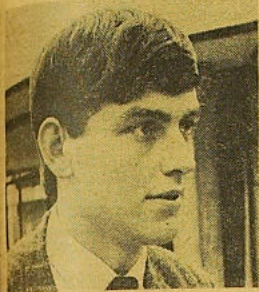
REDBRICK

birmingham
university

PRICE 3d

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th, 1968

5% rise essential—£20,000 loss



MIKE TERRY,
President of Lake Hall.

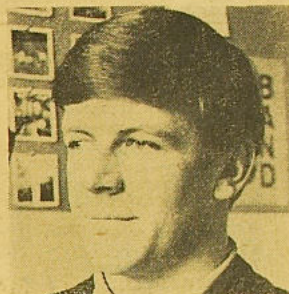
IT IS now known that an estimated loss of over £20,000 is expected on the Vale Site alone next session. Despite the efforts of the Halls Steward, Mr. Currie, who throughout the session has been examining methods of economising in co-operation with the J.C.R. committees an increase in Hall fees of about 5 per cent is essential for the Halls to break even.

Because of the chaotic situation over student grants it has been agreed that the system of reviewing the fees every three years has been abandoned and that any increase will be for next session only. This with the planned economies it is hoped will keep

our fees well below other universities whose halls offer the same facilities.

But the answer lies with the J.C.R. members. They must either accept a greater responsibility in the running of the Halls with more student participation reducing the enormous wages bill or the Halls will attract the financial elite of the students thus altering their whole nature.

Throughout the year the J.C.R. Presidents have been urging economies and are grateful for the co-operation they have received from the administrative staff on the Vale Site, and if they are now backed up by their J.C.R.s the increase could be kept to £10.



PAUL YOUDE,
President of High Hall.

Economies needed on Vale: more student reps. on Halls Committee

WHILE the increase in fees is being considered the eyes of J.C.R.'s and S.C.R.'s alike are turned on the Halls of Residence Committee and its chairman, Dr. Alty.

This body, with NONE of its members resident in a Hall has the ultimate say in the running of all the Halls except University House. If anything causes frustration to the J.C.R. Committees of the various Halls it is the arbitrary way in which decisions are made and imposed upon the S.C.R.'s and J.C.R.'s by this Committee.

This was most apparent last season during the row over mixed dining at High and Ridge. But what exactly is this committee and what is its position?

The structure of the committee is the Deputy Principal, four appointed members of the University Council and seven appointed members of the Senate. The Presidents of the S.C.R.'s are asked to attend the second half of the meetings but are often not consulted on financial matters or long term policy.

The committee rarely meets more than once a term which means that there is always an agonising delay between sugges-

tions being brought forward and decisions being taken. At present the J.C.R.'s are prepared to be patient but there is no reason why they should remain so.

The Halls Administrator, Mr. Marshall, is responsible to the Halls of Residence Committee for the day to day running of the Halls, and while he is prepared to consider the opinions of the J.C.R.'s he is often unable to take decisions without first consulting the committee. It has thus full control of the finance of the Halls and makes very little information available to the J.C.R.s and S.C.R.s.

But if the J.C.R.'s are more aware of the financial aspects of the Halls they can take a much more responsible attitude in the planning of economies in the halls.

The fact that this is the general opinion of students was shown when a J.C.R. meeting in Lake unanimously urged the J.C.R. President to ask again for the full accounts to be made available. It is generally felt that students have a right to know how their money is spent. In fact Dr. Alty agreed that J.C.R. committees should have the opportunity to see the accounts but he has since changed his mind.

Many complaints have been levelled against this committee but the most important is the way it is completely remote from student opinion. One member of the committee after he had visited a hall said that the discussions on the committee had crea-

ted a completely false image of what students in hall were really like.

Unless this fundamental problem can be overcome by representation of hall opinion, this committee can never serve its correct function.

By Mike Terry, Geoff Dufries and
Paul Youde.

But there are other sources for complaint. The visiting hours imposed on the halls are in the opinion of the J.C.R.'s and many S.C.R. members much too restrictive, but individual halls are unable to alter them. Unless they are altered it is felt that the staff-student atmosphere which should exist will never develop while S.C.R. members have to play policemen. It is true that in the halls where regulations are imposed in a more reasonable manner this healthy atmosphere exists.

The committee is also criticised for not meeting often enough. A typical example was the difficulty of vacation residence for overseas students during the nine day period this vacation when all the halls are closed. This was on the agenda for discussion at the last meeting but insufficient time was available for it to be discussed. It has been referred to the meeting next term but meanwhile overseas students have no accommodation in hall over this period.

We would suggest a complete alteration of the present system which would overcome the complaints that at present exist and at the same time fit in with the complex administrative structure. The powers of the Halls of Residence Committee should be limited in such a way that each individual Hall Council should have complete say in the making of internal regulations and the day to day running of the hall. J.C.R. representatives should sit on each Hall Council so that joint decisions can be taken.

The Halls of Residence Committee must still exist and can serve a valuable purpose in long term planning and expenditure and co-ordinating the halls as an integral part of the university and city. They can also have control of the serious problem of security on the Vale Site. We also feel that student opinion should be represented on this committee as was suggested in the Student Role report of Tony Klug. However, it is essential that overall internal matters must be decided internally and thereby recognising the differences between the halls both physically and socially.

It is obvious that the standard of living in the Vale Halls is good but the J.C.R.'s are becoming more aware that the communities which should be developing are being restricted by the present structure.

J.C.R. PRESIDENTS
High Hall, Lake Hall, Mason Hall.

AD-MAN PHILLIPS ELECTED

RAY PHILLIPS became next year's President after the ballot last Thursday. After a distribution of the votes of John Palmer, Maciek Pomian-Szednicki, Sue Jackson and Nelson Bathurst, in accordance with the alternative voting system, Ray Phillips received 1,381 votes against Chris Tyrrell's 1,202.

The count of the first-preference votes was:—
Nelson Bathurst 405
Sue Jackson 274
John Palmer 157
Ray Phillips 838
Maciek Pomian-Szednicki 257
Chris Tyrrell 772
Total number of votes 2,703;
there were 12 spoiled papers.
The poll was only about 40 per cent, a decrease on last

year; apparently, in view of the unprecedented amount of publicity, a far greater turn-out had been expected, and 5,000 ballot-papers were printed.

According to the time-honoured tradition, the Mermaid fountain was turned on, and Ray Phillips placed therein after the result was announced.

LATE NEWS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Editor, "Redbrick":
Graham Barker
Assistant Editor:
Jeremy Laurance
Business Manager:
Pete Ullathorne.

Motion passed at Council expressing sympathy for Francis Clarke, arrested at Demmo on Sunday.



Phillips celebrates by taking a plunge.

(Photo: Ashley Dunn)

Police battle in square

LAST Sunday a hundred Birmingham students took part in the mass demonstration in London in support of the N.L.F., organised by the Vietnam solidarity campaign. Students from all over Britain, with contingents from Europe rallied in Trafalgar Square and, holding banners and flags aloft, to the shout of "Victory for the N.L.F.," marched chanting down Charing Cross Road and into Oxford Street, leaving the fountains flowing red.

The police tried to split the march at one point but despite the flow of traffic, the demonstration surged into Grosvenor Square, to the front of the U.S. embassy.

Building, this was guarded, it seemed, by every available policeman in London, together with twenty or thirty mounted police.

Breaking down wire fences and plants, the demonstration, about ten thousand strong, scrambled to the grass, and pushed forward towards the Embassy. Some began to throw clods of earth and smoke bombs; others seized policemen's helmets, and held them aloft, as the crowd cheered wildly. In amongst the demonstrators, it was difficult to know exactly what was happening. One could hear shouts, jeers and the "Charge" of the mounted police as they rode forward into the crowd trying to break them up.

Then people panicked and tried to run, but with masses behind in front, and on all sides there was nowhere to run to, and one had visions of being trampled underfoot. There were a few scuffles with the police, and arrests seemed arbitrary.

One of the Birmingham students, Francis Clarke, was arrested, beaten on the head by the police and kept in the police station until 11.30 p.m. His case comes up on Friday, and there will be a collection in the Union during this week to help pay his fine.

Aston debagging stunt backfires

AFTER an incident which occurred in the Common Room at Aston University, Robert Forster, the Editor of the "Birmingham Sun" the Aston newspaper, has been directed to appear before the membership committee.

The incident, which occurred on Thursday, March 7th, involved the debagging of Mr. Colin Scott, a well known Aston politician, ex-presidential candidate, and "best hated boy in the Union." During the incident a pint of Guinness was poured over Mr. Scott's alleged and exposed genitals.

After the incident Mr. Scott paraded up and down the Union in his knickers postulating his indignance.

Two other students were debagged the same evening and treated the whole incident as a joke.

However, Mr. Scott lodged an official complaint to the Guild Secretary about Mr. Forster who had, it was alleged, held his right arm during the proceedings.

Mr. Scott told an observer: "I am charging Mr. Forster because he is an Officer of the Guild."

Mr. Scott had been attacked editorially by Mr. Forster who had stated in the "Sun" that Mr. Scott was "pompous to the extreme" and was "over confident to the exclusion of any doubts or reservations."

At the Presidential Elections Mr. Scott was pelted with eggs, fish



Demonstrating outside the Albright & Wilson factory in Birmingham last week. The firm are accused by the demonstrators of manufacturing nerve gas for use in Vietnam.

HANDBOOK MATERIAL

JACK Schofield, editor of the Guild Handbook for the coming session, wants articles, poems, drawings, photographs—in fact, just about anything—for inclusion. Anyone wishing to contribute should have the material ready as soon as possible.



Martin Lowe receives the silver nipple award. "WALL" TROPHY RISES AGAIN

LAST Friday, only hours after the results of the presidential elections had finally been announced, an event of even greater importance took place in the coffee bar. Editor of "Wall," Dick Holt, presented the "Tit of the Year" award for only the second time in the history of the publication.

The recipient for 1967-68 is Martin Lowe, small and well known. The accompanying photograph depicts Mr. Lowe

with his prize, a glass bottle described by Mr. Holt as "the ugliest and cheapest and least useful object I could find."

Mr. Lowe at first seemed rather reluctant to accept the award, but was eventually prevailed upon to see reason. The first Tit of the Year was awarded to Roger Mathew two years ago, when "Wall" was edited by Alan Munton. It elapsed last year in its memorial form, but it is hoped to institute the award as an annual event, possibly with elections for the honour.

Council yes to V.P.

GUILD COUNCIL was condemned as reactionary by Charles Wright after it rejected the first recommendation of the Constitution Committee's report last Tuesday. The recommendation was to abolish the present largely superfluous post of Vice-President and replace it by an expanded post of Guild Secretary, with the Internal Affairs Secretary doing the V.P.'s job of hostess.

This was to be the first of a number of Constitutional reforms, none of which will now be passed until next term. Charles Wright said that most of them must be passed in the end, although with Council at its present inflated size and in its current state of apathy it may take some time. To reduce there was more competition for seats, and therefore the livelier, less reactionary people would be more likely to be elected. Council are at present apathetic because there are too many of them to feel involved.

In the Council meeting at which the reform was rejected Roger Hird criticised the Constitution Committee's work. He said that it was the wrong job given to the wrong committee; the committee was originally re-elected to carry out the constitutional reforms, and instead found itself making major constitutional changes. Roger Hird said later that the committee should be larger, and that its members should have a wider range of experience in Guild affairs; it should also either make general recommendations followed by specific proposals or be mandated to carry out a particular reform.

One means of involving Guild councillors more, suggested by Charles Wright, was to establish Faculty Councils, which might lead to less co-ordination but which would improve the contacts of Guild councillors both among themselves and with their constituents. This would also help to encourage general interest in Guild affairs.

Student banned till summer

—appeal possible

THE Union Disciplinary Board met last Friday, for the first time in two years, to consider a complaint made by Rob Teesdale, Chairman of Catering Committee, as a result of an incident during the bar extension arranged for the Carnival party on Saturday, March 9th.

B.U.M.S. liaison

LATEST in the line of departments who are planning to set up staff-student liaison committees is the Metallurgy Department, who are to hold a meeting tomorrow to investigate the possibilities of the idea. Professor Raynor, head of the department, and Dean of the Faculty of Science, said this week: "The impetus for this idea has come from a number of sources—the flatsman left by many tides—of which the student rôle report is one."

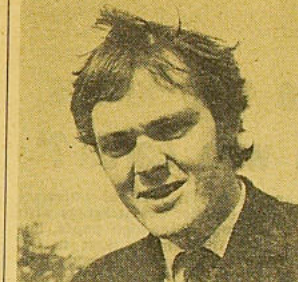
John White, a third year Biochemist, appeared before the Board charged with smashing a beer-glass over another student's head during the bar extension. He was also involved in a fight during a dance last month, after which the question of the advisability of bar extensions was first raised.

White was banned from the Union until early June, but it was decided not to refer his case to the University—possibly in order to avoid an investigation of bar extension facilities.

Although several witnesses affirmed that White was the offender, one stated that the other student was walking past when White tripped him and then shattered the glass over his head. White is likely to appeal against the decision—on the grounds that the student he allegedly attacked did not appear before the Board.

A strong body of opinion feels that White has been victimised (see letter's page), and that the punishment is unnecessarily severe. But this is the kind of offence that could endanger Union facilities such as bar extensions, and the board's decision must be construed partly as a deterrent.

On the other hand, many feel that this was the kind of offence which could have been referred to the University.



Charles Wright, President, who sits on the Disciplinary Board, is determined to stamp out vandalism.

Snooker champion

The final of the "Redbrick" snooker competition took place last night, in two very exciting frames. Dave Clough defeated Clive Barnes, to be proclaimed "Redbrick" snooker champion for 1968; he was given a first prize of five pounds together with the cup.

Police nab bike thieves

SELLY OAK police have succeeded in catching a gang of bicycle thieves who have been operating on the University campus. A trap was set and

the thieves were caught, along with about two dozen bicycles. Anyone who has lost a bicycle within the last few weeks should go to Selly Oak Police Station and not the University Police.

Tory boss drops out

THE failure of the chairman to turn up at the Conservative Association A.G.M. set the tone of a meeting which was characterised by confusion, apathy and indecision. The chronic lack of publicity and the failure of the committee to give the required notice to members contributed to the pathetically small turnout: for one of the largest political societies of the Guild this was a dismally small audience.

Since it was in doubt as to whether the meeting was legal at all, Andrew Hamilton, last year's chairman who had taken the chair, thought it best to secure the election of new officers for the time being until another general meeting could be called next term to do it properly. Henry Pickard was appointed chairman, and Rod Thurman and Pete Ullathorne were made vice-chairmen, unopposed.

The almost total collapse of B.U.C.U.A. this year was condemned by the newly-elected officers; the inactivity and lack of meetings this year has been noticeable, and the inefficiency of the past committee has been characterised by their losing the membership lists.

University steps on postgrads

IT was announced last week that a plan for a new Postgraduate Social Centre has been shelved by the University Planning and Priorities Committee. The freeze on capital expenditure on universities was blamed. Until the Government's attitude to universities changes, the Postgrad Association will have to manage without the new campus pub, which was to have included a study, games room, and a waitress service—Pizza bar, etc.

This was at the end of a successful year for the P.G.A. Where recent activities included a funfair weekend's motorised scavenger hunt—only the President's car getting lost, and a good Rock dance on Saturday night.

Postgrads at Aston are interested in forming a similar Postgraduate Association and will be attending the A.G.M. on Thursday in the Council Chamber to observe our Presidential elections.

HALL ELECTIONS—MILITANCY OPPOSED

LAST week, High and Lake Halls held elections for the President of the J.C.R. At High, Tony Landon was elected by a large majority. At one time it seemed as though he would be elected unopposed, but Keith Gardiner stood as a last-minute candidate.

The new Lake President is Rog Evans, who only just beat Glynn Davies. The defeat of Glynn is thought to have been the result of his advocating student militancy if negotiation with the authorities failed over any major issue.

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MARY'S got big snickers.
PUD'S browned off.
IAN—kipping again?
HUNGRY Les?
CLIVE'S baggies down.
MEN try 45W.
DAVE and Keith tried it again.
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POST-GRAD Association Presidential Election. Council Chamber, tomorrow, Thursday, at 12.00 p.m. All Postgrads should attend this vital meeting.
MEET young people from 135 countries at World Youth Festival, Sophia, Bulgaria, July 28th-August 6th. Details—British Preparatory Committee (Dept. D), 84 Rochester Row, London, S.W.1.
DISCOTHEQUE, 8.00 p.m. Tonight, Ridge. Bar extension. Price 1/-.
HELPER required through Easter Vacation to analyse time-lapse film and pen-chart records of traffic. Dates and terms negotiable. Phone P. Morley, Dept. of Transportation, SEL 1901 ext. 583.
FILMSOC presents Underground Films from London Arts Lab. Haworth, 7.30 tomorrow.
FRIDAY, May 2nd, 8 p.m. Mason Hall in conjunction with Ents. Comm. present Herd, Spooky Tooth Locomotive, Lemon Line—8/-.
DONT forget first Sunday Film of term, April 28th. Psycho plus Tom and Jerry—2/6.
DONT worry folks—it may not be the end for long!!!

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REDBRICK

Debating Society riddled with self-seekers

EVERY student at this university is automatically a member of the Debating Society (as he is also of G.T.G.); this gives Deb. Soc. a potential membership of some six thousand. Surely enough to pack out Council Chamber for every debate, one might naively assume.

Unfortunately, the fortunes of Deb. Soc. are not that rosy, and attendance at debates is pitifully low. Last week's "Redbrick Controversy" debate is a case in point; under 200 people sat in Council Chamber at the start of the debate, but the summing-up speech was delivered to only about 40, the rest having walked out at various stages during the proceedings.

This year's Finals of the Open Debating Tournament managed to draw only 40 people, and Perry Christie, Deb. Soc. Chairman, tried to pin some of the blame on "Redbrick" for not giving it enough publicity. It might be more in order, however, to suggest that the Deb. Soc. malaise is entirely the fault of an inept Deb. Soc. committee.

At the beginning of the "Redbrick" debate, scheduled to start at 5.15, 25 minutes were wasted in reading out the minutes of the previous debate, and in attending to "private member's business." The minutes are boring, badly written, and often embarrassing in their attempts at humour. The face of private member's business consists of Deb. Soc. committee members, or aspirants thereto, standing up and shooting their mouths off, for want of a more accurate but longer description, in the fond imagination that they are contributing something vitally important to the debate.

Deb. Soc., therefore, manages brilliantly to present an image of the tightest clique in the Union (where it should be the most open); its committee maintains some of the worst speakers in the university; and it has only itself to blame if people don't turn up because they know they are going to be bored stiff.

For too long Deb. Soc. has been regarded as a political springboard. One cannot help feeling that it is riddled with self-seekers who gravitate to Deb. Soc. because they have not the will nor the ability to be useful anywhere else.

'Is there anyone who knows, is there anyone who cares?'

THE three-day Presidential election campaign is a time of universal contempt mingled with an underlying sadness; for defeat brings with it not only disappointment at the shattering of too-high hopes, but also a considerable emptiness of pocket. There is no limit to the amount of money a candidate can allot to his campaign, and cases where sums in excess of twenty pounds have been spent are not unheard of (i.e. occur pretty regularly). In terms of money and valuable time wasted alone, defeat can be a crushing blow.

The victor salvages at least the presidency from the wreckage, but even this is not enough to justify an election set-up combining some of the worst elements of eighteenth century English and twentieth century American politics; the man at the very top can only move in one direction, and within weeks the advanced stages are reached in the metamorphosis from golden boy to Union leper.

What were the most significant features of the elections? Most obvious was the unprecedented assault on the mind and eye by posters and similar contrivances; research must be carried out, before next year's undoubted escalation, into the usefulness of putting a dozen posters in a place where one would suffice.

The hustings brought all candidates down to the common level of contemptible buffoons, possibly because there was no striking personality to shine through the chaos—"the best of a bad bunch" was the general verdict on Phillips' victory—and because no genuinely conflicting views on important issues emerged from the predictable morass of student idealism and Union improvements. The lack of any real winning formula was apparent in Phillips' very narrow margin over Chris Tyrrell, and also in the fact that many supporters of both these candidates were openly saying that they would not mind if the "opposition" won.

At present, elections are very much a hit-and-miss affair; if you have no really valid policies but a well-known name, you stand a better chance of being elected than an unknown with an excellent policy. Popularity in its widest sense is perhaps the only worthwhile asset; for, however sincere a candidate may be, he does not increase the number of his friends by trying to build for himself an image which he cannot sustain.

Editor	GRAHAM BARKER
Assistant Editor	JEREMY LAURANCE
Features Editor	DAVE FRASER
Reviews Editor	LINDA POTTER
Sports Editor	DAVE MEACHAM
Design	DAVE ENTWISTLE
Pictures Editor	PETE MILLS
Business Manager	PETE ULLATHORNE

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Jesus stops revolutions

DEAR Sir,—I was very interested to read the letter by "Mr. Hyde" in last week's "Redbrick," and pleased to hear his obvious good sense and honesty. The last paragraph in particular ("peace in individuals before peace between them, before peace between groups, before peace between nations") succinctly sums up the needs of the moment. And yet, I feel that, although he has advanced the answer to the problem (i.e. of peace in the human context), he has given no hint whatsoever of the means of its achievement.

Perhaps we might go back to the firm theme of apathy and violence in the University situation for a beginning of the solution. Both attitudes would seem to have a common cause, working itself out in a different way according to the character of the individual. This root trouble, I believe, is the apparent aimlessness and uselessness of existence in the modern world.

If we have no purpose, the result is some will be complete apathy, the "why bother" kind of attitude; in others it will lead to a revolt in the search to find the answer to the problem. This revolt we can easily see in the actions and attitudes that the older generation make so much of. I think that few people in their more sober moments, would believe that protesting about the war in Vietnam will affect the policies of the nations involved, any more than throwing eggs at Ministers will bring down the Government, but these are an outlet for restless energy—the outward sign of an inward search for identity and purpose.

So much for the problem, from whence the solution? For me it has come from an unexpected source, namely Jesus Christ. As a result of encountering Him, and entrusting my life to Him, I find I am now in tune with the purposes of the unchanging God. I find, somewhat to my surprise, that He does control the world, though men try to make out that this is not true, and so what I do begins to take on a wider significance.

The act of committing brings about an immediate sense of identity and purpose, not merely a shoulder to cry on, or a prop to lean on if things go wrong—for anybody who says that the Christian life is easy is a fool or a fraud; this leads to a marvellous sense of peace and a totally new dimension to the whole of existence.

And so we have returned to the problem; I hope the answer does not appear too easy or good to be true. After four years of being a Christian I am convinced it is true, for it works in my own life. Having worked for me, it will work for others, and hence for nations.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PATTISON
(Medic III).

Why vivisection?

DEAR Sir,—Two years ago I appealed in "Redbrick" for someone to explain to me why vivisection is necessary. Though I got a number of puzzled looks no one came forward with a sensible argument to support the use of animals for research and teaching.

The battle between those for and against vivisection is an old one; both groups sit defiantly on their own sides of a rather high fence, hurling mud and dirty looks at each other.

The anti-vivisectionists imagine that those who use animals in experiments are bearded, inhuman creatures who love nothing better than an hour or two with someone else's pet pussy and a sharp knife. And the scientists picture their opponents as militant old ladies, fiercely wielding pointed umbrellas and surrounded by dozens of tabby cats.

The battle has raged for so long that the on-lookers have tired and except for the isolated occasion when one of the participants throws a marvellous, exceptional size, the general public is content to ignore the childishness of both groups.

The Royal Commission of 1906-12 stated that "experiments upon animals adequately safeguarded by law, faithfully administered are morally justified by the need for research in the physical sciences." The Littlewood Committee published a report in 1965 supporting this opinion.

So the 10,000 people in this country who hold licences to conduct vivisection experiments are safe; and because they are legally protected they refuse to answer criticisms.

According to information with which the Home Office supplied me, the number of licensed vivisectionists has more than doubled in the last six years. There has clearly been a vast increase in the number of research work involving animal experiments, or in the number of animals used for demonstration purposes.

There is an obvious distinction between people using live animals for research and those using animals for teaching. There is no excuse at all for the latter. This wholesale slaughter of animals cannot be supported by any sensible argument. In the medical school alone, thousands of rats, cats, rabbits and frogs are used every year to explain simple principles which could just as easily be explained in a demonstration film, if they needed to be demonstrated at all.

Though I have no licence I have operated on rats, rabbits and cats in the physiology department. There was really no need for any of the experiments, and animals are treated like disposable syringes by most of the teaching staff.

There is a better argument supporting the use of animals for research purposes. But for the moment, it is used that is necessary. It is a well known fact that most research has no practical purpose but is conducted because the worker needs to produce a paper of some sort. And much of the research which will have some meaning in future medicine is duplicated quite unnecessarily.

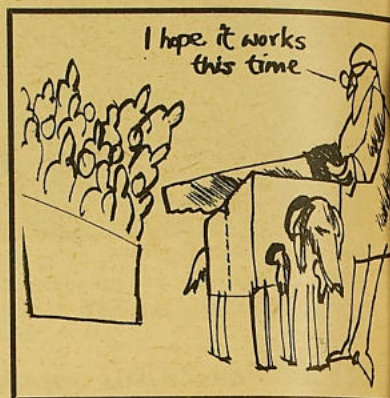
LETTERS

Unfortunately, the anti-vivisectionists have ruined their chances of putting a stop to the waste of animals, by exaggerating their case they have alienated themselves from the public who are naturally enough, enthusiastic in their support of medical research.

Ideally, of course, most people would like to see experiments conducted without the use of animals. There are, however, some experiments which are worthwhile and which need animals. It is a pity that most scientists are too pigheaded to acknowledge this, for if the number of animals involved continues to increase at the present rate, there will come a time when existing legislation will have to be strengthened to a considerable amount to satisfy mounting public discontent.

Yours faithfully,

VERNON COLEMAN
Medical School



'Hora' make £300

DEAR Sir,—As the organiser of the "Hora" I would like to protest very strongly against Redbrick's coverage of this Carnival stunt. It would suggest that in future your reporters take the trouble to go next door to Carnival offices to verify their remarks. I alude of course to the fact that your reporter claimed that the "Hora" raised "little money for charity"; since we raised over £300 on this stunt alone I cannot see the justification for this remark.

Yours sincerely,
NAOMI GOLDSTEIN

Hamlet—Monkey rumpus

DEAR Sir,—After being censured as "scurrilous" in last week's debate, it seems that yet another article has been driven into the coffin of any reputation "Redbrick" may have had for accurate reporting.

Last week's issue, an article appeared on page 10 headed "Budget Hamlet to take trip," which was an enquiry at G.T.G. office or, no doubt, previous to the production of his own play "Monkey." The policy decision by G.T.G. was that this year be a year of popular and experimental work, and was further detailed to a decision that in the coming term, the group proper and its workshop combine to work up a new play for presentation at Birmingham and at the International Festival, France. At a meeting which was held in the project, the committee were presented with Alan Booth's production of "the bad boy of Hamlet," which had already been cast and rehearsed outside the auspices of G.T.G., and was being used as a basis for training in the workshop. "Monkey," an unperformed script, was the previous policy decision—"Hamlet," was to be performed in the tenth week, and not G.T.G. chose it as the Spring production.

The committee decided to present "Monkey" in the tenth week, and offer it as our entry to the Festival, granting it, being a G.T.G. major production, a budget of £110. Considering the value of the production of "Hamlet," it was further decided to give Alan Booth to bring the production under the auspices of G.T.G., and that G.T.G. should provide the cost of production. And later, the dates of the Liege Festival were known, the chairman should invite Alan to take "Hamlet," with a further £10 subsidy from G.T.G. must be emphasised that these decisions were made by the committee as a whole, and not by Alan Booth, as the snide and inaccurate comment in your photograph implied.

These are the facts which were represented by your placing "a direct squeeze on the Alan Booth's production," with a meagre £110. I believe that far from feeling "a lack of support" Alan would agree that he has been given the assistance by G.T.G., and I do not understand how you can make this criticism in the same breath as saying that Alan is "not being" or "not conscious" of "Redbrick's" of the damaging which the tone of an article can have? While the fact that your reporter claimed that the "Hora" raised "little money for charity"; since we raised over £300 on this stunt alone I cannot see the justification for this remark.

Yours etc.,
GRAHAM PADDEN (G.T.G. Committee).

Unjust sentence

DEAR Sir,—We are writing to complain of the unjust, as we see it, suspension of J. White from the Union from Tuesday until June 9th. We consider the sentence unjust for the following reasons:

The article in "Redbrick" was biased in that it spoke of an "attack" making the whole thing sound unprovoked. It also had a last paragraph which could only alienate public opinion from White, and which was unnecessary to the story.

The victim of this "attack" did not consider the affair worthy of a complaint to the Board, and has said that the thing is ridiculous. He was not badly hurt, and did not even attend the proceedings. (This itself shows that the Board did not make any attempt to contact all witnesses. Only those demanded by the prosecution were called officially.)

The person who did press charges said he was asked to do so by the bar staff. If he was, it was either not that night (unlikely), or it was whispered, as one witness said he never heard any of the bar staff ask for such action. In fact, the most annoyed member of the bar staff, Mr. Hewitt, said later that he did not want to give evidence and was "dragged" into it. The person who did press charges, one Robert Teesdale, was not even present at the time of the incident, and was influenced by the sight of blood. The wound, as all head wounds are, was not nearly as bad as it might have seemed to the hurrying Teesdale.

Finally, two points of procedure: firstly, White's right to object to the composition of the board was denied by the fact of the late arrival of the letter summoning him to appear before it. He did not see the letter until after the time allowed him to object. Secondly, the voice of the Secretary, R. T. Jones, was heard raised several times through the proceedings. This makes it seem likely that he was indulging in argument. This is not allowed by the Constitution. He is there solely to record and advise when asked.

Yours faithfully,

T. M. GONDON
(Hist./Am. Stud. III),
D. PURSER
(Post. Grad., Physiology),
P. STEPHENSON
(Latin III),
BRIAN COOPE
(Ind. Met. III),
M. F. VYBIRAL
(Mech. Eng. II).

What's happening to Redbrick

DEAR Sir,—I would like to criticise this week's edition of "Redbrick" and lament the abolition of a number of what used to be this newspaper's only reasonably inspired columns.

The personal column has gone! It must be difficult for those members of "Redbrick's" staff who spend many hours a week combing the campus for news, keeping themselves in touch with the week's events and non-events, researching far and wide for eye-catching features to reconcile themselves with the fact that a lot of people only read "Redbrick" for the stomach turning intimacies revealed in and between the lines of this time-honoured column. The fact remains that a "Janet, collect your toothbrush from 915" in the personal ads can be of far greater interest than "Ents. Com. Flop" three inches high as front page lead.

Fifth Column and Half Brick have also been axed. Now both of these were biased. Both were controversial and both submitted a point of view that was personal even to the point of being uninformed. Their saving point was that both expressed an opinion. Unethical, unbalanced and occasionally unintelligible, these columns made readers react to the extent that half the paper's letters were sometimes devoted to comments about them. Surely this is evidence of their success as editorials. Now they are gone.

The disappearance of these fine attributes of "Redbrick" coincides with the appointment of a new editor—Graham Barker. As regards the personal column Graham said: "I don't like it." As for Half Brick and Fifth Column: "I just don't want to have separate spaces for them." As a result, "Redbrick" is today, Sunday, March 17th, short of material, and for that reason I was prevailed upon to write this letter. Spot the moral.

DAVID FRASER, Features Ed.

YOUNG BUMLEY

Bumley speaks out

AFTER an ordeal lasting three days we now have a President for next year. He describes himself as a "Roy Jenkins type Socialist"; by this time next year people will be wishing he is a George Brown type Socialist. But then presidents never do live up to expectations.

The most disturbing thing about the elections this year was the amount of publicity in the form of posters. Obviously these are an eyesore: one lecturer from the Barber Institute told me that he disliked the posters because they clashed with the crucifixes. They also influence the voters, as they are intended to do after all, which means that the person with the most and best posters is at a decided advantage, whether he is the best candidate or not.

There is one simple remedy for both of these problems—a limit on spending by the presidential candidates of, say £10. This would ensure not only a fairer election but a balance of colour on the campus.

The presidential manifestos were

of course very idealistic, with promises of administrative reform and comprehensive welfare for us all. There are more immediate problems, however, that no-one mentioned. For instance, why isn't anything done about bus services? The service from the Ivy Bush, which was bad enough, was recently halved, and it is now quicker to walk in than to take the bus. It's not a very convenient state of affairs when you have a 9 a.m. lecture.

All the candidates mentioned the Refect, but there was nothing said about the Union, and why the coffee bar queues are so bad. Perhaps the new president should try to find out why even at slack times there is a queue, and whether or not this could possibly be connected with the fact that the staff seem to feel it necessary to perform even the most trivial tasks in pairs?

There could also be some reform of the system of payment, for goods, as again the staff seem most reluctant to accept proffered money unless there are at least two of them there to witness the transaction.

Monkey Prince of Denmark

I went to see G.T.G.'s "Monkey" on Friday, which turned out to be the title of a rather banal and clichéd play. I'm going to see "Hamlet" next week, and I hope it will be a bit better. I'm assured it will be. It seems under the circumstances, such a pity that "Monkey" is the official production, with a large Guild grant, whereas "Hamlet" has rather the status of an illegitimate and unapproved child, with a corresponding amount of official interest and support. "Hamlet" has been forced to take second place in rehearsals; Mike Walker who wrote and directed "Monkey"

used the Deb. Hall for all his rehearsals, while Alan Booth had to make do with various committee rooms. Surely G.T.G. can handle its affairs rather better than this? There is enough room and money in this place to produce two plays without having to squeeze one into the cold. But there's more in it than just pettiness. Mike Walker, who is the matron of mature students, has got to get moving if he is to make any impression on the theatre, and he believes that "Monkey" is for him a step in this direction. The better the production, the better his chances of a good job when he leaves.

International Times

As our new editor reads only "International Times," "OZ," "Private Eye," "Belo" and the "Guardian" (with an occasional look at the "Occult Gazette") and states a preference for "International Times," it is not surprising to see this week's changes.

They should please two poor souls called "Zan and Bob" who wrote to the current "IT" from 8 Hagley Road. It must get a bit chilly at night for them; number 8 is part of the biggest bomb site I have seen. Perhaps they live underground?

Our heritage

Now that the Corporation has destroyed the finest precinct in Birmingham by putting a road through Chamberlain Square and Ratcliff Place, thus separating the Town Hall and the Library, there is one consolation. The marbled Victorian public lavatories that used to be in the centre of this precinct are not lost but hidden.

The workmen, instead of demolishing these classic examples of places of public evacuation, merely filled them in. What vistas await the archaeologist of the future! A discovery equal to that of Persepolis! But it would be disquieting for future excavators, on digging down, to discover "Engaged" on one of the doors.

Carnival

The money has not been counted yet, and will not be for some time, but already it seems definite that less money than last year has been raised. The "new image" was put before Birmingham, and Birmingham was not particularly interested. Of course the Lord Mayor, attended now, with Carnival, loved it all, but did the people of Birmingham? As far as I could see they were bored by the lack of stunts, and the emphasis on practical help.

Stunts get more publicity than does building playgrounds and decorating old people's houses, and the money raised by stunts far outweighs the benefit of the work projects. There are so many things wrong with Carnival as it stands at present that reorganisation must take place over a long period; either that or abolish Carnival. If we have a Carnival next year it will probably be no more successful from the entertainment and money-raising point of view than this one has been. If the students here want a good Carnival they must be prepared to put up with a few bad ones, even ones as dead as this year.

Bumley

"MONKEY"

JAN BAKER

Mental Monkeys

"MONKEY," an allegory set in an imaginary mental home, was shown last week in the Deb. Hall. It was written and directed by Michael Walker, a student of Drama and Sociology, and in this, his first play, he has tried to combine these two elements — through drama, social problems can be revealed, and drama can be used to help the mentally handicapped to greater awareness and self-expression.

Basically, the play shows the cruelty and lack of understanding of the nurses towards the patients; but there is also the other side of the question. The nurses themselves are under-paid, over-staffed, ill-trained to cope with such patients and have their own emotional problems.

The story revolves around two of the patients—Jackie (Chris Eaton) and Tina (Ilona Sekacz) who meet and fall in love. By the connivance of the nurses who are fond of them, they meet again at church the following Sunday, where they hug and kiss during the service. The minister, seeing them, is profoundly shocked and disgusted, and they are parted. Yet David—a young nurse, arranges for them to meet again—Tina is to be administered a drug which will make her look ill, and Jackie is sent to the clinic on some



Many, many mental monkeys at the play of the same name, produced by G.T.G. in the Deb. Hall last week. (Photo: Nige Gray)

pretend. At the last moment David cannot go through with this however, as it has involved a compromise with Bernie his superior—i.e., a homosexual relationship. Tina is given the drug, becomes ill, and the surgeon, without any close examination, orders an operation. A cacophony of sound — and the patients reappear, masked, and, chorus-like, implore the audience to help them, to "remember the lepers, remember Vietnam." Here the playwright has tried to show the extent of the suffering—its universality, and how innocents suffer while bureaucrats plot and scheme. The play ends with Jackie's death, and Shamrock's remark—"It's the whole world that's mad."

ways unsatisfactory package tour led by Spencer Davis and Manfred Mann. And it would be over charitable to blame the mediocrity of the other artists on the acoustics of the Town Hall.

Don Partridge preceded Manfred Mann and managed a difficult task well. He succeeded in keeping the pubescent Brummy dollyrockers behind the open stage quietly swinging their pudgy legs right up until the end of his entertaining act. For an ex-busker he is remarkably cool and professional in his detached awareness of audience. He claimed later that he was really enjoying the package tour route — this was before he discovered his one man band had been pinched.

The sexual psychology of a young pop audience I'm sure would pro-

vide a wealth of material for somebody's thesis. Certainly the major groups exploit it well. Mike D'Abbo of the Manfred Mann group had his fans squealing in ecstasy as he swung the obvious phallic symbolism of the microphone stand up and down. Again bad balance spoiled the act. Each of their six songs were plagued by various head-splitting feedback; one song was abandoned. The effect was total music-noise from beginning to end of their spot — an original but uncalculated for effect.

One often gets the impression with several of the personnel of the Manfred Mann group that they are frustrated jazzmen. Manfred Mann's own organ breaks endorsed this image. And Mike Hugg, the man-faced drummer, showed a justifiable frustration at the artificiality of amplified pop noise by flinging his drum sticks across the stage.

The Moody Blues were magnificent. They had obviously spent some time mastering the acoustic exigencies of the Town Hall, and benefited considerably by the exercise. After versions of songs like "Tuesday Afternoon" (from their LP *DAYS OF FUTURE PAST*) and their best-selling "Nights in White Satin," they embarked on an elaborately ambitious self-composition, "Legend of a Mind." Six-and-a-half minutes of intricate rhythmic variation makes this song well worth a listen. It will probably be the B side of their next single release.

It is difficult to know what to say about the Spencer Davis Group these days. They played in the style of their recent releases, but it seems to lack any flair, even in a live performance. And this isn't necessary, because Stevie Winwood is with them no longer. It was quite clear that the best received number of their act was the old "Gimme Some Lovin'." For this Spencer himself played bass, and it made all the difference. I think there is a moral there.

So, the whole show was a case of half-impressive sparkles of brilliance. The point clearly apparent is that if a pop package is to make an impact then artists, road managers and electricians must make a concerted attempt to perfect the technical and acoustical problems posed by their equipment and their venue. It is sheer bad professionalism not to.



The Moody Blues in moody mood.

(Photo: Pete Mills)

to remember and rely on the 1604 version creates a great burden for director and player. And, in viewing this unauthorised version, one also tends to rely on preconceived notions of the mere masterpiece text. Such is the problem at hand.

In the G.T.G. production, the script is treated experimentally, which I think is admirable; that is to say Horatio, Hamlet, Corambis play from standard interpretations of their roles. I am not in total agreement with the results of these efforts.

Sebastian Bergman is not the quiet feeling man. He is loud, forceful, rash. He has left some of the self control which links him with Iago's Plotter and taken on some of the emotionalism and self-destructualism of Othello. There are still quiet moments. The "To be or not to be" speech withered poetically in this bad quarto, finds him thoughtful. But then he nicely knocks, slaps Ophelia and Gertrude. I am suggesting a more equal balance of fury and reflection, a more gradual heightening of emotion. Still, it is estimable that Mr. Bergman can keep up the high pitched agony throughout. He has literally thrown body and soul into the role and acts with sustained conviction.

Horatio is a part less of words than of character. He is the understanding friend and guide. Robin King is a handsome Horatio who might have been less religiously troubled by the ghost. The trembling in the first scene, with Hamlet as well, is fine momentarily, but the motion and depth must be enlarged upon.

Corambis is least convincing. He looks too young and sounds little tempered in years. Mr. Gay has a tendency to shout coldly. The gossip, father, self-impressed courtier are not there. Ophelia appears a chillingly distracted mind. Laertes who doubles as Player King, acts with equally impressive ease in both roles.

The play runs smoothly from scene, although lack of interval encourages restlessness. The comic relief in this quarto essential comes pleasingly with the grave diggers who, with clownish faces and clever props capitalise on the scene's potential.

Alan Booth has managed a fine thing in many ways; he has provided interesting insight into the development of the later quarto; he has provided a challenge for his own actors; he has shown that this ignored drama can be made an intelligent offering.

HAMLET

ROBERTA PLUTZIK

Back to the old Hamlet

THE freakish first quarto of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is generally ignored by scholar and stage. This is probably because in studying or acting such an imperfect piece the tendency



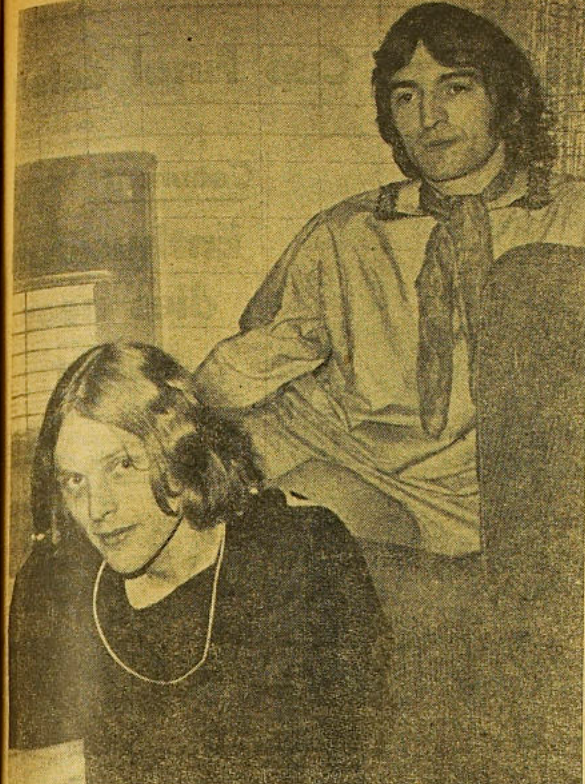
A new-look Hamlet — the controversial bad quarto — in the Deb. Hall tonight, with Sebastian Bergman as Hamlet. The play produced by Alan Booth. (Photo: Graham Padden)

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The Incredible String band members at the Town Hall over the weekend. (Photo: Pete Mills)

BOOKS

ALAN MUNTON

Jazz-Poems at Arts Centre

"Out Loud", by Adrian Mitchell (Cate Goliard, 16/-).

ADRIAN MITCHELL has always been immensely popular at this University, as a reader of his own poetry and drinking everyone he meets into the ground. Many of the poems here over the last two or three years, and their impact has been big.

These are poems written to be read out loud, and this means getting rhythmic effect that few other modern poets outside the "reading group" are concerned with. Even his most furious poems, like "To the most famous poet in Vietnam," "Tell me lies about Vietnam," are a rhythmic hit, briskly

which was finally won over by his brand of "Liverpool" humour. In deed, most of his early poems were short, witty, almost epigrammatic. Spike Hawkins was similarly witty, reading his poems in a wide variety of accents. At one point he thrust his right hand down the front of his trousers and read in a Harold Wilson voice.

After the interval the Pete Westbrook Quartet played Giuseppe Logan's "Dance of Satan." Brilliantly. Spike read more of his short poems ("Everything I write is very small") and then, with the help of Pete Brown, read two short one-act plays.

On his own again, Pete Brown was in a more serious mood. If a poem is a good one it has a life and movement of its own, and needs nothing in the way of declamatory reading; i.e., when reading a poem aloud, the reader should not need to put things into the voice which are not in the poem. This is what makes some "Liverpool" poets seem like actors salvaging weak texts. Good poems read themselves. Pete Brown, when reading the last few poems, did not superimpose with his voice rhythms which were not in the poem. Neither did the poems fall apart in sandy fragments, though most of the audience were lost with them. For this reading, I respect and admire Pete Brown.

The evening ended with an impromptu, improvised musical item, Pete Bailey (Poet's Road Manager) was on bongos, Pete Brown on tribal drum, and Pete Westbrook mainly on flute. It was a good evening.

CONCERT

LINDA POTTER

Thirteen instruments—no strings attached

"EVERYONE'S got to take a holiday from life." So said Mike Heron of the Incredible String Band during Saturday's concert at the Town Hall. This epitomises what he and Robin Williamson are trying to achieve through their music—an escape from the mundane and the sordid into a dream-like fantasy world, where words and sounds are meaningful only through their evocation of colours, shapes and movements. It is an absurd world, totally irrational, indeed a "magical pantomime".

The Incredible String Band is two versatile musicians, who between them played 13 different instruments, ranging from guitar, sitar and lute to washboard, hooter and bicycle bell! Their

material differed from that in their performance at Lake last year. It contained no Dylan or folk blues, but was generally a repetitious programme of original songs, reflecting influences of primitive native chants, Oriental and Indian music and gospel songs.

An exciting innovation to their music was the electronic organ, although, as they themselves agreed, neither of them is an exceptional organist, and the volume of organ was too great at times.

Sorrowful, moaning voices, resembling a native ritual combined with an infectious rhythm, could be heard in some of their numbers, whilst the Oriental and Indian influence was illustrated by their use of instruments such as the bowed gimbri, sitar and guitar in songs like "The New Moon". A gospel feeling breaks through on occasions, as in the middle of "A Very Sad Little Song".

The fascination of their music is partly explained by their amalgamation of these various influences within one song. Often lyrics are absurd, unconnected, as in "Ducks on a Pond", but this does not matter. Their use of the incomprehensible extends to Mike Heron's reading of a poem of fantasy, something to do with a palace, and an absurd recitation about Noah in which they donned masks.

They explain little. They act naturally. They are witty often, and they seem to care little how others react to them. They are placid and seem to have found a way of coming to terms with life, by taking a holiday from it in their music.

of the day force them to cool? Godard shows a bubble-headed generation making rough surface contacts with a nervous, broken, mad world. His interviewer refuses to pose specific questions because the act of questioning is itself an interfering, predisposing ideology. Godard just cuts that thick, fascinating slice. This film is to be seen twice and lived with.

In "The Happening" (Futurist), a respectable criminal (Anthony Quinn), the American ideal of a rough outlaw who covers his tracks with style, learns that the gifts in life are not as beneficial as they seem. He is helped by a pack of college-aged kids who stumble into kidnapping him, then help him escape himself upon his friends and wife who refused his ransom. Here the bubble-headed youngsters are Americans, born on a silver spoon and hungry for kicks. They don't learn the lesson. Generally a very good film, though as in his "Cat Ballou", director Elliot Silverstein draws caricature where one would have preferred wit. But in this film he does some fine, large ironies in his stripping of the American ideal.

From "The Happening" (1966) Arthur Penn appears to have gotten his Faye Dunaway and also the style for his "Bonnie and Clyde".

Paul is played by Jean-Pierre Leaud, who was the little boy in Truffaut's "Les quatre cents coups" and still is having the growing pains ("I'm old enough to pull out my fangs"). "Madeleine" is the actual Chantal Goya, pop star, Brigitte Bardot and Françoise Hardy by as semi-selves. So Godard blends the on- and off-camera personalities in his cast. The interviews and location photography help to make the film a record of the day, not so much an anatomy as a slice of struggling, squirming, suddenly exposed life.

Paul and Madeleine attend a Swedish film which completes the translation of Maupassant's "Le Signe" which Godard began in "The Femme Coquette". Typically the characters' concern is elsewhere than on the screen, as Paul and Madeleine's girl friend jockey for Madeleine's attentions.

Throughout the film the significant events seem to happen on the periphery of the characters' consciousness. So the "Fifteen precise facts" Godard promises in the film are precise only beyond his characters' awareness. Or does the heat

JAZZ

DAVE BROADBENT

Westbrooke at Wydders

THE Pete Westbrooke concert at Wyddington last Saturday, showed how poorly appreciated is this great musician and jazz in general in the University.

Mr. Westbrooke's sound is a fusion of his own talents with the influences of Archie Shepp and Albert Ayler. On soprano sax this resulted in a wailing, spiky sound, which must have permeated the whole of Wyddington. Although Westbrooke was outstanding, he was well supported by Ron Hill, trombone, Pete Pickin, drums and Conrad Cork, bass. The latter was especially impressive in a solo reminiscence of Garrison in the first set of the evening.

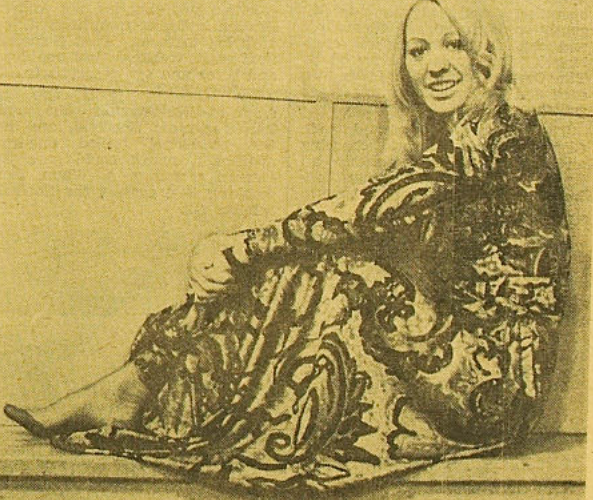
The occasion overall, however, was a sad one; it was the last event put on by Rhythm Club, before it winds up through lack of support.

The audience totalled some 30 people, a better turn-out than the last Westbrooke concert. Westbrooke talked bitterly about the lack of assistance from Ents. Comm. and especially about the miserly attitude of some of its members, and wished to be quoted as saying:—

"I think the university is a society in microcosm and as I see society breaking up, I see the consciousness of the university going down. People are more interested in getting p... out of their minds than in exposing themselves to new cultural experiences."

In comparison to the almost complete lack of support for jazz at the University, Aston's New Society, with a grant of £750 is financing a concert on April 26th with Chris McGregor and Westbrooke. There is also talk of getting the "hippies" favourite, Charles Lloyd, at a cost of £2525.

Above the sadness of the occasion was the obvious talent of Westbrooke displaying his versatility on flute, soprano and alto sax and even lending a hand in the rhythm section. It seems a pity that he may not perform in the University again and that Aston, with a more progressive attitude, are forging ahead with an adventurous programme of jazz.



(Photo: Pete Mills)

A brief photo fashion pic this week: Jan Barber of the Piccadilly line, wearing a maxi-line dress.

BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
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SPORT

Rugger defeats: 2nd XI Soccer Cup Final defeat

Soccer

Cup final penalty brings defeat

Birmingham Univ. 2nd XI 0; Penncroft 1

HAVING lost the toss the Second XI were unfortunate enough to have to play the first half against a gusty wind and up an appreciable slope. With the odds against them it was not surprising that the University made a very nervous start, the defence looked rather shaky, and there was a tendency to play much too square.

Things looked up midway through the half, and the lads started playing some attractive football — Penncroft, by contrast, were a clumsy side, but the ball bounced kindly for them, although it must be said Birmingham never looked dangerous. Their inside-forwards were pushing the ball through much too quickly and on this mountainside their front runners had little chance of catching the ball.

Disaster struck in the 43rd minute. Penncroft were awarded a hotly disputed corner. Brum's keeper, John Palmer, tried to cut out the corner, failed, a shot flashed at goal. Dave Hatton, covering up, had no option but to punch the ball over the bar. The ref had no hesitation in awarding a penalty, which was easily converted by Penncroft's centre-forward.

The second half was similar in pattern — Brum did make a few chances. Bob Stockley was unfortunate enough not to score on a couple of occasions.

In the dying minutes of the game Roger Dobson, running on to a through-ball, had a very good left shot pushed round the post by the goalie; for his effort Birmingham were awarded a corner. Stockley got in a good header from the corner but this was cleared off the line — Birmingham's last chance was gone.

Almost immediately the referee blew for full-time. Two men in the Birmingham side who didn't deserve to be on the losing team were Eastman and Starr at half-back—they both worked very hard for precious little reward.

Men's Lacrosse

REED STARS IN ENCOURAGING VICTORY

Boardman & Eccles 6
Birmingham University ... 7

A REMARKABLE game and encouraging victory for Birmingham. It was feared that we might suffer from the team being weakened by a number of cry-offs, but the stand-ins played well, notably Chris Reid, who took the place of the regular goalkeeper. He succeeded in keeping out some difficult shots and his determined effort is worthy of record.

As the score shows, the game was close. Birmingham took the initiative, scoring repeatedly and then having their lead reduced by an enterprising goal from Boardman. Generally Birmingham were the superior force, having greater possession of the ball and pressing the opposition. The attack was much improved, all members co-operating and playing intelligently—passing among themselves and not floundering when challenged. The goals were scored by Tim Cowood and Keith Lodge two each and Baldry, Farrar and Evans got the rest.

The defence too played well. Close marking, accurate checking and precocious interceptions all helped to prevent Boardman taking advantage of our stand-in goalkeeper.

Golf

Three way win and lose

Birmingham U. 3; Nottm. U. 2
Birmingham U. 2; Sheffield 3

The team had a defeat and a victory in a three-way match at Sherwood Forest, beating Nottingham 3-2 but losing to Sheffield 3-2. Both Mick Krafft and Tim Bowlder recorded two victories, but Andrew Dathan, suffering from his 21st, lost both his matches. Paul Birtwistle next year's treasurer, lost one down and three and two respectively.

Ian Coldicott won two up against Nottingham, but only halved against Sheffield, and not the occasional "rified one-iron, quail-high, man" could save the veteran secretary, A. Waun, from crashing 6-4 against the Sheffield number six.



The cause of the 2nd XI's defeat—Dave Hatton punches the ball over the bar, giving away a penalty.

Rugger

A goal and try not enough

Kenilworth 9pts; Birmingham Univ. 9pts.

WITH a much stronger pack, Kenilworth were able to control this game to a certain extent, but it must not be forgotten that all their points came from penalties, while Birmingham scored through a goal and a try. Indeed, if the rain had not arrived in the second half, and with even a modicum of possession, it is possible that the University backs could have swamped their opposite numbers.

The biggest mistake, however, that Birmingham made was for Morgeam in the centre to allow his shoulder to get in the way of the referee's head. The latter's mental balance seemed to be adversely affected from then on and this was witnessed by numerous peculiar and unworthy penalty decisions directed against Birmingham, on two occasions Kenilworth scoring, and by the fact that he called the centre in question a "silly little sod." The "little" remark is taking dire liberties with the truth and is totally unfounded by the facts; as to the rest...

Birmingham's points were well engineered. The first occurred as a Kenilworth attack broke down in mid-field. Commander Taylor picked up the loose ball and with his shining new boots dazzling the

opposition, he ran fully 60 yards before diving over the line in true ballerina fashion. Not satisfied (is he ever?) with scoring three points, he kicked the goal as well. Phil Taylor also starred in the second try which came at the end of the match.

Making a clever, outside break, he passed on (so to speak), as did the centres, to give flying winger Pearson a clear run to the line. Unfortunately, the kick, wide out and with the heavy, greasy ball, failed.

This week there is a feast of rugby entertainment. Tonight, Moseley Knights, containing several internationals, entertain the University under floodlights; and on Thursday afternoon there are the annual inter-departmental seven-a-sides on Bournbrook.

Comment

Enthusiasm dies near Easter

WHAT happens to the University teams at this time of the year as the Easter vacation approaches to herald the close of the season? In general, enthusiasm has long since evaporated. The universities championships are very often the only competition that many teams have to fight for. Elimination in the preliminary rounds of U.A.U. is disastrous, support fades away and the thought of examinations takes the place of a desire to win matches.

Even the Basketball Club seems to have fallen apart after the tremendous build-up to U.A.U. finals. University sportsmen have to be pandered to more than most, with so many things to turn their attention away. Year after year large numbers pack up for work or on the excuse that teams are too much of a clique.

To maintain keenness competition is vital. Clubs must enter local knockout competitions and leagues wherever possible. A league set up for Midlands universities will be a great help and should be extended to as many clubs as possible. All sportsmen must be made to feel as though they are really aiming at some goal. Leagues will prevent the anti-climax of elimination from knockout tournaments. Maybe this would draw some of the "lost players" back into university sport. For instance, there is at least one full team of soccer players in the University which would thrash the First Eleven. With these Birmingham could win the U.A.U.

Let's have matches a bit more competitive instead of the dull old friendlies year after year.

Rugger

TAYLOR'S BOOT SCORES ALL B'HAM'S POINTS

Birmingham 9pts., Walsall 12

THE University team seem to be able to do anything but win against Midlands club sides. Walsall, who have beaten Birmingham R.F.C. this season, were no exception.

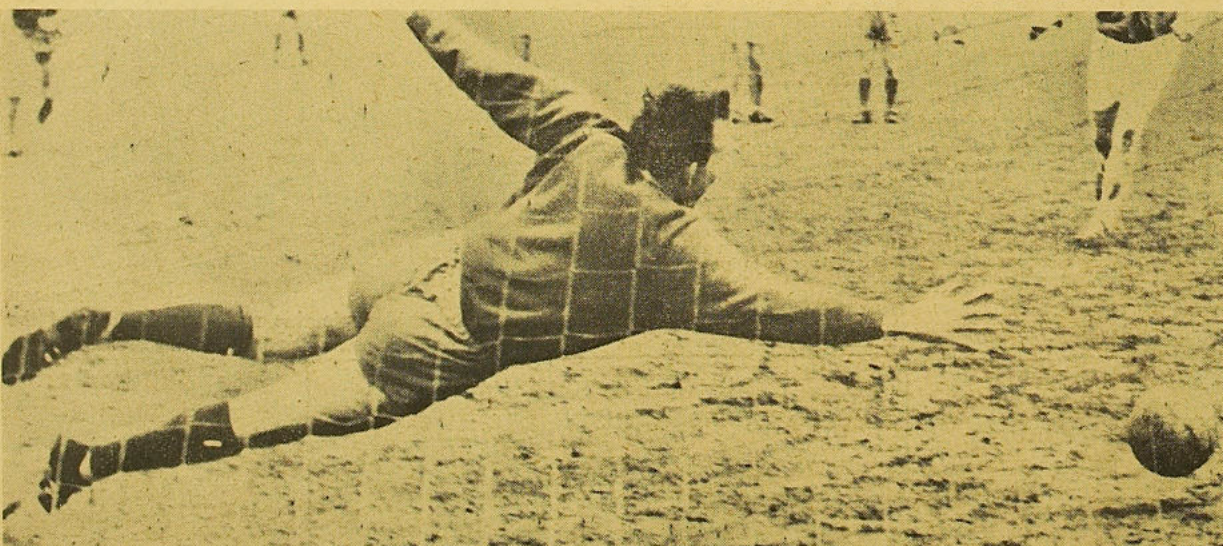
The University forwards were unable to win decisive possession and failed to score the tries necessary for victory.

Once again it was captain Phil Taylor who gave a chance of victory with some fine kicking. He converted three penalties and in the dying seconds looked as though he had earned a draw, but the ball faded narrowly past the post and the game was lost.

Playing with the wind in their faces the University took an early lead. Determination alone, however, was not enough to keep Walsall's experienced side out. They hit back with a try and penalty before the interval.

The following wind gave the University new life and they fought back, and another Taylor penalty narrowed the gap. Another Walsall try proved to be a match winner but not before repeated attacks were repelled and the deserved score eluded them.

Taylor's third penalty goal was not enough to pull the match round in the last quarter.



John Palmer stood no chance with the spot kick.

(Photo: Dave Robinson)