

Armless boy comes to university

AMONG the students coming to the University for the first time this week is 18-year-old Frank Letch who has no arms. Frank, who has been accepted by the University's French Department was turned down last year by five universities, including Birmingham, with the same qualifications he has now.

PRICE RISES HIT FRESHERS

1,200 new students pay more for hops and food

AS OVER a thousand Freshers poured into the Union they were greeted with the news of price increases.

FOOD PRICES are going up to bring them into line with the University Refectory. Tea now costs 4d. instead of 3d., coffee goes up from 4d. to 5d. Fresh vegetables will also cost more in Union meals.

The weekly Union dance, the HOP, is going to cost 2/6, a rise of sixpence.

Catering Chairman Ken Overshott, commenting on the price increase said, "It's an unfortunate move, but we've had to make it. Since the Refectory opened our finances haven't been too healthy. Anyway, it's our policy to bring prices in the Union on par with those in the new Refectory."

Last term Catering officials announced that the Union was losing over £100 a week compared with a £700 a week profit the year before.

The surprise move of making the Hop 6d. dearer was announced by the Entertainment Committee Chairman, Alan Newall. "Hops were beginning to lose money," he said, "because of falling attendances and increased wages. Our policy is not to lose money on anything, especially the Hops, because these are our main source of income."

RECORD NUMBER

This year there are over 1,200 Freshers in Birmingham, a record. Over 1,050 are attending the Freshers' Conference. There are now 4,941 students at the University compared with 4,766 last year. Present plans are for a 50 per cent. expansion over the next ten years but the Robbins Committee on Higher Education which reports later this year is likely to recommend a higher rate.

A new feature of this year's Freshers' Conference was last night's free dinner. In past years 15/- has been charged.

Apart from this there has been little change in the Conference programme from last year. "The general idea is the same," said Mr. R. T. Jones, Union Secretary, "a day in the University departments and a day around the Union seeing what is going on. It worked well last year and I see no reason why it shouldn't this."

The departmental visits, which take place today, should give new members a good idea of the geography of their departments, and get to know their tutors before the routine work begins.

IF I HAD A HAMMER...

BOTH the senior and junior British hammer-throwing champions are now working at the university. Howard Payne, the British senior champion, is returning to his position in the Physical Education department, while Peter Aston, the Junior A.A.A. champion and the first junior to throw over 200 feet, is starting as a fresher in the physics department.

Beauty at the slot machine... but no price increases here, not yet anyway.

LATE NEWS

Look what you just missed

THE university announced during the long vac. that it is to establish new open-entrance scholarships worth £100 a year from the beginning of the 1964/65 session.

About 30 scholarships are to be awarded each year, to students who are just entering on first degree courses; those just starting their last year at school will be able to try for them during the coming year.

Holders of the scholarships will be known as "university scholars" and each will receive an annual payment, over and above their normal county grant, of £100. Men and women are equally eligible for the awards.

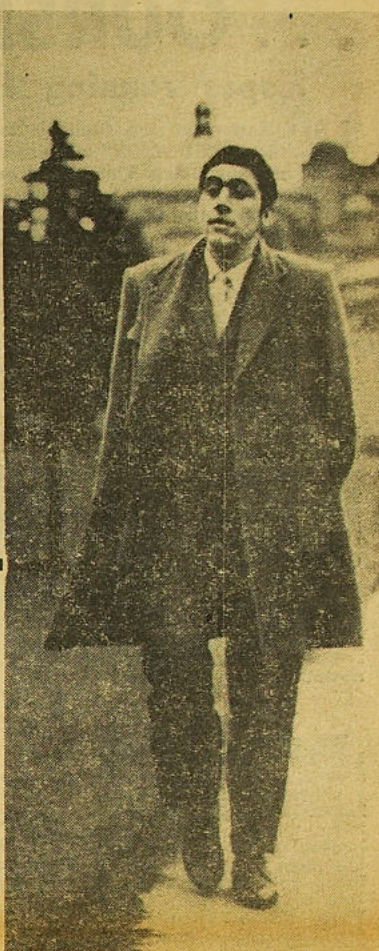


Photo: B'ham. Mail

Lodgings chaos back again

RELUCTANT LANDLADIES

THE lodgings situation this year is likely to be even worse than last, according to the Lodgings Warden, Miss E. M. Teverson.

"In general people will have to travel farther this year," she said. "Lodgings near the university are in very short supply. We hope to have everybody fixed up by the time they arrive on Thursday, but we are at the moment working from day to day and cannot rule out the possibility of some difficulty on the first day of the Freshers' Conference."

Last year and the year before many people arrived in Birmingham without having the faintest idea of where they were to live.

The main problem appears to be that many landladies do not continue to take students after the long vacation, either because they cannot keep the rooms vacant for three months, or because it is just a convenient time to give up, and that it takes time to get new addresses on to the list.

USA-bound Prof.

PROFESSOR E. A. Peel, head of the universities' Education Department, has been awarded a Fellowship at the Centre of Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California. He starts in November this year and will specialise in children's learning and thinking processes. The Centre exists to enable scientists to perfect their techniques of behaviour research and training.

REDBRICK

needs FRESHERS

Vacancies exist for...

REPORTERS
FEATURE WRITERS
PHOTOGRAPHERS
CARTOONISTS
SALES STAFF

No experience necessary — Apply Redbrick Office and Conference Stall.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR FRESHERS:

Tuesday, October 1st, 12.30

INTRODUCING OURSELVES

Hopes running high again

LAST Easter, at the Student Journalist Conference in London, "REDBRICK" was voted the best student newspaper in the country. This award came as the climax of a good deal of hard work by a large number of people, many of whom still remain on the staff.

As a result, hopes run high for another successful year; circulation figures are rising, advertising is increasing, and the quality of material and design continue to improve.

"REDBRICK" is fundamentally a NEWSpaper, aiming to present the Birmingham student with current Guild and University affairs as well as with things of interest going on in the City and elsewhere.

Working on "REDBRICK" takes time, but, judging from last term's exam results for members of the staff, there's no reason to assume that students' academic careers will suffer.

Editor

The paper's editor is Chris Buckland, a third-year E.P.S. student, while Tim Austin, third-year English, is Assistant Editor. Bob Bootle, 3rd Commerce, who has been on "REDBRICK" staff for many years, has been appointed Advisory Editor, and other editorial positions are—Nigel Harris (News), William Orwin (Features), Ray Cochrane (Sport), and Steve Leach (Reviews).

Any Freshers wishing to join the staff in any capacity whatsoever—reporter, salesman, photographer, for example—

MERMAID: UPSURGE

MERMAID is flourishing for the first time in many years. At last Birmingham University can claim to possess a literary magazine of the glossy, Oxford-speciality type, whose aims are good writing about anything of interest.

Contributions from scientists are as welcome as those from artists, for the magazine is not a literary clique. Anyone wishing to contribute to this term's edition should get in touch immediately with the Editor, David Bird, in his office on the second floor of the Union.

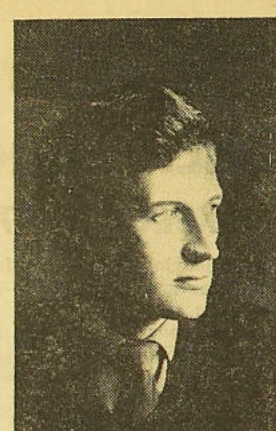


Photo: Pete Murray

• Brian Gatward,
Chairman of GTG.

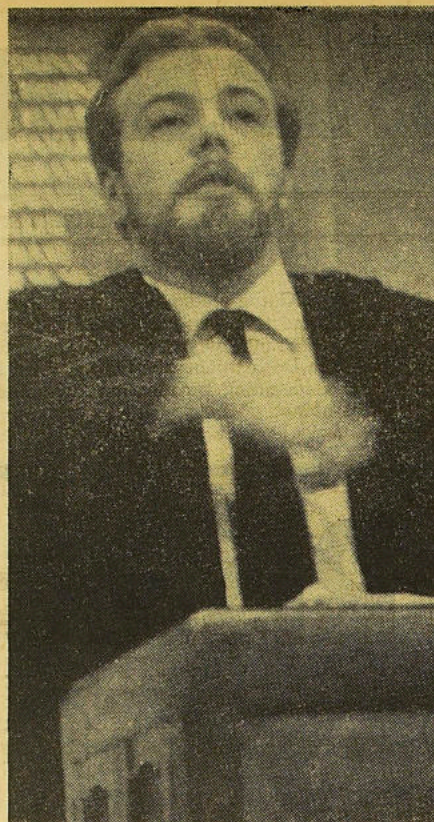
A Career in the service of Children & Young People

THE CHILD CARE SERVICE, including residential posts such as those in approved schools, offers careers for men and women which are satisfying and worth while. CHILD CARE OFFICERS, most of whom are employed in the children's departments of local authorities, play an important part in the care of the many thousands of children and young people who, for various reasons, cannot live in their own homes. They consider applications for children to be received into care and arrange for them to be boarded out with foster parents or cared for in children's homes. They also help parents who have difficulty in looking after their children and try to keep families together or to reunite them so that the children can return home.

TRAINING COURSES qualifying for the work of a child care officer are provided at a number of universities. These include post-graduate general courses in social casework and special courses in child care. Candidates for the one-year courses beginning in October each year must have university qualifications in social science. There are courses or 17 months specially designed for graduates in subjects other than social science. More applications from men would be welcomed. SALARY on appointment by a local authority as a child care officer after training may rise to £1,040 per annum, although some authorities may offer higher scales according to experience.

HOUSEMASTERS & HOUSEMISTRESSES are required for challenging work in APPROVED SCHOOLS. The primary concern of these staff is the welfare, social re-education and leisure activities of the boys and girls in their charge. Graduates are eligible for appointment on a scale rising to £1,050 (under review). There are also opportunities for QUALIFIED TEACHERS & INSTRUCTORS in a wide range of subjects. Graduates can apply, after suitable experience, for one-year university courses of training to improve their qualification for posts in approved schools.

Candidates accepted for training may be considered for Home Office grants. WRITE to: The Central Training Council in Child Care (J.I.), Home Office, Thames House South, Millbank, London, S.W.1.



• David Bird, who will edit this year's "Mermaid," the University magazine which caters for artists and scientists alike.

See story below.

Photo: Andrew Hornig.

... GTG: An interest for everyone

Balanced programme

GTG is the most diverse society in the Guild. There is room for and need for everyone. Those with no experience or with much have equal opportunities. Students from all departments will find an interest in the group. It needs its business and publicity experts, its set-builders, dress-makers and "prop" makers, its sound and lighting technicians.

The group aims throughout the year to present a balanced programme, and inevitably aims at the University audience. The Autumn play is entered for the NUS Drama Festival and has in recent years experienced considerable success. Finalists on four of the last five occasions, they are now due for another win.

One-acts

This term's major play will be chosen during the Freshers' Conference. Two of the one-acts which will provide the first bill in a month's time will be "The Anniversary" by Chekov and either "The Room" or "A Night Out" by Harold Pinter, according to the possibility of casting.

An extension to the Group's activities is to be a Theatre Workshop this term to enable all Freshers to gain immediate experience with the Group. With this extended programme in view there will be something for everyone in GTG.

Last term's successful production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be revived for a special performance on Sunday, October 6th. If your interest goes no further you will enjoy supporting the Group's productions, which are staged in the Deb. Hall.

**REDBRICK
NEEDS
PHOTOGRAPHERS
AND REPORTERS**

ONE LONG PROTEST

... Politics: the importance of being earnest

UNIVERSITY Politics are conducted in Deadly Earnest; their protagonists consider themselves to be deciding The Fate Of The World, and have a monumental inability to laugh at themselves. This tends to make their activities seem a little overblown to the outsider, until he discovers their basic secret, which is that whatever they may move, decide upon or debate, they don't actually have to pay any attention to the realities of political life.

Socialist?

For example, are you a socialist? Left-wing, of course? Then there is the Socialist Union. This is socialist in the best traditions of Keir Hardie, hunger strikes and Righteous Indignation, which naturally has only the most tenuous connections with the modern Labour Party and the Wilson school. One might say it fits where it touches.

An orthodox Labour Party supporter can either, therefore, waste away in the wilderness, start a Labour Party Society of his own, or, if he must join something and is not too touchy about his convictions, join the Liberals. The Liberals form the last resting place of those who wish to do something constructive.

The fact that none of them agree on the form of the action only makes things more interesting.

The Conservative & Unionist Association, as its name implies, was last heard of in about 1932. CND, split by internal dissension last year, is steadily losing ground. You could always join the Anarchist Society, of course. This stands for Freedom and revolt, and is anti-anything that has been around for more than a month (e.g., the V.C. REDBRICK, Exec.). It doesn't believe in committees, so if you're just plain power-hungry you'd better join the Liberals anyhow.

WALL: CRAZED

A CRUEL man was once heard to observe that "Wall" was up the creek. This is probably the opinion of the majority of students, but for those that are slightly crazed and enjoy the riotous humour of the "Private Eye" type, the "Wall" newspaper, and its Editor, Andrew Barrow, will welcome contributions and ideas.

DEB. SOC.: A PLACE TO BE HEARD

THIS evening something like 1,000 Freshmen

will pack themselves into the Union for their first taste of University Debating. If the proceedings should fall somewhere between Parliament and the Crazy Gang, many may be surprised, but few disappointed.

Sucking contentedly at his gavel and smiting the



table confusedly with a pipe will be the Chairman, Mr. Andrew Allen, who won both the Freshers' and Open Tournaments last year. He will be watching for an influx of new talent to replace the casualties of a year's wrangling over Sex, Religion, Politics, Union Hops and the Lodgings Warden.



REDBRICK comment

The Birmingham University Newspaper

Read this, you lot!

So. After months of nail-biting you are safely installed in a University. But you can't leave your nails alone yet because there are plenty of new problems for you to sort out. How much work to do, or how little, how many societies to join, what the digs will turn out like, whether you'll get on with your tutor or not.

One thing you won't be short of is advice.

Advice from parents, teachers, friends, old hands who were at University in the days of the horse-drawn bus. And now you're here advice from tutors, professors, Vice-Chancellors, Union Presidents, second and third-year students and REDBRICK.

By the end of the Freshers' Conference you'll probably be punch-drunk.

When you are weighing it all up—and do take notice because most of the people know more about University than you do—remember the main purpose of a University education—to create educated individuals, with the accent on individualism.

It is because you are all individuals that none of this advice will be valid in every detail for you. It will not be valid, but it will be useful. It will help you to find your OWN standards, your OWN routine, your OWN opinions.

Find these and you will be two-thirds educated.

Editor - - - - - Chris Buckland
Assistant Editor - - - Tim Austin
Business Manager - Roger Griffiths

The Union Sept. 27th, 1963
Edgbaston
Birmingham, 15 Sel 1841

PRESS POST

PAID VAC. WORK IS NECESSARY

SIR,—It is unfortunate that the University authorities have not yet reconciled themselves to the inescapable logic of paid vacation work. To preach academic integrity, enthusiasm and unsparing effort is all very well, but it fails to acknowledge that men live by bread, if not by bread alone.

A more realistic approach is essential. And "realistic" does not mean simply turning a blind eye to an undesirable, if unavoidable, disruption of the student's intellectual development.

At the least, it means facing the situation with honesty, and allowing students to spend five or six weeks in a factory without their developing a guilt complex in the process.

At best, it means acknowledging the undoubted benefits to

be gained from embarking on a totally different way of life, from meeting very different people, from learning, if only during so short a time, how to cope with the necessities of livelihood. To frown upon vacation employment as so much wasted time is at once narrow-minded and unnecessarily harmful.

The argument that all available time should be spent on furthering one's academic education is pressed only by those who subscribe to the fallacy that uninterrupted effort yields maximum and best results.

Yours, etc.,
W. ORWIN.

THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH

SIR,—Scarcely has a new term got off to such a mixed start. The University authorities have to be congratulated on the new waste-paper bins, the first external w.p.b.s in the place. Let us hope that they are used, and last better than Birmingham's National Benzole monstrosities.

The jukebox is probably better in the Coffee Room, and who can object to sharing other people's tanners? But really; three choices of fish in Priestley Hall every other day is a bit much!

Chairs

What on earth are those low chairs doing in the new Television Room? It is nearly impossible to see the set, let alone the picture! And why is there a new T.V. room at all? Which meeting of Guild Council decided to move the Reading Room to an even darker spot than before? This is an economy year?

Yours in doubt,
PETER FULTON.

• A new view of the Campus.

(Photo by Lithgrove (B'ham) Ltd. incorporating Graveley Terrace Studios)

SNOOKERED BY CURLY

SIR,—It is one of the most remarkable truisms of our time, the one that says, "The more things change, the more they stop the same."

In this case I am referring to the new snooker cues. The old ones were crooked and curly; so are the new ones. But happily only a minority are in this state, compared to a majority of the old ones.

I don't know who bought the cues (that is the sort of thing one can never find out in this place), but he doesn't play snooker very often. Just try striking white properly, realising as you hit it the cue is curly! It's no wonder that most people cannot finish a frame in thirty minutes.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ALAN JONES.

SETTING FOUNDER'S ROOM ALIGHT

SIR,—I write to remind all Freshers about one item which has unfortunately been omitted from the Conference programme.

I refer of course to the Murus Ignitus ceremony, to be enacted during the course of the first Founder's Room social of the session. As tradition dictates, the far end wall of this excellent room will be carefully isolated at 9 p.m., sprayed liberally with petrol and set alight. At 9.02, amid loud applause, this year's Guardian of the Mural, Mr. F. Crump, will enter, to observe tearfully the Drooping of the Colours.

As soon as the flames die down all members may throw glasses of Birmingham "Beer" at the ruins. Moments later the tannoy will screech familiarly, "All members are requested to clear the Founder's Room," and the following week I shall be sent down for inciting the whole thing.

Yours, etc.,
M. HARTLEY-BREWER.

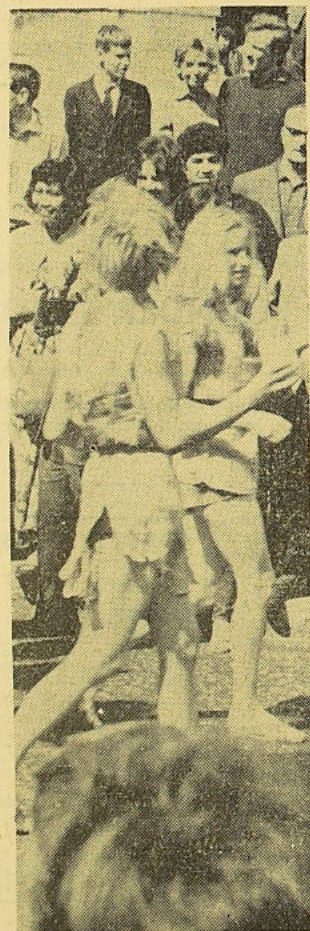
BREW IT YOURSELF Beer at 6d. a Pint

The Serena Home Brew Outfit contains brewing malt extract, selected hops, brewing salts, etc., and simple instructions. Fascinating hobby. Thirst quenching and economical. As shown on TV. In prime condition after 4 weeks—so start now. Money back if not intoxicated with your success. Complete 4½ gall. kit only 17/6. Plus 3/- P. & P. Or for a trial 2 gall. kit at 2/3. Plus 2/3 P. & P. 10/- P. & P. Dept. K10, Grey Owl Laboratories, Almondsbury, Glos.



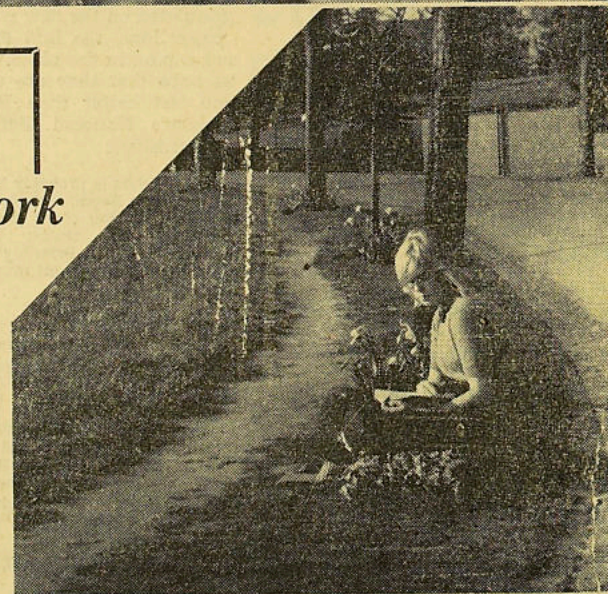
Buildings

People



Play

Work



university mélange

By Pete Murray
& Arthur Burgess



A view from the top — the Vice-Chancellors

UNIVERSITY REPORT

• THE PAST

It is quite creditable—63 years of it—but I wish there were more time to read about it.

• THE PRESENT

The Council is working very hard, and all for love of the University. Some of its members put in a great deal of time supervising the planning and construction of new buildings. Everyone is pleased with the new Refectory and the Staff House. The Biology building and the Commerce and Social Science building will soon be ready for occupation; they will be occupied at once. The Physical Education Centre has been started. The Playing Fields at West Hills are being levelled and prepared. High Hall and Ridge Hall are late, thanks to last winter's severity, but Ridge Hall will be ready in January. The six score girls who are its foundation members will be the private paying

guests of members of the staff and of the Guild of Graduates during the autumn term.

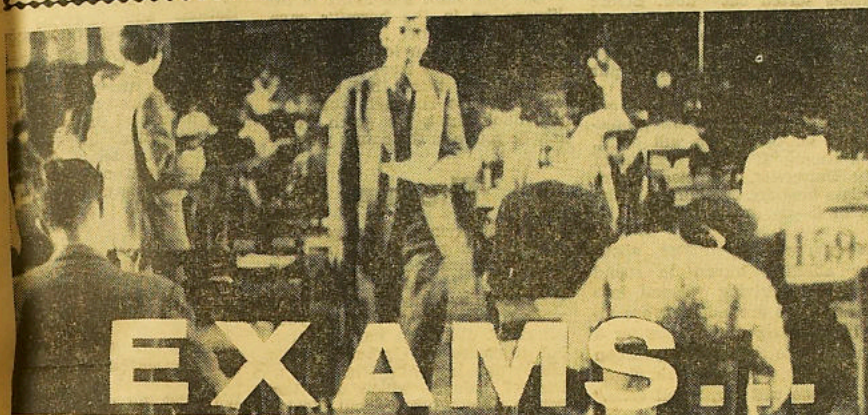
The Academic Staff is nearly up to strength in numbers and more than up to strength in standards of teaching and research. The amount of individual and small group teaching is increasing. There are some new courses and some re-designed courses, both for undergraduates and for graduates. Inter-Faculty Studies are being modified and improved. The students? There will be five thousand of them this session, including nearly one thousand graduate students. There is nothing much wrong with the students. I hope they say thank you now and again to all those people I have mentioned—and Mr. Jones.

• THE FUTURE

More buildings. More staff. More students. More work.

The present target is an increase of 50 per cent in student numbers in the next ten years. And the Robbins Committee will probably recommend the Government to invite us to speed that up! Given the money, it would not be too difficult. The only serious danger is that, with so many people about, we lose touch with that which is happening in other departments or other parts of the University than our own. There won't be time to talk to everybody. But we can all read. Good writing spreads information quickly. The University will look for this in REDBRICK.

• The vice-chancellor, Sir Robert Aitken, sums up the University for Redbrick.



EXAMS... ... and the secrets of success

BY STRABISMUS

Forty years on... and will you still be working in the same subject as the one you are just starting? Imagine the year 2003 AD. Will you still be pulling teeth, getting people divorced or finding a last resting place for sewage?

If the thought makes you wince, NOW is the time to ask yourself "Am I studying the right subject?" Three years from now will be too late.

Amiable pipe-smoking gorillas will advise you take part in Guild activities "if you don't, you ought to be at a Technical College." Is their wary. What these Renaissance Men don't tell you is how to find the time to take their advice. I do.

MORTAL

Some members of staff (who got their 2As on a couple of lucky questions in Finals, usually) will take it as a mortal insult if you aren't working in the library until nine every night. Some people actually do this. You need not.

Stage One comes when the reading lists are handed out. Many of them are like miniature editions of the Encyclopedia Britannica and about as useful.

Go to the second year of your course and discover which are the really necessary books.

These sophomores are not infallible, so do some note comparing before accepting their views. Having flattered your seniors by asking them for their opinions, you can now buy their textbooks second-hand at greatly reduced prices.

For everything else rely on the library and on God's gift to students, paperbacks. The Reference and Commerce libraries in town are also invaluable; the Ref. even opens on Sundays.

Your Tutor is Stage Two. Remember that he (or she) is only poor mortal clay like anyone else.

Do your best to get on good terms with him. Discover his interests and talk about them. He should be flattered by this or he is less than human. He can be a great help with exams.

PROBLEMS

Also make sure that he sets you tutorial essays or problems. In the long run this will pay you back a thousandfold and it's probably your only chance to get informed criticism of your work.

For the first term and a half you can get by on two, or at the most, three nights work a week, including time spent on essays, etc. Read through your selected textbooks but don't overwork. Make sure that your

spare time is filled by other activities. Believe it or not, employers actually like graduates to have knowledge of subjects other than their own. As the Easter vac. draws near, you begin to slip into top. Get copies of the papers of earlier years (they're all in the library) and work up the answers to the most frequent questions. Some departments go so far as to analyse question-frequency on a computer but this has always seemed a little unnecessary to me.

ANSWERS

As you work on the answers, read through your books twice. Take it easy the first time; get the feel and shape of the subject firmly in your mind. Then, the second time, read through slowly and carefully, making notes as you do so. If the information doesn't stick this way, it never will.

Don't over-exert yourself in the summer term. Just keep up the pace you should have built up to by the end of the Easter term and cruise smoothly through the pre-exam period while everyone around you cracks under the strain.

As you walk into the Great Hall on the first day of the exams you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your understanding your subject as well as the ash-faced wrecks alongside you, and that you are in a far better position to answer the questions.

If after all this you STILL do badly, remember that a Nottingham University survey showed last year that next to Firsts, Ordinary Degrees earned their owners the most money ten years after qualifying! You can't lose.

I know a bank...

Actually, as Shakespeare fans will recall, the bank that Oberon was talking about was the sort whereon the wild thyme blew. Just the thing for a midsummer night's dream no

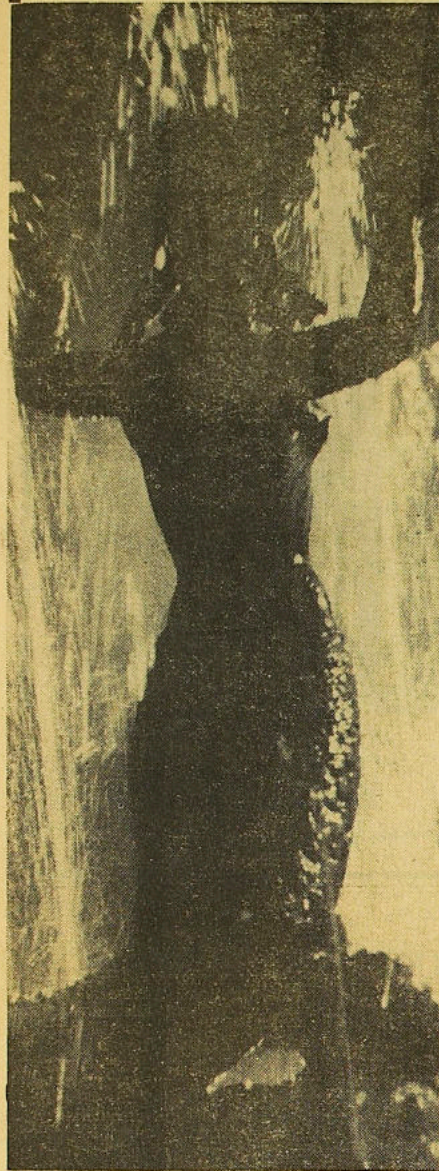
doubt but not nearly as much practical use to the student as the other kind of bank — the Midland, for example. There's nothing difficult about opening an account with the Midland, just a few simple formalities and the thing's done. Have a word with your local manager — he'll be very willing to help. And you don't have to go to Athens for this bank, either. There's a branch of the Midland in every university city and town.



MIDLAND BANK

547 BRISTOL ROAD, BOURNEBROOK, SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM 29

Mermaid



Beginning a University career is as exciting as you make it. It has a good deal to offer: it's up to you to take it. Just what you take is a more difficult problem.

ALL A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

by Senex

HERE you are then: all panting refugees from homework, canings, swotting and rat-racing. At last you've managed it: all new members of a seat of higher learning, flushed with success, raring to go, and, if you are anything like I was, confused and punch-drunk with advice, welcomes, homilies.

The thing to do is to smile nicely and always say "Yes." This will undoubtedly give your mentors and dutch-uncles a deal of encouragement, but at least you can quietly switch off and get down to thinking out your own objectives, ambitions and philosophies. That's what's important. Not how many hours a day you have been advised to spend in studying; not how many societies you can reasonably afford to join; not even how far to humour your landlady so that you can last out the year.

Think

Get your priorities sorted out—now. Before you plunge into what can be a very confusing and tempting social whirl in the Union, work out exactly what you expect to get out of a University life and, more important, what you aim to put into it.

On the face of it, you're here to work, to get a degree, to get a good job in one of the professions. Of course. And no doubt you will do it, which ever way you choose. If you're brimful of intellect and see the University as a place where you can get a first class honours, the library is the place for you—bags of it—too much of it.

• Mermaid symbol of the Guild, offers the opportunity of a lifetime.

If you're over-anxious about your abilities, intend to spend three years driving yourself into the academic ground, and are already scanning the campus for a hermit's cave to work in, you can be that too. Nobody will blame you. Some will say, "Well done." Others will feel that you've missed something—you might, too.

A university is big and diverse enough to accommodate all kinds, who are lumped under the stark heading of "student." That's one

of the most interesting things about it. Having a close look at people who are of your own age but who differ enormously in temperament, outlook, aptitudes, objectives, can be one of the most stimulating experiences a university can offer you.

But you won't find many in the library, or in the hermit's cave. Birds of a feather... You will find them if you look for them; and you'll profit from having met them if you think that this sort of experience is worth while. If you don't think it's worth while, maybe you're in the wrong place.

The aim

I'm not trying to kid you into spending all your time in making social contacts, nor into lounging for hours on end in the Union (yes, there are those, too). That's what I meant by sorting out your priorities. It's a bit hard at first, but it comes with practice. It's more than adjusting the "work/leisure" balance which doubtless you've already heard about. You've got to do this, of course, and there'll be people to help you do it.

What you've got to do, and what only you can do for yourself is, as I said, work out what you want. Let's face it, you're going to be

here for three years, and not any three years. The youth and manhood—sound sentences, but it's a point making if you believe in like rounding your shoulders, widening your scope of getting to know yourself, up. This is the place to aim, that, but it's got to be a aim.

Society

No need to introduce you to the various societies, clubs, organisations and functions of the Union. Others will do that more effectively than I can—lysing isn't in it. But don't and don't understate the you can derive from them. just a case of finding something vital, essential to your growing personality. You won't get them after the years are up.

Gist

That's the gist, then. The Union as something to explore as a means of exploring the great fun and it's very tant. You can't go wrong pick and choose carefully there are facilities for every combination of talents you into her grasp. And a profitable outlet. By always bait works all the make a success of your career—you'd be a fool not to don't make a fetish of it.

gently with the undulations of a while occasionally connected by stairways, and from each other by presumably intended to made in and to stop here, but such clubs are out at those outside. Functions include good resting-looking women

The Moat House, just off Coventry Road, stays open until 4 and 5 a.m. over the end. However, with beer at for half a pint and a covered of up to 10/- it is strictly a a-term place, unless one has time, inclination and money "La Dolce Vita" a la Brum. The Midland Jazz Club for the real jazz enthusiasts, emphasis is on modern jazz mainstream and trad are neglected. Its clientele is knowledgeable, jazz-wise and much "with-it."

COFFEE BARS

THERE are coffee-bars in Birmingham—if you find them for the most unexciting, and unexciting there are exceptions. One of these is "El Sombrero" in Horse Fair, a whitewashed building with a red, Spanish hat glaring omnisciently from above.

Inside, the gloom and cigarette smoke occasionally disperse

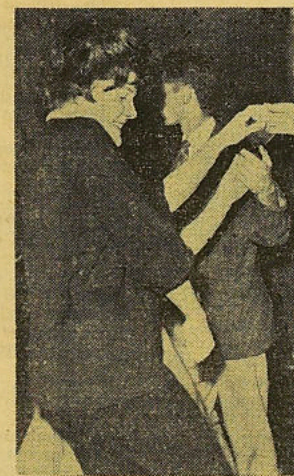
a loose end on Saturday nights? A bird in the hand is worth two in the crush...
feeling insecure? If so...

Would you loike to dance weeth me frend?

is the most beautiful girl in the Hop. She has breasts, a flat behind, no squint, and you have beaten 3.87 other men in the rush to grab her at the end of the last quick-dance. Just as you are wondering if there is any chance of smuggling her into your digs about waking up Mrs. Wutheringshaw (who has chronic insomnia and ears like an elephant), the music stops. Your Beauty draws back a little, smiles dreamily past your left ear and murmurs in a soft voice, "Would you loike to dance weeth me frend?"

You know this friend. She is the Unmarried Daughter of the Next Door; she is The Girl Whose Mother Didn't See that she was the most beautiful girl in the Hop; she is The Hanger-On to the Coat-Tails (or whatever Venus wears).

There is only one escape from Venus-Beauty's friend. Launch a swift punch at the solar-plexus of the nearest Adonis-type (there are usually several lurking near a Beauty) crying as you do so, "You're the swine who ruined little Annie!"



• Saturday night, and studies far away...

Either you will lay HIM out, thus proving yourself better than an Adonis and allowing Beauty to change her mind and give you the chance, later, of ruining HER... Or, more likely, Adonis will knock YOU out. Then as you are carried from the Hop, nursing your broken jaw, you will at least have the consolation of avoiding

being marriage fodder for her "friend."

It is only along the lines of these individual encounters that anything can be said against Hops. Morally speaking they are incredibly pure. The Entertainments Committee vice patrol does the rounds regularly while the dance is on; stewards guard the remotest corners of the Union... well, most of the remotest parts; and cases of people breaking in are comendably infrequent.

Virility

Despite the popular impression in some higher quarters, there is no immorality at Hops. With all these precautions, how could there be? The immorality takes place outside the University, afterwards. Or one assumes that it takes place, from all the big talk to be heard the following week. Just how much of it is true, no-one knows. Not very much, one would think, judging from the number of people at the Hop actually with girls.

Any observer can see that about 70 per cent. of the audience there just stands around to watch the dancing. This 70 per cent. is composed of those unfortunates with no girl and no dancing ability who feel that attendance at the Hop is a form of virility symbol which they cannot neglect.

Once there, they are far too nervous to actually DO anything. So they form a large, odiferous alcoholic mob at one end of the Hall where they can incessantly brag to their comrades about "what they did last week." Happily, many of them grow out of this stage and look back upon their spiritual progression as one of the liberalising effects of University education.

Wasted

And yet. The Hop fills in a Saturday evening which could only otherwise be wasted on academic work; for 800 people it is the cheapest evening in town; and over 70 per cent. of University girls marry University men. A fair number of these pairs must have met at Hops. They must have something to be said for them if one is brave enough to go and see for oneself.

TAKE

The Economist

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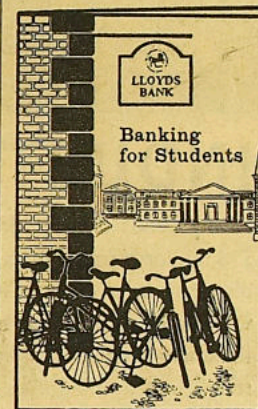
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SELLY OAK, BIRMINGHAM

Out and about in BRUM

RESTAURANTS

YOU can eat out in Birmingham in a varied collection of Chinese and Indian restaurants. Both service and food is reasonable, and the best Chinese restaurants are probably the Lieng Nam (Station Street), the Light of Asia (Corporation Street) and the Kam Ling (Snow Hill).

Indian restaurants are not so numerous. Recommended are the Anar Bagh and Shah Bagh which are both in Bristol Street. (Sample the biryani or pulao). Five minutes from the University, on Bristol Road, the Chamon is specially recommended for cheap lunch-time meals. Service is good and students are welcomed.

The Salamis (Broad Street) can be recommended for its variety of omelettes at reasonable prices.

For a slightly higher class nosh in town, try the Vintage Room (Temple Row).

If you feel rich, or your great-aunt Bertha has just died and left you her collection of Regency silver, try the Midland, the Burlington, the Imperial, the Queens, and the Albany (telly in the bedroom m'dears!).

R.L.B. These are both good, but if you

fancy an excursion into the city centre, you will find anything from the ethnic Irish rusticity of the "Red Cow" in the Horse Fair, to the suave plushness of the Gun Room at the Albany Hotel, or the "Viking," both on the Ringway.

Other favourites for the beer-consuming undergraduate are the "Woodman," dingy but very cosy, near the Town Hall, and the "Greyhound" up Holloway Head, which brews its own ale and can usually offer something unusual in the way of clientele.

"The Windsor" (Needless Alley, off New Street) is the Birmingham journalists' pub which sells a good pint and the best bread, cheese and onions in town, while the "Clarendon," near the Cathedral, is the city centre's only Free House. For a casual drink with the girl-friend (and assuming you're not flat broke), you cannot do better than the aforesaid Albany Hotel, the nearby "Viking" (also on the Ringway), or the Temple Bar in Temple Row.

Finally, for the inmates of Chancellor's Hall and other "High Society" the "White Swan" on the Harbourside Road is as pleasant a pub as will be found in Birmingham: low roofs, garden and skittle alley lend it an air of old-world charm.

T.D.A.

CLUBS

FOR twist and big-beat enthusiasts the choice of clubs in Brum is large even if the clubs themselves are invariably small. Many of them take up one or two rooms in a pub. The Station Inn and The Bournebrook — both in Selly Oak — have twist clubs operating there two or three times per week.

Further afield The Bull's Head at Yardley holds the Hereford Lounge Twist Club four nights per week. At this sort of club there is usually a tremendous atmosphere—made up of beer fumes, cigarette smoke, etc., and one big advantage for those nervous males who would like to dance but can't usually summon up sufficient courage to ask a girl.

At these places there is no question of NOT dancing—all one has to do is skillfully to wedge oneself between two girls (the beginner may find himself being crushed between two sets of hefty male shoulders, but his wedding should improve with practice). Having got oneself firmly fixed between two desirable females, one should grin fixedly at one's prey and move

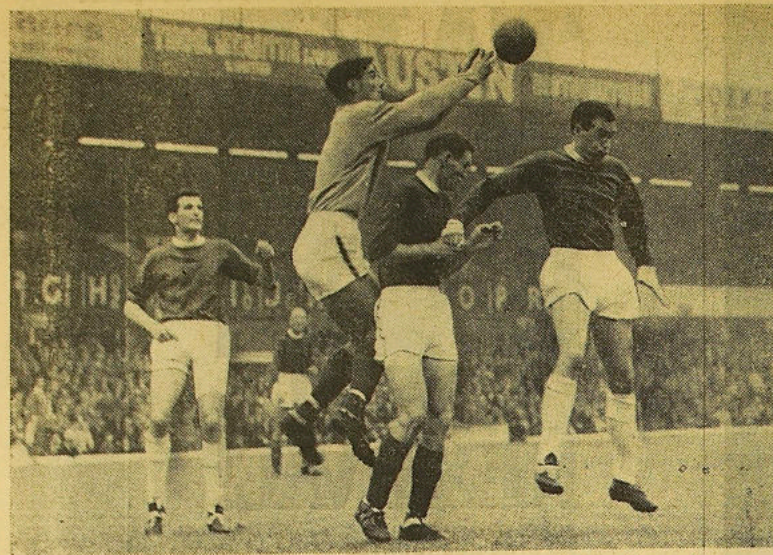


Photo: B'ham. Mail

● An incident from last Saturday's game between Birmingham and Ipswich. The Blues are doing better this season with home wins over Leicester, Bolton and Ipswich, and a draw with second-in-the-table Manchester United.

SPECTATORS' SPORT by TIM AUSTIN

SPORT AROUND BIRMINGHAM

Midland soccer isn't that bad

FOR those of you who take a more passive interest in sport, and those active members who, while watching others perform think how much better they could do themselves, the city of Birmingham has much to offer.

Proud centre of three First Division football clubs (a third of West Bromwich's ground lies within the Birmingham city boundary, after all), one top-class county cricket side, one erstwhile top-class and several second-class rugby clubs, one of England's leading athletics clubs, several distinctly upper-crust golf and tennis clubs, a race-track, three greyhound stadiums, several ten-pin bowling alleys, and a number of bingo saloons, Birmingham can truly be acclaimed as the Mecca of Midland sport (though Leicester City fans will doubtless dispute this vehemently).

Unless you come from London and support the Spurs, or from Liverpool and support Everton, you will probably enjoy an excursion some wet Saturday afternoon to see Aston Villa winning 1-0 with a scrambled last-minute goal at Villa Park, Birmingham City at St. Andrew's conceding goals in a way that only Wolves can surpass, or West Bromwich Albion running round in ever-decreasing circles at the Hawthornes.

It is all vastly amusing, providing that (a) you do not happen to support any of these teams, or (b) support Spurs or Everton, in which case you will leave at the end of the match never to watch another football match outside White Hart Lane or Goodison Park.

In the world of rugby, Moelker (when not furiously denying that they are in fact Coventry's nursery team) lay claim to being Birmingham's premier club. Indeed, they do possess the best rugby ground in the city, a team that releases players of a calibre of Robbins and Wiggins within a year of each other may inevitably suffer on the field of play.

RUGBY

Amongst the other major clubs, Birmingham R.F.C. comes almost as many points as Birmingham City A.F.C. and the Old Edwardians have a splendid but

This summer, Warwickshire astounded cricket followers throughout the country (and particularly those in Birmingham) by finishing well up in the County Championship table again. Much of their play was attractive to watch, and a visit to the County Ground at Edgbaston on a hot summer's afternoon during the examination period next June might be well worth consideration.

ATHLETICS

For the sporting gent, the dog tracks at Hall Green, King's Heath and Perry Barr, and the race-course at Bromford Bridge should provide sufficient scope. Otherwise he can either play cards in the Union or bingo almost anywhere.

Birmingham is perhaps world off for top-class hockey, swimming and tennis amongst the major sports, but if you cannot find anything in the city to satisfy your sporting interests by being a spectator, you could always try playing something yourself. Even bingo.

REDBRICK NEEDS PHOTOGRAPHERS



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I.C.I. spends a great deal on research and development work—£18 million a year, in fact. This does not mean that every day a major discovery comes out of its laboratories, though I.C.I. discoveries of world-wide acclaim have been many and varied. It does mean, however, that there is a constant stream of advances over a wide front, for I.C.I. research is nothing if not far-ranging. These have a beneficial effect upon industry everywhere. Here are three examples:

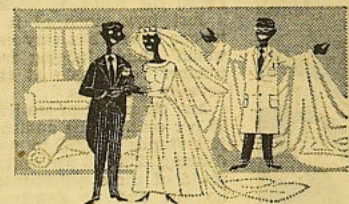


NECESSITY'S SON

Some countries have been fortunate in discovering vast reserves of natural gas—a cheap source of fuel or raw material for the manufacture of vital chemicals. Britain's luck was "out" on natural gas—but I.C.I. scientists, foreseeing the difficulty of competing with foreign industries possessing natural gas, recently devised a steam-reforming process using oil feedstocks. This has proved fully competitive as a starting point for chemical manufacture, and is being used by I.C.I. for the production of ammonia for fertilizers, etc. The new process has been shown to have even wider application than was envisaged. It can be used to make hydrogen for oil refineries, or town gas for domestic and industrial use. No fewer than 40 other companies wish to build, under licence, plants to operate the process.



NEW GLAZING TECHNIQUES IN CERAMICS In traditional coal-fired kilns the glaze on earthenware pipes was produced by shovelling salt on the burning coals, which turned it into vapour. Modern oil-fired kilns—with no fire-bed—set a problem. I.C.I. research found the answer—a dispersed stream of salt is fed into the kiln from a miniature silo, and the particles vaporize in the hot gases from the oil burners. Not only is the problem solved—but a superior glaze is produced.



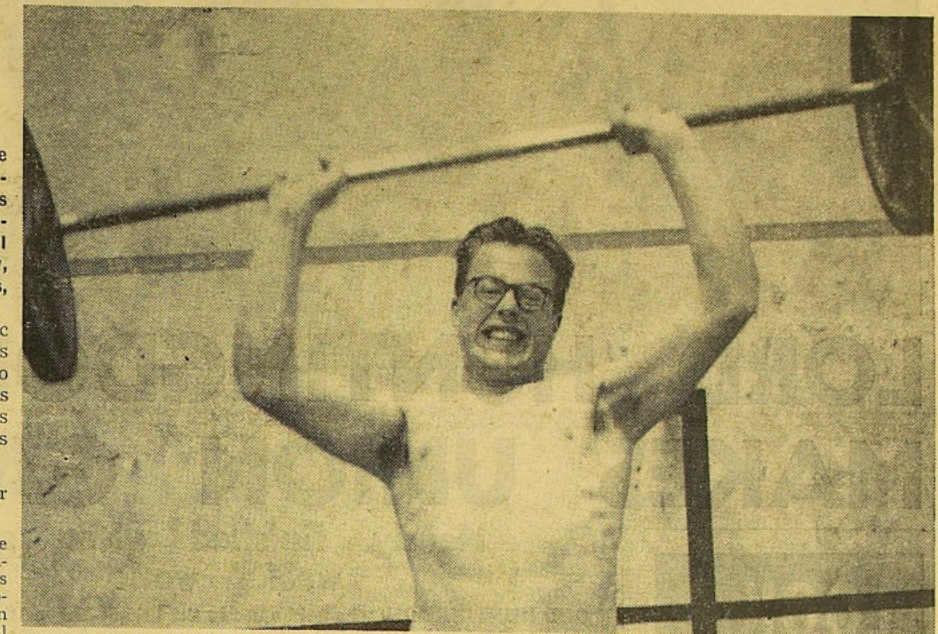
TEXTILE NOVELTY PERFECTED "Foambacks"—fabrics backed with a thin sheet of flexible foam—are beginning to enjoy quite a furore in fashion. Foambacks had an unattractive "handle", caused by the hard edge of the join between the fabric and the foam. Until an I.C.I. chemist recently evolved an entirely new method of joining the two together. Using the adhesive urethane film system devised by him, foambacks once joined are inseparable, and have excellent "handle" without a trace of hardness.

Variety—that's Brum's keynote

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT BRUM

FROM ABC TO XYZ

sporting REDBRICK



AWAY FROM IT ALL

THE Physical Education Department Camp at Lake Coniston in the Lake District has again proved to be a success. Held over a six-week period this summer, with weekly or fortnightly changes in personnel, the camp has given plenty of enjoyable exercise to a large number of students.

● Different people find different ways of enjoying themselves.

sports comment

Objective and accurate

DURING the coming year it will be the aim of the "REDBRICK" Sports Pages to provide you with objective as possible, but on the other hand, subjective sport, with particular emphasis on sport in Birmingham University.

Reporting of matches will always be as accurate and objective as possible, but on the other hand, subjective views will always be welcomed. Special feature articles on some sporting topic will probably put forward views with which you will disagree; if so, write to us, via the "REDBRICK" pigeon holes in the new entrance hall of the Union, and if there is space your letter will be printed (unless, of course, you do not wish it to be).

Sport, like sex, religion and politics, is a subject that throws itself wide open to controversy; like them it should be debated, discussed, argued. Let the Sports Page of "REDBRICK" be the firing point from which you launch your arguments.

The entire organisation of the Union depends on people co-operating with each other, and this goes for the Sports Page of this paper as well. We need the co-operation of Club Captains and secretaries who kindly submit reports for publication.

May I ask the captain and secretaries to put their reports into the "REDBRICK" pigeon holes NOT LATER than the SUNDAY before publication throughout the year.

Finally, an appeal to the Freshers. If you are interested in Sport and would like to write about it, come to the "REDBRICK" offices next Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. to join the Sports Staff; the more the merrier, and everyone will be welcome and useful.

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SPECTATOR'S GUIDE

EVERY week there will appear in the Sporting section of REDBRICK a comprehensive Spectator's Guide which will give details of all home matches with dates and times.

Every team likes to have supporters watching them, and no University side ever has enough. In one way it is more enjoyable than supporting a professional club as there is more personal interest. So if you have a Saturday afternoon with nothing to do, refer to the Spectators' Guide and go along and cheer.

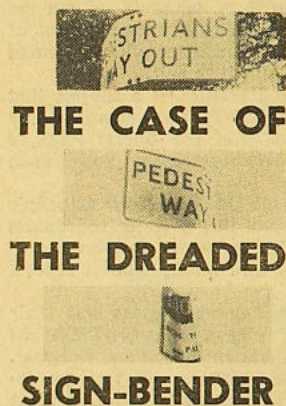


LORD HUNTINGDON MAKES UNION GAY

Nearly finished after six weeks' work

LOOK ROUND

BIGGER attendances at the June Academic Festival this year. Total attendance was nearly double that of last year, as were the attendances at the lectures. The Committee organising the Festival states that if attendances continue to rise the Debating Hall will probably prove too small in future years. "AFTER all, it is not a criminal offence," commented Dr. Lynn, lecturer in psychology at Exeter University, recently dismissed from his post as warden of a men's hall after airing liberal views on the subject of girlfriends in men's rooms. "I don't believe it is the job of the university to stop this sort of thing."



THE CASE OF THE DREADED SIGN-BENDER

THE University Police have no idea who have bent many of the sign-posts on the campus. Considerations of height and strength required, imply that the offenders are tall and strong, and therefore, physically, not small.

The benders struck repeatedly before the majority of students returned to Birmingham. It is most likely that the culprits were among the schoolchildren, who visited the "Sunday Times" Science Fair. They already bear the responsibility for damage done to the Haworth building during the Fair.

Bending goes on in spasms through the year, but this spate has been something of a jamboree. Those responsible should know that the signs have to be straightened by a man with a block and a hammer—which gives employment to someone. And, that the next time they exercise their strength, they will find the signs much tougher. This is due to the fact that all this bending causes the metallurgical phenomena of work-hardening.

LORD HUNTINGDON, who held office in the 1945-51 Labour Government, and one of Britain's top mural artists is painting the Founder's Room wall in the Union.

"I want this mural to be a gay, happy scene in keeping with the character of this room," he said.

In addition to his parliamentary activities, he was chairman of the Committee Society of Mural Painters, 1953-57, started painting murals whilst living in America before the war. He was a pupil of Diego Rivera, the Mexican artist. "I prefer painting murals to pictures," he said. "A mural has to fit in with the tone of a room, there is so much to consider."

He wanted to paint his present mural specifically for a group of young people and was invited to choose a suitable wall in the Union. "Founder's Room is very well suited to a mural," he said. "The lighting is good and this is very important. Small pictures tend to get lost in a large room such as this, a mural is far more effective."

The idea of a mural for the Union first came up two years ago at Union Committee but nothing was done about it until the end of last term. "Rodney Klevan, last year's President, decided a realistic mural, something light and not abstract, would be best," said John Paling, President of the Guild.

"Lord Huntingdon decided that Founder's was the best

Prof. gets medal

PROF. RUDOLF PEIERLS, currently Professor of Mathematical Physics, here, was awarded the Max Planck medal, the German equivalent of the Nobel Prize, by the German Physical Society at a conference of physicists in Hamburg recently. Professor Peierls, whose work with Otto Frisch in 1940 showed that the atom-bomb could be made, will take up the appointment of Wykeham Professor of Physics at Oxford later this year.

TV probe on effect of Varsity life

THE main effects of three years at university are, according to Geoffrey Wheeler, the BBC-TV interviewer, to make the undergraduate more ready to accept people as individuals and less prone to expect other people to take responsibility for his actions and his work.

Mr. Wheeler was talking to REDBRICK reporter after the completion of a TV project stretching over three years. Several Birmingham students, interviewed three years ago just as they were entering the university, were interviewed again just before the long vac.

The result will be seen shortly in a programme combining the two sets of interviews, which will try to bring out how the students' ideas and attitudes have been changed by his period spent at university.

"People come up to university with a lot of naive, pre-conceived ideas and an initial feeling of loneliness, both of which they

room for a mural. The bar had been suggested but the lighting there is unsuitable. I think this mural will suit Founder's atmosphere very well."

Lord Huntingdon has been working on the mural for six weeks and hopes to finish it within the next few days. "I first did a design and then an enlargement on the actual wall. I have used tempura paint for the work."

The mural will be left unvarnished for a few months, but it is probable that a light coat of varnish will be put on during the Christmas vacation. This will help to preserve it.

Opinions in the Guild varied. "I think a mural in Founder's is a good idea," said one member. "It brightens the place up a bit." "Murals like these went out with the 1930's" said another. "I prefer a blank wall to this or certainly the abstract paintings that were there before."

"It reflects the youthful vigour of the Union and provides a splendid contrast to the somewhat sober mural already in the Coffee Room," said a third.

Hordes invade

HORDES of Birmingham school-children were in and around the campus during the last week to view the "Science Fair", brain-child of Lord Brain, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

BUILDINGS:

Big surge forward in Brum

THE university is at the moment in the midst of the biggest expansion programme since its inception over fifty years ago. Many new buildings are being occupied for the first time this term, and new halls of residence, sports facilities and vast extensions to university buildings are in the building planning stage.

The ten-storey, £1½ million biology block will be mostly occupied by the beginning of this term, but is not expected to be fully functioning until next. The new Commerce block, behind the library, is partly in use now, and further stages will come into operation until next Easter. Two new halls, Ridge Hall for women and High Hall for men, will take their first students between now and Easter, and four more are in the planning stage.

Future

Among the large-scale future projects, the sports centre will be partially completed by 1966 and will provide, in its first stage, a main gymnasium and a multi-purpose sports arena. Perhaps the most exciting idea in the expansion plan is the building, from 1965 onwards, of a university theatre, to be formed in conjunction with a department of drama. The theatre, which will be an important addition to the university's cultural facilities, will probably be built near the Barber Institute and be completed by 1967.

Big developments are planned in the Pritchatts Road area, with new halls and departmental buildings all being built in this part of the campus.

NEVER HUNGRY ON SUNDAY

AS part of the drive to end the lodgings shortage, which is steadily becoming more acute, the refectory is to serve Sunday lunches, from next Sunday onwards.

"It is hoped that people will now go more willingly into digs that only offer bed and breakfast all week," said the refectory manager, Mr. Humbert. "This Sunday opening is in the nature of an experiment and we are having great difficulty obtaining staff." To enable the refectory to have some idea of the numbers wanting the service tickets will be issued on the Thursday and Friday from the refectory office and the union for the following Sunday. There will be a flat rate of 5/- for the meal.

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