

DEAR PRESIDENT.—Thank you for your letter of the 18th February informing me of the Guild Council's resolution of the 17th February. You ask if there are any University records kept of the political affiliations of staff or students in this University and my answer to that is "no." Such information to my knowledge is never used in determining admission; nor would such information, if it were available, be given to future employers. If I discovered such a thing happening, I would be against it.

This University has a long tradition of political and religious freedom, which is exemplified by a situation which occurred in the Court of Governors about 19 years ago, when somebody raised the question as to whether there were people of certain political affiliations on the staff, and Sir Raymond Priestley replied: "It is no part of the University's policy to interfere in the politics of its staff." I would say to you now that this University is not concerned with the political or religious affiliations of its staff or students.

I shall ask Senate to consider the proposals Guild Council are making about the keeping of student records.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT B. HUNTER.

SECRECY STATEMENT FROM V-C

FOLLOWING Guild Council's demand last week that the Vice-Chancellor make a statement on the question of secret files in the University, Dr. Hunter sent a letter to the Guild President denying that such files existed.

The feeling at the time was that this statement was satisfactory, but a meeting will be held in the Union at 1.15 p.m. on Thursday to discuss these questions of files.

Executive have invited Dr. Hunter to attend the meeting, and his statement will be reviewed in the light of the document found at Warwick which discusses student attitudes over Rhodesia. A decision will be made on whether the statement is acceptable to the Guild.

Student detained at South Africa demo

TWENTY students from Birmingham and Aston Universities were forcibly ejected by police from the Top Rank Suite yesterday after they had tried to disrupt the South African Trade Mission meeting taking place there.

After rushing into the foyer of the building they were prevented by police from getting into the room in which the meeting was being held.

They sat down, but when it was realised that the police were calling reinforcements, they ran downstairs to the main ballroom scattering anti-apartheid leaflets calling for the ending of trade links with the racist regime in South Africa. But they were cornered and hurled out of the building by the police-men.

Earlier, slogans had been daubed on the walls of the Top Rank Suite,

Barclays Bank (which has large interests in South Africa) and the offices of South African Airways. These had all been cleaned off by the time pickets had arrived to leaflet the businessmen attending the seminar.

Later yesterday afternoon, further sorties were made on the building, resulting in the temporary detention of one student.

The seminar had been organised by a London firm, Independent Trade Missions Ltd., with the collaboration of the South African and Portuguese dictatorships, and Midlands businessmen had paid £17 for the privilege of attending.

New light on Rhodesia link

A DOCUMENT has come to light during the Warwick sit-in which relates to Birmingham University's Medical School links with Rhodesia.

The document, marked "Confidential" is a note by Sir Christopher Cox, Education Advisor to the Ministry of Overseas Development, on a conversation with the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Hunter, last year. It was sent to the Vice-Chancellor of Warwick, J. B. Butterworth, and refers to Dr. Hunter's comments on the link, with particular regard to the Senate Committee which was set up to investigate the position. The note says: "Dr. Hunter had invited Professor Miller (of the Salisbury Medical School) to come and talk to the committee despite Professor Miller's critical views and pessimism regarding the future." Professor Miller is known to be critical of the link and in favour of discontinuing it, but the note continues:

"Dr. Hunter thought it right that the committee should know at first hand how Professor Miller looked at this, but he believed that he himself would have the committee's support and referred to 'my chances of getting it through.'"

Senate has refused to agree to students being represented on this committee, although the Vice-Chancellor was reported to be in favour of this. There is, however, a wide difference of opinion between the views of Dr. Hunter, who believes that the link with the Medical School in Salisbury should be continued and students who think that the connections must be broken.

According to the note, Dr. Hunter said that he thought student attention would focus itself on the Rhodesian question over the next year. "The President of the Students' Guild for the year that has just begun had been a V.S.O. in Rhodesia some years ago and might well bring this issue to the front," the note says.

Dr. Hunter is said to have referred to the conferring of an Honorary Degree on Sir Humphrey Gibbs and to have "mentioned with satisfaction that the attempt of the small group of students to interfere with the ceremony had been thwarted." The fact that the civil

police were called in over this matter is not mentioned.

The question of the Salisbury School being brought under the control of the Board of Management rather than being left to "Dr. Webster and the Ministry" was mentioned by the Vice-Chancellor. He said that Lady Gibbs had undertaken to do her utmost to muster support for the idea of the Board. Dr. Webster is at the Teaching Hospital in Salisbury.

Dr. Hunter said, according to the note, that "the Birmingham view about the Salisbury Medical School would not vary 'if Smith kissed Heath.' Governments might come and go but the Birmingham position was rooted in basic professional human rights; that was the strength of their position and why their continued participation was important."

Sir Christopher Cox's note ends by saying: "I thought I had probably under-rated his intellectual calibre in our earlier talk and I should certainly modify now what I said then about it."

Sir Christopher Cox's note is printed in full on page five.



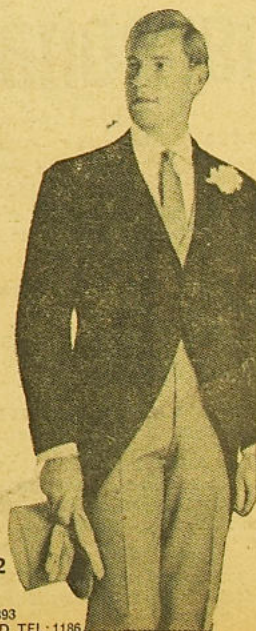
"Mermaid" comes out this week, with a giant-size issue, but discovered at the weekend were some cases of old documents stored away in the Union. Amongst them were some of the earliest editions of "Mermaid." The "Supplement to the Mermaid" dated 1906 contains this picture of the first Guild Council. Allegations that some of the members are still around the Union have been denied.

37/6

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digit

THE ESTABLISHMENT IS ALWAYS CORRECT

THE ESTABLISHMENT IS ALWAYS CORRECT

THE ESTABLISHMENT IS ALWAYS CORRECT

HELLO DIGIT, I STILL CAN'T GET IT TO SOUND RIGHT.

WELL SONIA, TRY SAYING...

THE STUDENT IS ALWAYS CORRECT.

18 JON

personal

COLTEC driving tests Sunday, March 1st. See Motor Club notice board for details.

MOTOR Club Vintage car films, Tuesday, March 3rd, St. Francis's Hall Lecture Theatre.

ARSENAL. Won't you change?—Daphne.

NEWMAN Catholic Society A.G.M. on Sunday, March 1st at 8 p.m. at 29 Harrison's Road, Edgbaston.

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BRAND NEW, unused L.P.s at 30/-: e.g. "Let It Be", "Abbey Road", Simon and Garfunkel. Also C.T.A. double L.P., 32.6—Martin Lowe, c/o P.H.

DO you want a dog, a nice little black dog? If so, contact Editor.

Strip with relish

AT a 21st birthday celebration of two Physics students in the Main Bar last week there were some odd goings-on.

The euphoric participants apparently chased one of the barmen, who was nonchalantly collecting glasses, and attempted to strip him of his clothing. However, the barman escaped nimbly and consequently the two celebrants stood on the nearest table and stripped themselves naked.

The "ladies" in the Bar, it is understood, turned their backs on the sight, being either unconcerned or disgusted. The majority of the male Physicists, however, crowded round the table and followed the incident with surprising relish and enjoyment.

Vitriolic Spiderman

ANYONE surprised at the recent appearance of lurid American comic magazines on the Union Reception desk may be reassured to learn that "Character Developments in Thor and Spider Man" is a course recently instituted in an American university.

Can it be that our own authorities plan to follow suit? How long before an English professor announces that "Wall's" Artist Vitreous Porcelaine has put British comic strip back twenty years?

Toadstool high

DESMOND MORRIS, the former undergraduate of the University of Birmingham, who stepped into "Zoo Time" and later into a white Rolls and considerable wealth with his lucrative sex publications, is not alone in his success of turning a mundane academic subject into a money-making sensation.

For Manchester University is now unveiling its answer to Desmond: Professor John Marco Allegro, of Manchester's Department of Theology, is soon to have his controversial book "The Magic Mushroom and the Cross" published. In it he discounts the Jesus story as a giant myth, Christianity and the Testament, he alleges, resulted from the cover-up for a phallic, drug-taking, mystery tribal cult which existed at the time.

Serialisation rights have already been sold throughout the world for over £30,000 and the book is tipped to be a best seller. It should all help to supplement the Professor's income.

To end it all

THE 14th floor of the Arts Commerce Tower affords remarkable views over Birmingham.

It also offers a surprisingly easy way of defection. The large windows slide upwards, opening fully to reveal a gaping and awe-inspiring square space only thirty inches above the floor—but a considerable distance from the ground.

Events this week

FILMS

THE MILKY WAY (dir. Bunuel)—Jacey, Station Street. (reviewed)

FISTFUL OF DOLLARS/FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE—Odeon, New Street (reviewed)

PRIVATE LESSON (Le Leon Particuliere)/COMPLICATED GIRL—Cinephone, Bristol Road (reviewed)

THE MAD ROOM/LAND RAIDERS—Futurist

HELLS ANGELS 69/SCREAM AND SCREAM AGAIN—ABC, New Street (reviewed)

GOODBYE MR. CHIPS—ABC Cinema, Bristol Road.

SOUND OF MUSIC—Scala (reviewed)

HELLO DOLLY—Gaiety

UNDERGROUND FILMS—Today 2.30, 7.30

MORGAN, A SUITABLE CASE FOR TREATMENT—Union, 7.0 Sunday

CONDAMNED A MORT/FREAKS—B.U.F.S., 7.0 Thursday

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE (James Dean)—Late Night Show, ABC, New Street, 11.30 Friday

JULIET OF THE SPIRITS—Arts Lab., Friday, 11.30

THEATRE

HAMLET—Birmingham Rep (dir. Peter Dewes; Alec McCowen as Hamlet). Few tickets still available. Book now.

THERE IS, WE BELIEVE, A DRAMA FESTIVAL

RADIO

I'M SORRY I'LL READ THAT AGAIN—Sunday (repeated Tuesday).

MUSIC

FRIDAY, FEB. 27th—Booker T. & the M.G.s, Blue Mink, Jimmy Ruffin—Odeon.

Zoot Money—Aston Pyjama Hop.

SATURDAY, FEB. 28th—Dubliners, Town Hall.

Marsha Hunt—Mothers.

Amati Ensemble (Felix Kok, Ivor Keys)—Mid. Inst. Ustad Imrat Khan—St. Martin's Church, Bull Ring.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1st—Keef Hartley, Mississippi Fred McDowell—Mothers.

etcetera

Man dies

PSEUDO, in-culture, contemporary journalism is often as side-splitting as it is motiveless.

The "Sunday Times" has, in the last three months, progressed from a column "Me and My Money", to "Me and My Mate" and the ultimate "Me and My Body": "I'm 6ft. 3in. tall and weigh around 10 stone... there's nothing I can do about my knobby knees," and so on.

Last week "Redbrick" carried a strikingly odd article in which Neil Mortensen examined "The Contemporary Dilemma." It's all too much.

The article provoked its own dilemma: many students who read it didn't understand a word.

However, there was consolation in the preview appended to the article: "Next Week Part II of The Great Escape... 'Is Man Dead?'" The answer, I understand, is to be found a few pages from here.

Neil Mortensen is, presumably, alive and well.

Such a drag

THE "drag" act that was to appear with the "Students' Bedlam" wrestling show this Monday, but had to be cancelled following threats from wrestlers, will appear in the Union, it was learnt yesterday.

Although Stevie "Eskimo Nell" cannot appear, Norma ("Legs") Sharif is booked to perform on March 19th in the Students' Union. Norma will not appear alone.

On the same night 30 international black belt karate and Tai Kwon-do experts are to converge on the Union to give a "spectacular and devastating" demonstration of their lethal powers. Tai Kwon-do is a form of kick fighting in which it is claimed that one speciality is demolishing planks held ten feet high with a "flying reverse side kick."

N. D. M.

AS National Doughnut Month draws to a close student doughnut consumption figures on the campus have soared.

The increase over a wide front with cream doughnuts prominent among the leaders. The recent introductory new issue of ring doughnuts in Founder's has resulted in a late rally in the market. Jam doughnuts have sagged with a lack of interest among buyers.

According to one group of angry students the doughnut set-up in the Union is far from satisfactory. They complain that access to the commodity is made unnecessarily difficult because the items are available for purchase only after 3 p.m. each afternoon.

How right..

THE Visitors' Book for the Lenin Centenary exhibition at the Heslop Room in the Library has already collected a bizarre selection of remarks. The latest one appended reads: "Long live the Fascist revolution... please, miss, can I throw stones?"

It's well worth a visit to see the rest.



Anna Massey as Ophelia and Alec McCowen as Hamlet at the Rep.

NEXT WEEK

LE DEPART/BICYCLE THIEVES—Jacey.

ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE (dir. Peter Hunt—Diana Rigg)—Odeon.

SPRING AND PORT WINE—ABC, New Street.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5th—Georgie Fame, Alan Price—Festival Dance, Mayfair Suite, Bull Ring.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8th—Pink Floyd—Mothers.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10th—Love, Colosseum—Town Hall.

DISPUTE OVER SFH FUTURE

THE function and purpose of St. Francis' Hall is at present in dispute following a meeting called to discuss the Hall's future.

After the meeting, which was on February 15th, Guild Chaplain David Hart circulated a statement in which he emphasised that S.F.H. is the experimental religious centre of the Guild, and not the place for the various Christian denominations to use for their own exclusive purposes. "Students attend St. Francis' Hall as individual students; there is no membership," he said.

"The use of the term 'denomination' applied to those who attend S.F.H. is a trick of words to put the S.F.H. attendance on the same basis as the various denominations. This assumption is a false starter."

Rejecting the proposal that the council of students responsible for S.F.H. should be appointed by the denominational groups, David Hart said: "We are members of a secular university. Secularisation can be discussed at length but it includes liberation from the power of the Church. On behalf of most of the students whom the Guild serves, I will maintain and pursue that particular liberation."

A reply to David Hart's statement from a "Cabalistic Group" says that it is rather naive to suggest that the Guild is independent of outside organisations, and questions whether S.F.H. "is more than an extension of the organised Church on to the campus in a somewhat disguised form." It denies a "take-over bid" for S.F.H., but says that there is a body of people who wish to use the resources of the Hall "in a new and challenging way."

Another statement, signed simply "J. & G.", puts forward suggestions for "The New Community." The new functions of S.F.H. would be to hold weekly meetings on Sunday afternoons for tea with speakers, films, discussions or "general topics of interest." Its second function would be to organise and carry out regular forms of community action "for the collective participation of all in the community."

Worship, it says, would be not different from the present system.

RACE AND IMPERIALISM

THE first meeting of the "Race and Imperialism" group of the Free University is being held today in Committee Room A of St. Francis' Hall. At this meeting Malcolm X, Leroi Jones and Eldridge Cleaver will be heard on tape speaking on the Black Power struggle.

The organisers say that it often becomes necessary to remind people, both Liberals and Radicals, that mere words condemning Racism are not enough. The purpose of the group will depend on the wishes of the people who attend on Wednesday, but they say that it is clear from discussions that have taken place with people interested that if the group is to serve a meaningful purpose, research and positive action will have to be undertaken.

Apart from the main areas of race conflict, the group will be considering places like Chad, Angola and Mozambique, but issues such as British investments in Southern Africa will also come under review.

The first meeting takes place at 5.15 p.m.



Bob Holman speaking at the meeting, "Participation by the Poor" in St. Francis Hall last Thursday.

FESTIVAL CASH DROPS

THE success of Festival's door-to-door collection was seriously reduced by the recent snow which prevented the collection of a large number of envelopes. Due to the snowy conditions on the day scheduled for the collection, only 25 per cent. of those who had distributed the envelopes were prepared to go out again.

The Charities Chairman, Brian Whittington, anticipates that the collection should still amount to about £650, largely due to the efforts of the Festival reps. in the Faculties and Halls of Residence. It was originally estimated that the return could have reached £5,000.

An advertisement has appeared in the "Birmingham Post," asking anyone who would like to make a contribution, and whose envelope has not been collected, to send it to the Union.

UNIVERSITY CENTRE

THE University Centre Survey questionnaires which were sent out to some students earlier this term should now be returned as soon as possible.

People who received these should now send the completed forms to Mr. E. James, Department of Social Administration.

The University Centre Development Sub-Committee are most anxious to receive as great a number of replies as possible in order that the planning of the future university centre may be based on the best possible information.

ANDREW FAULDS

Next Tuesday, March 3rd, Andrew Faulds, M.P., will be giving a talk on "The Politics of British Aid." The talk is one of a series arranged by the Third World First Group and will take place in St. Francis' Hall at 5.15 p.m.

Modern France study

A TEN-DAY seminar and study tour to Paris on the Social Services of Modern France is being organised by the Department of Social Administration.

The tour is aimed at those who wish to broaden their appreciation of some contemporary Continental trends in social policy, and pays particular attention to the needs of students and teachers of social administration and of those involved in government, local authority and voluntary agencies.

The time in Paris will be spent visiting social security and family allowance offices, health centres, children's homes, housing estates and community and development projects.

The tour is arranged in conjunction with various British and French departments of Social Service and costs £225 inclusive of accommodation and travel. Closing date for applications is April 26th, 1970, and the co-ordinator in Birmingham is Arthur Williamson, Department of Social Administration.

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FOR INTRODUCTION NOTES CONTACT:
Rodney Watts, via The Union P.H., or
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TRAVEL in the younger sort is a part of education.—Francis Bacon.

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STUDENTS CONCESSION
late 1962 a year. Cash, details of college, course and final year to NEW STATESMAN, Great Brunswick, London WC1.

NEW STATESMAN

DEBSOC SUPPORTS THE PILL

AT last Wednesday's debate in the Council Chamber, on the motion that "This House deprecates the Pill," Debsoc showed itself overwhelmingly in favour of this method of contraception by 77 votes to 10, with 30 in abstention.

The proposer of the motion, who preferred to be known simply as "Mr. Derrick", said his main objection was that, because the Pill was taken at a time completely unrelated to sex, it made it easier to forget or fool oneself about what one was doing.

He compared the taking of the Pill to a bomber pilot who drops his explosives from several miles up, and who is only very indirectly connected with the results that flow from his action.

Mr. Derrick went on to say that when a couple do not wish to have a child, the only honest and loving thing to do was to abstain from sex, upon which a curious popping sound was heard to come from the opposition, much to the appreciation of the House. Mr. Derrick then concluded that having sex in such circumstances was erotic hypocrisy, and a phoney protective, and pleaded that if sex was not to become simply "a commodity", the House should vote for the opposition.

Dr. Mills, an eminent gynaecologist, spoke for the opposition. He stressed the problem of overcrowding, even at family level and said that the early pairing-up of persons not emotionally mature now made the Pill a necessity. He continued that in 1969 there were 56,000 abortions, all of which could have been avoided, and stated that the idea that the Pill encouraged promis-

cuity was simply not borne out by the figures. Dr. Mills then drew the support of the House by concluding that love-making was not just a matter of having babies.

Phil Heslop, from the Cambridge Union, seconded the proposition. He urged that research on the Pill and its side-effects had been all too cursory, and claimed that those which were safer from this point of view, were not as safe in preventing conception. In reply to Dr. Mills, Mr. Heslop pointed out that the world was not overcrowded, it was just that the population was in the wrong place in relation to the available food supply, and that the proper use of resources was a far more satisfactory answer to the problem than the Pill.

He concluded by saying that contraception as an answer only suits the requirements of those who support it.

The last speaker of the evening, Mr. Yarrington, an Anglican lay preacher, then rose for the opposition. He proposed a quite unorthodox, religious viewpoint, in which he claimed that sex was "the most marvellous thing ever given to man" (cheers from the floor).

He said that previously the mysticism connected with the Church had prevented birth control, and as a result of this we were now threatened by a population explosion. Mr. Yarrington said the Pill now meant that couples could lose their anxiety about having an

unwanted baby, and it was surely better that a baby should be welcomed and loved, than not wanted at all. He then concluded that the ultimate in a sexual relationship was to decide with the partner when to produce a new life, and the House expressed its approval of this proposition.

After several speakers from the floor had put some interesting viewpoints ("Well, you know what I meant," concluded one well-known figure) the vote was taken, and proceedings closed. Details of the political debate for "Festival" will appear soon.

preview

"The Gondoliers," Gilbert and Sullivan, Feb. 25th to 28th, Med. School).

THIS week's performance of "The Gondoliers" is an excellent opportunity to enjoy an evening of true entertainment in the world of mirth and song. The operetta has the typical Gilbert and Sullivan constituents of hilarious love tangles and heroes exchanged in infancy, and the music is lively and catchy. But the end product is wittier and more subtle than one would expect.

The operetta has the typical Gilbert and Sullivan constituents of hilarious love tangles and heroes exchanged in infancy, and the music is lively and catchy. But the end product is wittier and more subtle than one would expect.

A strong vein of satire at the expense of republicans and monarchs alike runs through the story. The Venetian Grand Inquisitor points out that "when everybody is somebody then no-one's anybody," and the upstart gondolier's

Degrading display

DEAR Sir,—I am surprised to learn that fears have been expressed (in "Redbrick" of February 18th), for the safety of students attending the proposed wrestling match at the Union on March 2nd. One imagines that

people who seek entertainment from this spectacle, which civilised human beings might consider as degrading to watch, would be anxious to participate personally, in order to make the brawl as bloody and brutal as possible.

In the unlikely event of any of the audience surviving when this occurs, they might be persuaded to offer their services for next year's festival programme. This could include gladiatorial contests, self-immolations and other entertainment which would no doubt ensure their complete enjoyment.

However, it is to be hoped that these events, together with any future wrestling, drag acts, strip-tease, etc., could be excluded from the Union building, which could then become a haven of culture for those with unperverted tastes.

Yours barbarically,
G. DEVINE,
Dept. of Transportation.

'Amused'

DEAR Sir,—It was with considerable amusement that I read the feature which covers half of Page Four in your last issue. Who is Neil Mortensen? What is this collection of pseudo-profound clichés supposed to be about? Where did he get the absurd parody of "The Left Wing Alternative" from? (What about Marx, Lenin, Engels?). Will someone please tell him to stop writing rhetorical questions?

Your faithfully,
B. J. MORRIS.

JILL LINDSEY NORMAN

This could make all the difference to your next twenty years (or your starter for five)

- In a few months you'll have a degree.
- You won't be ostentatious about it. Just so long as people know.
- What matters is putting all that knowledge to practical use.
- If each day doesn't bring new problems you won't be interested.
- The trouble with industry is that it's still too slow exploiting innovation.
- Yes-men go far. The further the better.
- Money matters. But what about intangibles - like keeping your identity, not getting swallowed up?
- People matter. Especially those who will be working with you - and those who will work for you.
- Having got this far you owe it to yourself to see the BICC careers people.

They're here on March 11.

Your future's in the balance - or at least the next five years are.
Your Appointments Officer will have details.

get there - with



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A276A

letters

THE GREAT ESCAPE

PART 2 Is man dead?

by Neil Mortensen

Last week we saw the tendency toward the escape to the irrational in modern thought. Simon and Garfunkel summarise the searching and frustration of our age:

"Like a poem poorly written
We are verses out of rhythm
Couplets out of rhyme
In syncope time."

And in another song they state this frustration even more clearly:

"Through the corridors of sleep
Past shadows dark and deep
My mind dances and leaps in confusion.
I don't know what is real,
I can't touch what I feel,

What is the solution offered? We find it in the chorus of the song:—

"So, I'll continue to continue
to pretend
my life will never end, and
flowers
never bend with the rain-
fall."

In the past men turned to philosophy or religion for answers. The philosophers offered answers to the big questions of life? Who am I? Where am I? Why am I here? One by one these explanations have been weighed and found wanting. It is this failure to find adequate answers which has begotten our anti-rational era. No-one is writing philosophy as such today. For the most part, today's "thinkers" are anti-philosophers.

And what of religion? Our generation has written off organised religion as obsolescent and overly-institutionalised—an extension of

the very dehumanising system against which we are rebelling. There are many churches that are no longer voices crying in the wilderness. They are either living in the past, speaking the truth—but in a way no-one understands; or, in their zeal to be contemporary, they have absorbed themselves in the spirit of the day, some going so far as to declare (almost gleefully) that God is dead.

The traditional comforters have been abandoned; but now the new ones are performing in a disappointing fashion.

We are left today not only with a religion and a church without meaning, but also with a culture without meaning. Is man himself dead? Many modern thinkers seem to be saying "Yes!" The concluding words of Samuel Beckett's "The Unnamable" echo their scream: "Where I am, I don't now, I'll never know, in the silence you don't

know, you must go on, I can't go on, I'll go on."

Is there room left for man in the universe? When we analyse the problem of the personhood of man it is important to realise we have only two alternatives, no more. Either the universe is completely impersonal, the product of time plus chance, or it is intrinsically personal, the product of Personality.

If we choose the former explanation we are left with the conclusion of "The Unnamable." On the other hand, if a personal God lies behind existence, then there is an explanation for human personality. Without this explanation, man's conscience, his longing for significance, his cry for love are illusory. If the universe is impersonal, from what source did personality arise?

If all is the outcome of chance, then all these things which make man human are bad—not good developments. He possesses capacities which cannot ultimately be satisfied. The power of reflective thought, which is man's greatest weapon, has backfired. He not only

suffers, but he can anticipate suffering, and he knows that it ends in nothingness.

There is yet another facet of man that is lost if he is only the product of the impersonal plus time plus chance, and that is his sense of right versus wrong.

As Dr. Francis Schaeffer, an analyst of modern thought, says: "Nobody has ever discovered a way of having real 'morals,' without a moral absolute. If there is no moral absolute we are left with hedonism (doing what I like) or some form of the social contract theory (what is best for society as a whole is right). However, neither of these alternatives corresponds to the moral decisions that men make, nor to what men mean when they speak of morals. Without absolutes, morals as morals cease to exist. . . . but, if an infinite-personal God is there, real morals exist.

"Within this framework I can say one action is right and another wrong, without talking nonsense." And, "there is an adequate reason for fighting wrong. . . . But if one lives in a world of non-absolutes

and would fight social injustice on the mood of the moment, how may one establish what social justice is? What criterion do I have to distinguish between right and wrong so that I may know what I should be fighting? May it not be that I could acquiesce in evil and stamp out good? The word 'love' cannot tell me how I may discern, for within the humanistic framework, love can have no defined meaning."

WHERE IS GOD?

The question must then come, "If the universe does have a personal beginning, how can we know what it is?" How can we comprehend the infinite with our finite minds—an infinite which is also personal and absolute? We cannot find out through an irrational leap of faith. We cannot just believe in something, divorced from space, time and history—separated from the world of proof and evidence (how could we know it was real?)

No, if we are to know God, He will have to show Himself in the world we live in.

(Part III of THE GREAT ESCAPE: Is God an Oblong Blue?)

The Medical School and Rhodesia

A note found during the Warwick sit-in from Sir Christopher Cox to J. B. Butterworth, concerning Cox's conversation with Dr. Hunter.

I FIND that Dr. Hunter would welcome a short further talk, following up on what we had had on September 22nd, when he was in London on October 17th, although I told him that I could give him no news about the legal point affecting G.M.C. recognition of Salisbury which had come up in our previous talk, and about which I felt sure he would be hearing informally from Mr. Young at the F.C.O. in due course.

Nothing much of importance came up during this second talk, but it may be worth summarising the ground that we covered.

Dr. Hunter referred at the outset to the honorary degree conferred on Sir Humphrey Gibbs by the University of Birmingham since we had last met and mentioned with satisfaction that the attempt of the small group of students (perhaps 40) to interfere with the ceremony had been thwarted. But he went on to say that he thought that it was now quite likely that student interest might focus itself on the Birmingham-Salisbury connection in the course of this next year. The president of the Students' Guild for the year that has just begun had been a V.S.O. in Rhodesia some years ago and might well bring this issue to the front.

On the main issue of the continuance of the Birmingham connection,

Dr. Hunter's view was very much that expressed in my letter of October 10th forwarding my note on our earlier talk to Mr. Young at the F.C.O. The Senate Committee had not yet considered Mr. Smith's statement in the Rhodesian Hansard about the patient's discriminatory freedom of choice in the new teaching hospital when it was built. But there was going to be a meeting to consider this this week and Dr. Hunter had invited Professor Miller to come and talk to the committee despite Professor Miller's critical views and pessimism regarding the future.

Dr. Hunter thought it right that the committee should know at first hand how Professor Miller looked at this, but he believed that he himself would have the committee's support and referred to "my chances of getting it through." He reiterated that it was crucially important that Birmingham's advice that the Medical School should be brought under the widely representative Board of Management, and not left under Dr. Webster and the Ministry, should be acted upon,

since control by such a Board would be a far better safeguard for consistency of policy; Lady Gibbs had, during their recent visit to Birmingham, undertaken to do her utmost to muster support for the idea of the Board.

Dr. Hunter agreed very much with the reasoning in the top paragraph of page two of my letter of October 10th to Mr. Young, and also with that in its final paragraph.

Though the richness of the African teaching material meant that in his view Smith would have a good professional reason to put forward for keeping the Teaching Wing multi-racial, even from the narrow standpoint of the interests of the European students, there would on the other side be apartheid tendencies pulling the other way towards maximising the use of the inferior Harare for the African students' training.

It was on this issue that the influence of Birmingham could become very important indeed. Dr. Hunter concluded by referring, as he had in our earlier talk, to the consistency of University policies. The Birmingham view about the Salisbury Medical School would not vary "if Smith kissed Heath."

Governments might come and go but the Birmingham position was rooted in basic professional human rights; that was the strength of their position and why their continued participation was important. (It will be noted that on this occasion Dr. Hunter did not talk at all about the withdrawal of the Birmingham connection.)

Dr. Hunter mentioned that he himself would not be going out to Salisbury again this year, but probably in May.

I thought I had probably underrated his intellectual calibre in our earlier talk and I should certainly modify now what I said then about it.

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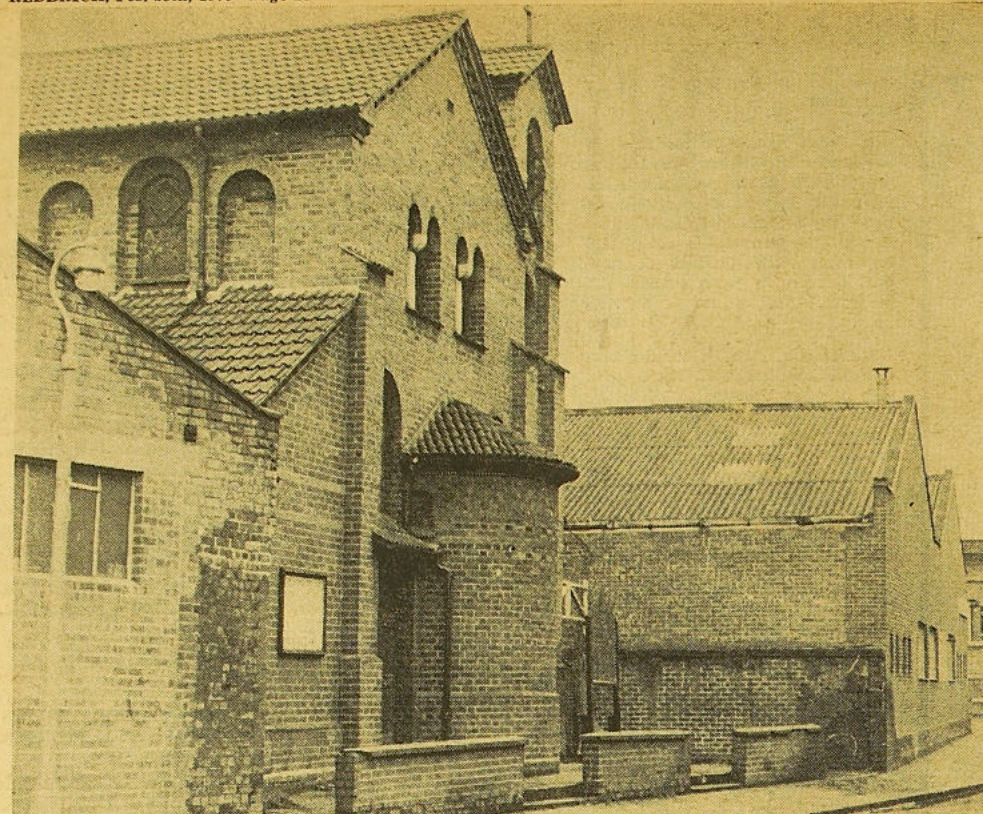
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The Double Zero — Birmingham Hell's Angels' hang-out.

HELL'S ANGELS

The original Hell's Angels were formed way back in 1950 from a group of self-styled outlaws who broke away from the American Motorcycle Association after wrecking two successive annual meetings with their riotous behaviour. They drew up a charter in San Bernadino County and formed the first "chapter" (unit) of Hells Angels, ancestors of today's Nazi embellished, leather jacketed sect.

All of the chapters have a rigid constitution even to the point of imposing fines on members interrupting proceedings at their weekly meetings. Membership is decided by a vote which must be unanimous if the "prospective," who will have been hanging around the members for months buying drinks and proving his "class," is to be elected to the chapter. Class is the achievement of status within the Angels by the performance of a dangerous or shocking act, such as eating food fouled in some way, urinated upon or picked out of the gutter, in the presence of other members.

The list of police offences against the Angels in the States is infinitely long and many are hardened criminals who think nothing of "snuffing" somebody out, although they claim they never start trouble but are provoked. The difficulty is that their concept of provocation is dangerously broad and only they appear to understand it.

Sensationalism shrouds most of the accounts of the Angels' activities in the States, although the stories of their "runs," when they take over a whole township for a weekend or so and leave it in rather the same state as the Romans left Carthage, their gang-bangs and their wings (which they obtain, the red ones for committing cunnilingus on a menstruating white woman, the black ones for the same act on a Negro woman) are undoubtedly true.

An Angel's most treasured possession above his "old lady" (wife) and his "originals" (four-five years' old unwashed Levis urinated and "flushed" upon by the other chapter members when new) is his "chopper," a stripped-down Harley-Davidson motorcycle with "ape-hanger" handlebars and a hotted-up engine.

Such is the aura which surrounds their activities in the States that they have become

an international body with chapters all over Europe, including England. What of these English Angels? Are we to witness scenes and riots in small English country towns in the style of the San Bernadino desperados?

As a New Society article on English Angels points out, where chapters do exist in England, the structure, slang and dress are as near to being facsimiles of the American code as is possible. However, realising as they do that survival is highly correlated to their degree of conformity, the moderation of their behaviour in comparison is as understandable as is their preference for a B.S.A. to a Harley-Davidson.

Birmingham in fact shelters under its less infamous wings several chapters, but the Double Zero Club, the former St. Basil's Church, in Digbeth, probably affords one the greatest opportunity of actually seeing an Angel.

The club offers anyone social, economic and advisory facilities and is supervised by the Reverend David Collyer, though he adamantly disclaims any suggestions that authoritarianism is involved: "We (the ultimate governing committee) like to call ourselves caretakers." Thus for all practical purposes the club is democratically run by the members (450-600); the Reverend's view weighted in decisions according to the value they wish to attach to his education, experience and, perhaps, position.

The club obviously transcends the differentiation between Angels and the predominant group who are simply attracted to motorbikes. If the sole criterion for becoming a Hell's Angel was in fact a love of

motorbikes, the entire population (members plus an unknown but high number of casuals) would qualify. In testimony to this there hangs in the old church an altar cloth with an embroidered cross laid—the cross being composed of shock absorbers, exhaust pipes, etc.

The extent to which religion expresses the majority of them is however doubtful. The old mod-rock conflict has evolved into the contemporary skinhead-Angel "bopper" and they sustain the enmity with zealous enthusiasm. Skinheads are acknowledged as private enemy no. 1, though there is no long-term history of trouble at the club where most energy is devoted to protecting that which they have created.

As for their attitudes and behaviour towards "legitimate authority" these are variables dependent upon the pressure currently being exerted on them. Pressure results in violence, and their chief antagonists are found to be not the police but the general public.

Violence is accepted by both Skinheads and Angels while at the same time the ideas of both groups are essentially reactionary. To quote New Society, "Angels are politically on the right, if they hadn't opted out, they would be perfect material for a backlash politician." In Birmingham at least they are a strongly racist body and it is our these opinions that clashes occur most—often with David Collyer; Mr Enoch Powell was to stand for Prime Minister, they would vote for him.

The fact that none of them took advantage at the club of the new over-eighteen voting act is indicative of a general indifference towards national politics. Theirs is the politics of proximate concern.

researched and written by
by Andy Leeder and Rod Ling
Photos by Pete Mills

● An investigation into the extraordinary sect. What does it stand for? What are its origins? Are we likely to see the British Hell's Angels evolve the same way as their violent American counterparts?



colour prejudice, for instance, is based upon a fear of unemployment. Very few have skilled jobs, and owing to the nature of their employment coupled with their willingness to relate in unambiguous terms to an employer exactly how they feel, there is a high incidence of redundancy.

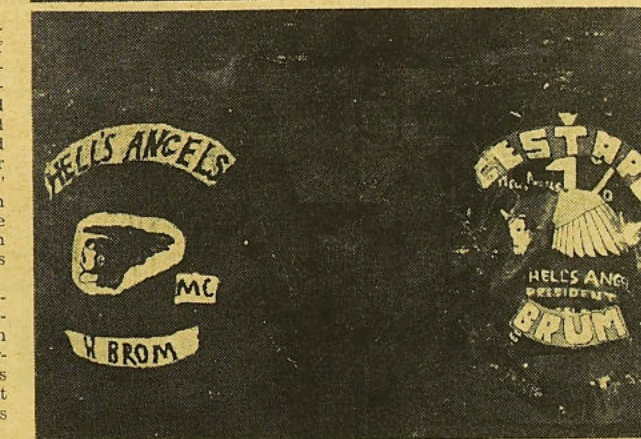
David Collyer, qualifying as he did all his remarks so they should not appear derogatory, says "although I hate the term 'bottom four per cent,' it is, when applied to them, unfortunately true."

Being deprived of the vast majority of them are, they are rebelling as Hunter Thompson, perhaps the greatest individual authority on Hell's Angels, says, "Not that students are against the past, but against the future which almost inevitably relegates them to an increasingly lower division." Their only common ground with students is their disdain for the present—the status quo. In England they protest, not as articulate students do, but with the only means available to them; outlandish dress, long hair, powerful and noisy motorbikes, and arrogance. Again in the words of David Collyer: "They are the inarticulate end of a protesting generation."

The Angels, whether actual or aspirant, as has been said, remain true to their heroes' ideals in everything short of translating words into deeds. As one inebriated Angel told us, "We tried taking over a village once. It was almost fifteen miles out of Stafford, but you just can't do that sort of thing here like you can in the States." Hence they show their class in other ways calculated to outrage the public: "The other night my mates were flicking ash and grogging into this half-pint mug and they dared me to drink it. So I did, and the barmaid who was watching ran off and puked up." To quote one of the New Society's subjects when asked why they wore Nazi emblems, "it's to snap people's minds. We just wear them to show that anyone who judges by appearance deserves to be insulted."

Perhaps the most revealing statement however, on the nature of Hell's Angels came no doubt inadvertently, from one of the Birmingham members. "I saw a skinhead in the Bullring the other day and I reckon he would have made a good Angel if he'd have grown his hair and put a leather jacket on." Despite the lengths to which both groups go in order to stress the differences which make them such bitter enemies, it is their similarities that are far less superficial.

The violence they use is a product of alienation. They are seeking vengeance on a society which has pre-determined their fate; perhaps both skinheads and Angels should be educated to the fact that their energy in its present form is as self-defeating as it is misdirected.



redbrick

THE new information which has now been discovered concerning the politicking surrounding the University's Rhodesian links must be of interest and importance to many people. Not least of these will be the Rhodesians, who may have been unaware that Professor Miller had spoken to the Senate Committee in favour of breaking the links whilst the feeling was that the University wanted them to continue.

Students must be suspicious to say the least that they were excluded from the committee, ostensibly because they had no first-hand knowledge of the situation, whilst the Vice-Chancellor had declared himself to be in favour of continuing the links and had talked of "my chances of getting it through." Perhaps such machinations would not be so easy with students on the committee.

Another question is that of Lady Gibbs's role in the situation—does it represent more behind-the-scenes manipulation?

The latest information does, however, show one thing, and that is the need for a full, open inquiry into whether the link should be continued. Whatever decision is made will ultimately represent the expression of the view of the whole University community: it is therefore essential that the whole community is not only aware of how the decision is being arrived at, which is far from the position at the moment, but is also involved in making that decision.

If students have been excluded from the committee through fear of the views they might express or the way they would influence the decision, then the precariousness of the arguments for maintaining the links will have been shown. It is another example of students being regarded as non-rational.

Opinion among students has largely been that the link with Salisbury should not be continued, but it could well be that breaking the connections would do far more harm than good to the African population and to Africans who might otherwise benefit from the link. If this is the case, and if this is why the University wants to continue the association, then absolutely nothing will have been lost by having students on the committee. If the arguments are strong enough, they will be convinced.

By refusing the Guild's request, however, Senate has done itself more harm than good. Students are unlikely to believe that it is the well-being of black Rhodesians that the University has in mind, and will regard its motives with the suspicion that closed committees and documents like the one recently discovered provoke.

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review

Music

THE C.B.S.O. this Thursday is conducted by Hugo Rignold in an all-Russian concert. The overture is "Colas Breugnot" by Dimitri Kabalevsky, a typical, if exhilarating writer of the Russian genre.

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto follows, played by David Oistrakh's distinguished son Igor, now aged 39, who has an international reputation. This concerto in D major, written in 1878, is often considered Tchaikovsky's masterpiece for its economy and exploitation of the solo violin's resources, both expressive and virtuosic. It is in the conventional three-movement form, having a Beethoven concerto-sized orchestra, but adding the poetic qualities of melancholy juxtaposed with almost frantic gay abandon peculiar to Tchaikovsky.

The final work is the Fifth, and most successful Symphony of Shostakovich, the contemporary giant. Written in 1937 when he was 34, as apparently a Soviet composer's answer to just criticism (following Stalin's disgust at his opera "Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District"), it is fiery and post-Mahlerian in style, full of heroism and optimism conquering despair. The slow movement (completed within a matter of days) is a profound centerpiece containing what could be interpreted at a national level as portents of doom, whilst the last movement depicts triumph and consequent rejoicing.

Next Week: Louis Frémaux—Prokofiev's Classical Symphony; Catena, by Richard Henninger, Jr. (first performance of C.B.S.O., 50th anniversary prize-winning work); three excerpts from Berlioz's Damnation of Faust; Dvorak's Symphony No. 7 in D minor.

ON Saturday, at 7.30 p.m., in the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, the AMATI ENSEMBLE, drawn largely from the C.B.S.O., are playing music from the Second Viennese School, starting with Webern's Concerto Op. 24 for nine instruments (wind, violin, viola and piano), dedicated to Arnold Schoenberg on his 60th birthday in 1934. Alban Berg's elaborate Chamber Concerto for piano, violin and 13 wind instruments follows, and, written in 1925, it contrasts remarkably with Webern's direct pointillist technique.

Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No. 1 Op. 9 is the last work to be played. It was written in 1906 and is an example of the composer working in the realms of atonality, and as a forerunner of the styles of both Berg and Webern.

Ivor Keys is playing piano, Felix Kok, violin, leader John Bradbury, conducted by Timothy Reynish.

Student admission is 5s.
HOWARD C. FRIEND.

JULIAN BREAM is a purveyor of very sweet sounds, but on Friday at the Town Hall, he seemed to have forgotten the existence of music. His programme was just about as varied as anyone could dream up, ranging in rough chronological order from the seventeenth to the twentieth century, and not exploring any of the fields in any depth.

A few cameos of style, baroque to twelve tone system in half an hour; the audience was pushed through a sausage culture machine.

The first half dealt with and dismissed Bach, Purcell and some minor composers. Neither the programme nor Mr. Bream told us which Bach Preludes he was play-

ing, or for what instruments they were originally arranged, and it was not until after the interval that he gave us an introduction to each piece which at least attempted to inject some interest into the music he was playing.

Modern guitar music in the so-called "serious" vein, as opposed to that popular rubbish, seems to be wandering about in a vacuous limbo. Its composers have totally failed to find a way to produce the severity which is the best part of modern orchestral music, nor can they achieve anything like the range of tone required to achieve the depth which we expect of the twentieth century.

This is mainly because the Pre-Romantics were used to dealing with an instrument of this type. They had no means of sustaining tone on any of their plucked instruments; the sustaining peddle which marks the modern piano did not appear until the nineteenth century, and there was no way of sustaining notes electrically.

The Post-Romantics seem incapable of dealing with the sort of restrictions which the plucked instrument presents in any serious fashion, and therefore the last half of the programme, which was last twentieth-century works, was markedly less successful.

The truest thing about the concert was something which Julian Bream said during the programme—that the guitar is loved mainly for its charm. This was proved beyond doubt—the sort of music he was playing was made for serenading young virgins of white skin and slender waists.

We wished that Mr. Bream had not left his lute at home, and left trying to scrape the syrup off our hands.

MAXINE LINNELL

MASON FESTIVAL FOLK EVENING opened with Bill and Phil from Mason who played enjoyable versions of songs by Dylan, Cohen, Stewart et al.

Mike Chapman followed and spent half his time telling supposedly funny stories (some were, but one was from Barb!) about such varied topics as Mantovani and Torquay, and also introducing his songs. I couldn't tell whether the tales had any bearing on the songs as the words were mostly inaudible to me. This was largely due to his vocal style—slurred words running into one another. Musically they were very enjoyable with excellent guitar breaks and accompaniment.

I very much enjoyed the instrumental "Thank You M.K. 1944" dedicated to Mike Kooper about



ANDREW MORTON AT RIDGE

whom a very long amusing tale was told. The number was in the form of a rag-time raga and made interesting use of harmonics, tremolo effects and chord runs. His open chord style was prominent throughout and excellent on the final 5-part number "Sweet Blue Sweet."

Jo-Ann Kelly played straightforward blues almost throughout, the exception being a straight version of "Lay Lady Lay" which added little to the song. The remaining songs were by such people as Robert Johnson, Skip James and Muddy Waters. Competent, interesting, if slightly uninspiring guitar accompanied her excellent, strong voice, but on Muddy Waters' "Catfish Blues," she played very well and sounded rather like a rocking Brownie McGhee.

For Charlie Patton's "Yellow Bee" and his wife's "I Ain't Suspicious," Jo-Ann switched to 12-string which sounded somewhat like a Big Ben Banjo Blues Band—which is not a criticism. In general she didn't communicate particularly well and didn't swing quite enough to get people jumping about.

Opening with a ragtime song, Ralph McTell changed all that. Blind Boy Fuller's "Truckin' Little Baby" swung like mad with amusing lyrics and jumping accompaniment. This and "Too Tired" were the only ragtime numbers, the remainder consisting of generally quiet but always sensitive and thoughtful tunes, mostly written by Ralph. "Running From Home" by Bert Jansch and Dylan's "One Too

Many Mornings" were the only ones not self-penned.

His songs nearly always contain pertinent social and/or personal comments which occasionally border on cliché, for example, "Factory Girl" (a day and night in the life thereof) which wavers between truism and caricature. Even in this song the imagery almost makes up for this. The strength of Ralph's songs is this imagery which stems from his acute observation of living scenes.

Mostly this is micro-observation which often leads to inward-looking songs, but this doesn't necessarily detract from their beauty. "Michael in the Garden" about a drop-out in a mental home garden is almost the epitome of micro observation.

Ralph's sympathetic guitar does not just accompany his songs, it underlines, punctuates and complements them throughout—delicate and flowing behind imagery and forceful when making a point. "The Mermaid and the Seagull" (a personal favourite) is the best example of this, giving a hazy, rolling impression (aided by his voice).

My only criticism is that perhaps he spent too much time introducing the songs—some of their impact was lost because of this. In fairness he realised this later on when he said the reason he had written the songs was that he couldn't express them in other ways.

It was a pleasant and relaxing evening in conditions not exactly suitable for relaxation.

JOHN HEADON

AT Ridge Hall last Friday the stultifying hegemony of Barnabas and imported groups on the campus music scene was soundly rocked. The concert, almost exclusively of original material, was appreciatively received by those hundred and fifty who had braved the weather to attend a charity concert.

Jim Cleary and Dave Carroll, who made up the first half of the concert, have rarely had the chance to get an electric group together and used this opportunity to give an airing to numbers previously conceived in terms of acoustic guitar performance. Most of the numbers were blues based (with the exception of "Palm Court") though only "Hello Little School-girl" (Williamson) was a strict 12-bar. In "Taxi" Jim and Dave displayed to the full their prodigious talent for free improvisation—they didn't use a single note, for a change. Dick Jefferies of G.T.G. fame contributed some vigorous harmonica on three numbers.

All credit due to Paul Medley (tenor) for his hard-won licks over the startling piano rampant of Robbie Hannam, who held the whole group together with some useful chord-work. Although they had been playing together for only three weeks they presented an impressive half-hour of free-form jazz. Some useful drumming from Richard Dryden and bass from Simon Way added coherence to the brilliance of Robbie and Paul. They showed themselves capable of becoming one of the most impressive musical developments on the campus for some time.

Mary Field and Irene Gadsby set the tone of the acoustic of the concert with a short story and some poems. Following them Andrew Morton took the stage only to have his first two songs badly affected by feedback. Dave and Jim then presented several acoustic numbers which had to be heard to be believed.

"Blue Mercedes," "Yellow Jelly" and Dave's "Quick Boys" astonished with their originality and polish. Andrew then returned with another couple of numbers, sweetly rendered by Inka. Then it was Ruth Davies' turn to sing Dave's "Moon Blues." The concert was rounded off with a rendering of the traditional "John Barleycorn" interspersed with "Jumping Jack Flash" which involved Jim, Andrew, Dave on violin, Mary on tambourine, and Paul on bass.

The concert lasted three and a half hours. There was far too much material available and a lot had to be cut out. Never was there a lull in intensity although there was a lot of variety. We eagerly anticipate developments in a musical rebirth of which this concert was surely a forerunner.

There is some subtlety in the juxtaposition of Maria's triumphal procession down the aisle and the German's formal march into Salzburg. The time patterns are dealt with well—endless summer days are shown in fragmented shots, the children playing different games in different places, dressed in Austrian costume or playclothes made out of curtains.

Everybody in the cinema must have seen the film at least once before; the jokes were usually anticipated by laughter; a little girl behind me was reverently reciting the lines a second before they were spoken, and the songs almost turned into a community singing session.

I enjoyed it. I wouldn't go again, nor did I buy a souvenir programme or L.P. But I do think that a film which is a one-level fantasy has a place in our culture, and I do not subscribe to that lofty belief that what the "masses" like is automatically bad. Q.E.D.? It's only the price of a ticket (and an ice cream of course) to find out.

MAXINE LINNELL

Cinema

THE time patterns are dealt with well—endless summer days are shown in fragmented shots, the children playing different games in different places, dressed in Austrian costume or playclothes made out of curtains.

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It is a film which would be so easy to destroy. It's got all the well-worn ingredients which Every Family Film should have. God for a start—there's a lot of God in it; Julie Andrews nearly marries him instead of Christopher Plummer, but she chooses right in the end.

It's got Love without a capital L; it's got children without Freud; it's got adventure without risk; it's got songs like "Prime Ivory Moustaches," and it's got scenery.

All the right ingredients, and they actually do fit together. The film begins and ends on the mountains of Austria; Julie Andrews as Maria is more fond of singing in the mountains than in Vespers, so she is sent off to Captain Von Trapp's house to be governess to his seven children. Although the children are wild, all they need is a little love and attention, which they are definitely not getting from their father, who runs the house like one of his ships.

Maria brings music and happiness into their lives and falls in love with the Captain (Christopher Plummer). After toying with a painted Baroness from Vienna, he prefers his governess, and they marry in a very successful set piece placed in Salzburg Cathedral.

The Captain is threatened with the compulsory command of a German ship (the time is "the last golden days of the thirties"), and the family escapes, through hiding in the convent, to the mountains and freedom.

That's the story, and it doesn't need a nutshell. It never pretends to the "heights" of realism; people just don't burst into song at the least provocation, nor are they as simply constructed as they are portrayed here. But films produced for their sheer escapist fantasies are rare, and very attractive if it's possible to subdue cynicism for a few hours.

There is not a gimmick in the film. The director has a sense of the spectacular; his scenes of the convent, the cathedral and the Captain's palatial home show a nice sense of symmetry and pattern, and the satisfaction they produce.

There is some subtlety in the juxtaposition of Maria's triumphal procession down the aisle and the German's formal march into Salz-

PAUL BRETT SOMMERS

TO the average European reader: The Teachings of Don Juan: a Yaqui Way of Knowledge by Carlos Castaneda, published recently by Penguin, must seem at first almost incomprehensible. The book is about the author's experiences with mind-expanding drugs under the guidance of Don Juan, a Yaqui Indian from the south-western United States.

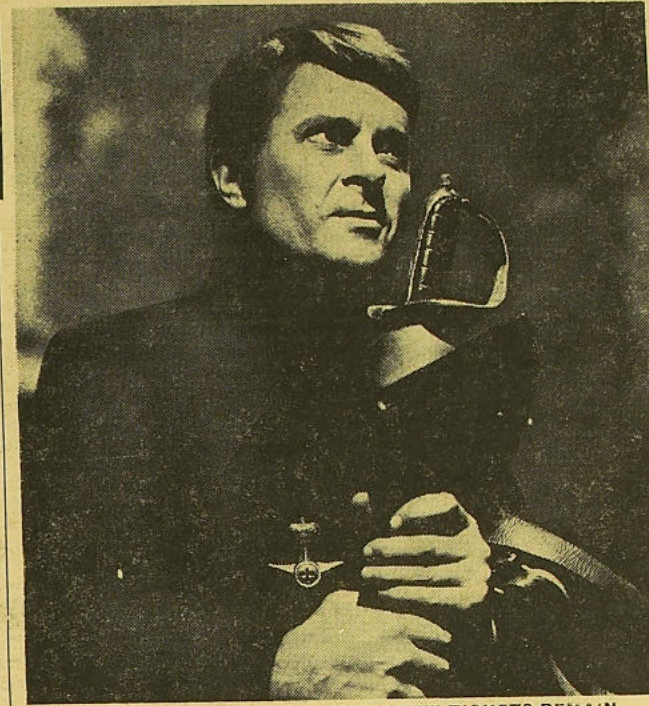
The experiences described and the philosophy behind them, however, bear little relationship to the average person's drug experiences. They involve three drugs—mescaline or peyote, the weed Datura, commonly known as Jimson weed, and Psilocybe mexicana — the "sacred mushroom" currently causing con-

trovery in another context. These could be described as hallucinogenic drugs, but Castaneda prefers to describe the state they induce as one of "non-ordinary reality."

In this he confirmed Huxley's statement that such drugs do not introduce unrealities into the user's experience, but merely remove the barrier which prevents most people from experiencing this particular aspect of reality.

There is, however, another dimension to Castaneda's experiences, and it is this which makes them so alien to those accustomed to the type of drug experience common in Europe. This is the quality of magic, of sacred ritual, which sur-

review



MCGOWEN IN "HAMLET." ONLY A FEW TICKETS REMAIN

LA VOIE LACTEE, Bunuel's latest attack on the Church, is at the Jacey. The framework is provided by the pilgrimage of two tramps to the shrine of St. James de Compostella, along the road known as the Milky Way.

The characters have no sense of time or space. They met sixteenth-century heretics and seventeenth-century Jesuits. Two heretics, fleeing from an argument over the nature of the Trinity, find some twentieth-century clothes and assume the identities of their owners.

The film is an essay in the intolerance of religion. As Christ (who also appears in the film) says: "I came not to bring peace but the sword." The bloodshed was in the past, but the cause still remains. A sequence where schoolchildren recite false doctrine and wish anathema on those who hold it is intercut with shots of a prisoner being condemned by the inquisition. The churchmen, whether they are escaped madmen or genuine, are treated with reverence, but are intrinsically evil. The church pre-

vents natural sexual relations even between man and wife, and uses divine manifestations to instil doctrine.

Bunuel's Christ is a healthy, vulgar, revolutionary, whose parables are primarily meant to entertain. In a sequence at the end, while the blind men ask Christ to tell them the difference between black and white, Christ demands obedience of his disciples. The blind men quickly relapse into blindness.

An obsession with religion permeates the film, the Jansenist and the Jesuit are more interested in their argument on the nature of grace than in the swordfight, but it is not merely a religious tract. Bunuel is completely aware of the structure within which he is working. He destroys reality. ("It's all shot. It's just me imagining they shot a pope," says one of the tramps).

The final irony is that the object of the Pilgrimage, the bones of St. James, actually belong to the sexual pervert Pricissillan, who was decapitated for his heresies.

PAUL BRETT SOMMERS

There are many beautiful moments. The dejected, ridiculous expression on the boy's face as he stands in her room in the bearskin, his petulant refusal to talk to her after he sees her with a stranger. There is also a sequence where the dialogue is not heard, where the director realises that actual words are not needed.

It is a sensitive film that works right to the closing shots of the boy cycling in the rain.

There is some subtlety in the juxtaposition of Maria's triumphal procession down the aisle and the German's formal march into Salz-

PAUL BRETT SOMMERS

rounds the use of the drugs. Their complex purpose is to allow the user to become a man of knowledge; this is an endless process which has four prerequisites:

"A man goes to knowledge as he goes to war, wide-awake, with fear, with respect, and with absolute assurance. Going to knowledge or going to war in any other manner is a mistake, and whoever makes it will live to regret his steps."

Failure to fulfil these conditions can lead to danger and even to death.

In his search for knowledge man can be helped by an ally; datura, "the devil's weed," can be one such.

He can also be helped by Mescalito, the supreme being who can be both protector and teacher, but who must be trusted completely. Mescalito has no rules, and so can be approached directly; datura and the mushroom require complicated preliminary rituals involving year-long cultivation cycles of the plants or the use of lizards as question-answers. If mistakes are made in the ritual, danger may result from the displeasure occasioned in the substance. The ritual climax inevitably sounds fragmented and illogical in such a cursory summary; in fact, as Castaneda shows in the structural analysis of his experience at the end of the book, it forms part of a highly logical

system of thought, "a vastly complex system of beliefs in which inquiry was an experience leading to exaltation."

All this might seem of little relevance to the average cannabis-experiencer, but Castaneda, as an anthropologist, takes his experiences very seriously, although he is finally forced to abandon them as a total way of life. Such a study of the power of consciousness-expanding drugs (when properly used) can hardly fail, however, to be of importance at a time when such drugs, and their use, are becoming increasingly common.

JENNY WICKHAM

"HELL'S ANGELS '69" is a definite improvement on "Run Angel Run." Unfortunately the seemingly eternal beach party has ended, and the new youth product is motor-bike movies.

There is an attempt at realism, the Original Oakland Hell's Angels appear as themselves. The hair looks real (so much so that the distributors see it as a horror picture). But the picture of Hell's Angels is hardly balanced. Slightly less dangerous than "Mummies."

"Scream and Scream Again" includes Vincent Price, Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, and is therefore worth seeing.

On the subject of horror, the only really horrific film ever made, "Freaks" is on at Film Soc. this Thursday. Tiring of plastic monsters and Golems, Vampires and others of the undead, the director employed large numbers of deformed "human" beings, circus freaks, to chase his heroine. A really sickening film.

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JENNY WICKHAM



GEORGIE FAME—FESTIVAL DANCE—MARCH 5th

Literature

"HOFFMAN" (Shall I eat you now?) is about to be a film starring Peter Sellers and Sinead Cusack. At the moment it is a book by Ernest Gebler(?)

How could Benjamin Hoffman, floor three manager, have hidden his sexual ambitions from Janet Smith, typist, second grade, and the entire office? "No one suspects he's like this."

Finally, with the help of a lorry-load of cigarette coupons, he has her in his clutches for seven days and nights. "There's an orgy in every man, somewhere. Miss Smith just waiting. And then, Miss Smith, you appeared."

Hoffman is an amateur rapist. Perhaps with more practice he could have been a professional. Hoffman is one of those men with permanent erections and bowler hats.

Hoffman's mind is filled with sexual fantasy. A constant stream of invention, misquotation and elaboration. Miss Smith is the release. The mental fantasy becomes verbal, and then reality. Shall he murder her now, to keep the dream?

"Hoffman" is witty, extravagant, entertaining and extremely twisted. Peter Sellers should be good.

BEN ARBEID

sport 1

SQUASH

CRIMSON JIM INSPIRES!

BIRMINGHAM are U.A.U. Squash champions. At York on Friday they disposed of Bristol 4-1, and then ruthlessly slaughtered their Midland rivals Nottingham 5-0 in Saturday's final. Their inspiration for this spectacular success came from JIM MCCOLLUM, going on first against Nottingham's brilliant NICK CHAPMAN. The latter had won their previous clash, and Nottingham were really hoping for a victory in this one.

At 8-7 in the fourth game and 2-1 down, a crimson, gasping McCollum passed a hand across his stomach and paused ominously at the end of a murderously long rally. "Sorry, I feel sick," he told the gallery. The match looked over.

But somehow the Birmingham man, though forced to run frighteningly for nearly every shot, managed to go on. He flailed at a forehand, missed, then lurched round to hack it back and continue the rally, which Chapman failed to win.

Hand in, 8-7. A few preliminary sparrings down the side-wall preceded a fine short, low, boast which Chapman, scampering hard, could not reach. That was two-all with two minutes' rest for McCollum.

Chapman got away to 3-1 in the fifth, but a refreshed, tenacious McCollum was not going to yield. Hand in, he launched an attack which his flustered opponent could not answer, and McCollum raced to victory without losing another point. It was a dramatic effort, enthusiastically acclaimed by Brum, and must have demoralised the Nottingham side.

But Birmingham's challenge did not have a good start. Captain Paul Graetz, looking distinctly nervous, opened the proceedings against Bristol, but could not find his true form and never looked like winning.

There were six hand-outs at 0-3 and at 4-6 in the third, but Graetz's determination was not enough to overcome Alan Jones, probably the strongest fifth string in the competition.

Richard Eaton stumbled close to defeat, too. Eighteen-year-old Roy Yovdale, surely a name to watch for in future, hit many devastating

winners and came from 2-1 down to lead 7-2 in the fifth. Only a cooler head and slightly more steadiness scraped the Birmingham man through.

Fortunately John Palmer was his usual efficient self on the adjacent court. Bristol's Davidson could not live with his control and machine-like accuracy, and had to give way in three.

Jim McCollum fought off a fine challenge by Chris Herridge to win 3-1 and things looked healthier. Birmingham always had the knowledge, too, that they had their superb number one, Jug Ahluwalia, to rely on. Immaculate and panther-like, he showed not a trace of nerves, and eased his opponents out of the way with a skill and expertise no other player could match.

He demolished Bristol's Peter Bright with absolutely no bother, and then, when faced with a stern challenge from Guy Seaman, really turned on the fireworks.

Seaman played about as well as he can to take the first game. It merely spurred Ahluwalia to produce those thrilling drop-shots, and that tantalising variety which make him such an entertaining player to watch.

John Palmer, the side's most improved player, must take a fair share of credit for Birmingham's

success. He routed Andy Rogers of Nottingham 3-0, and had little to do that was spectacular. But his dedication and fitness caused Graetz and Eaton to fight hard to scrape into the side above close rivals Bill Perrie and Brian Horwood. This paid off against Nottingham, when Richard Eaton proved too fit for Pete Jafer, and Paul Graetz achieved a win he had worked hard for weeks to get. He beat Ollie Pawle 3-0.

It was Birmingham's tenth title, and the first since 1967. Results (Birmingham names first):—J. Ahluwalia beat P. Bright 9-3, 9-2, 9-7.

J. Palmer beat J. Davidson 9-4, 9-0, 9-7.

P. Graetz lost to A. Jones 7-9, 4-9, 4-9.

J. McCollum beat C. Herridge 9-4, 9-4, 5-9, 9-5.

R. Eaton beat R. Yovdale 7-9, 9-2, 9-3, 2-9, 9-7.

Birmingham 4, Bristol 1.

J. Ahluwalia beat G. Seaman 5-9, 9-1, 9-2, 9-5.

J. Palmer beat A. Rogers 9-7, 9-2, 9-5.

P. Graetz beat O. Pawle 9-2, 9-3, 9-6.

J. McCollum beat N. Chapman 2-9, 9-7, 2-9, 9-7, 9-3.

R. Eaton beat P. Jafer 9-3, 9-4, 9-6.

Birmingham 5, Nottingham 0.



Basketball League

(February 20th, 1970)

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Persians	5	5	0	125	100	15
German	5	4	1	210	130	13
Chinese	6	3	3	121	166	12
Chemistry	6	3	3	119	120	11
Staff	5	1	4	130	165	7
Chem. Eng.	3	1	2	99	97	5
Phys. Ed.	3	1	2	86	91	5
String-vests	3	1	2	86	95	5
Physics	4	1	3	63	75	5

JUDO

SHEFFIELD PROVIDE AN UNEXPECTED STRUGGLE

THE University Dojo was the scene of some really good contest judo in which Birmingham fought Sheffield. The final scores of the three matches played being: 16-16, 27-10, and 20-7 to Birmingham.

This score would have been far worse if not for the remarkable performance of John Blackburn. Winning all three matches, notching up the maximum number of 30 points and so in this way covering up the mistakes of some of his fellow team-members.

Considering the low grades of the opposition, they put on such a good show that I should not think the lads in the home team will forget them too quickly. In fact, there

were rumours on our side, especially coming from the direction of K. Fuks, that they felt like putting on a white belt and starting judo all over again.

Sheffield Yellow Belts raised their game to perform brilliantly against our Greens, and reflected the whole fighting ability of the opposition throughout the match.

Although heavily outgrading the Northern team, T. Halford and W. Isalski—the other team members not already mentioned, only managed to score 10 points and 13 points respectively.

After this display last Saturday, one can only hope that we get an easy draw in the Inter-University Judo Championships, to be held in London on February 28th.

SHORT SPORT

FENCING

BIRMINGHAM fencers now know that, for the second year running, they are through to the semi-finals of the U.A.U. competition.

As a warm-up for this event, they fenced Nottingham on February 18th. On this occasion we were inspired by a ladies' team—Naomi Parkinson, Sue Metcalf and Annette Shrimpton—who were triumphantly led by Naomi to a 6-3 win.

Following this the men—Dick Darton, Norman Milligan and Bryan Pready—scraped a foil win 5-4 and romped away with the sabre 7-2. The Hans Killer man of the match award goes this week to Norman for his masterly 5-1 defeat of the Nottingham captain at foil, to that gentleman's intense surprise. Très bon (very good) Norman.

MOTOR CLUB

NEIL MILLINS again recorded the fastest time of the day in the Auto-tests on Sunday in his Mini. The other class was won by Andy Dawson.

As usual, the Motor Club chose an afternoon on which it poured, but nevertheless, 13 enthusiasts turned up to splash around at West Car Park. Spectators were treated to a double dose of Group 6 full rally Imp style "oppy lock," as both Andy Dawson and Bill Banks drove, the latter finishing fourth in the class. Also Allan Ross-Jones' racing Abarth put in an appearance, but with only a half-inch slit for a rear window, he was a trifle handicapped.

sport 2

W.I.V.A.B. ROUND-UP

IT'S THE SAME OLD SONG!

BIRMINGHAM 26, NEWCASTLE 15

SAME opponents, same setting, same result. Birmingham found themselves matched against their last year's rivals to the championships in what proved to be a repeat performance with Birmingham scoring an equally convincing win to retain their title. Despite the pressure on them as favourites, Birmingham rose to the occasion with a polished, enthralling performance. Their determination was heightened by the disappointing shock defeat of the 1st VII in their semi-finals against Keele.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

FIRSTS' FAIL

Sat., Feb. 21st—Crystal Palace
Birmingham 1st XI 1,
Southampton 2

BIRMINGHAM failed to produce their top form when it mattered most, with the result that they lost 2-1 to Southampton, who had trained hard for this match and, although unused to playing on a Redgra, mastered the conditions well and on the day deserved to win against Birmingham who had not played together for over a fortnight and lacked their usual sparkle.

The first half was a very even affair as the 0-0 half-time score indicates. Few chances fell to either team but Birmingham wasted many of their breaks through overhitting.

Both teams opened the second half in a determined fashion and Birmingham were unlucky to have a goal disallowed. Centre-forward Kathy Basham was then body-checked and brought to the ground when clear though on her own. At this moment the game could have swung either way and it was Southampton who opened the scoring midway through the half, adding a second goal within a minute despite an outstanding performance at right-back by Pauline ('Bouncy') Clay and a good game by goalie Gwyneth James.

These goals spurred Birmingham into action but it was now too late. There was some small consolation for Birmingham when Kathy scored just on the final whistle when Birmingham were at last beginning to produce their usual form. Five more minutes might well have produced a different result but this would not have reflected the general trend of play.

Team: G. James; P. Clay, H. Disrey; S. Addison, V. Welsh, L. Thomas; M. Pike (capt.), E. Terry, K. Basham, J. Newman, S. Archer.

SECONDS CRASH

Birmingham 2nd XI 2, Leeds 4
(after extra time)

On a waterlogged pitch which had been declared unfit in the morning, Birmingham 2nd XI lost an exciting, sporting match by four goals to two after extra time.

A controversial goal was awarded to Leeds in the first minute, but Birmingham staged a great comeback. Despite the fact that Joy Purz jumped off the pitch for treatment after a quarter of an hour, they managed to equalise through Gill Stokes, who took her chance during a period of complete Birmingham ascendancy with June Hazel, Pat and Fran in complete command.

In the first minute of extra time another bit of unprising decision led to Birmingham conceding a goal, and Leeds scored again in the next minute. Fran pulled one back for Birmingham in the last period but victory was never on.

Team: A. McFadyen; J. Hancock, J. Tambling; P. Lee (capt.), H. Jamieson, F. D'Alcorn; J. Bench, J. Stain, G. Stokes, J. Purz, S. Garrod.

In their preliminary rounds, the 2nd VII have had equally convincing wins against Surrey 1st VII and Lanchester, proving themselves to be equal to most other university first teams, so they entered this match with confidence.

Birmingham spent the first quarter settling down to the unfamiliar conditions of the indoor cricket school but urged on by the much-appreciated support of the enthusiastic core of fans they showed their superior play from the start and pulled ahead to an early lead.

Play was skilfully controlled by good co-ordination and positioning sense from centre court players Sheila Poole, Alwyn Brown and Gill Woodhead, who continually fed the ball accurately and with determination down the court into the shooters. The whole team integrated well and by hard, accurate passing, swinging the ball and using their speed well, baffled their Newcastle counterparts, who had very little

method and accuracy compared with their opponents' centre court players.

Both shooters, Penny Askew and Judith Ridley found excellent shooting form and manipulated and co-ordinated particularly well against a good Newcastle defence, who endeavoured to keep our shooters on the edge of the shooting area. Nevertheless, the score speaks for itself. Newcastle did succeed in restricting Judith and Penny in the last quarter but by then Birmingham had an adequate enough lead to relax a little.

Defenders Chris Terry and Jill Barber also co-ordinated well in the defending circle and successfully warded off their opponent shooters—and intercepting and fighting well for the ball. Jill also used her good positioning sense to help free the ball down the court.

Congratulations should go to the whole team in retaining their title so convincingly.



MALCOLM THOMAS

CROSS-COUNTRY

COOL THOMAS UNDETERRED!

MALCOLM THOMAS confirmed his remarkably rapid return to top form by scoring a magnificent win in the Welsh Championships at Cardiff last Saturday.

The Force 8 gale and waterlogged conditions might have been expected to hamper a runner who has only been training a short time after a long lay-off. However, Malcolm wasn't in the least bit deterred and after "playing it cool" for the first six miles, he piled on the pressure over the last mile to come home a comfortable winner.

In the same race Steve Gibbons had not fully recovered from a recent attack of flu, but nevertheless, ran gallantly for 12th place. The other Birmingham representative, Gene Griffiths, found that it wasn't his afternoon and retired two-thirds through the race.

The immediate reward for Malcolm's efforts was that he was nominated as captain of the Welsh team for the International Championships at Vichy, France, next month. He is believed to be the youngest-ever Welsh captain.

Malc has also been selected for the B.U.F.E. English Cross Country Union v. Combined Services, and will be partnered by Steve Gibbons

SOCCER

Revenge aided by new boys!

BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 1, ST. PAULS 0

ON Saturday, Birmingham played and beat Cheltenham St. Pauls Training College at home. This victory atoned for a 5-2 thrashing Birmingham received at Cheltenham earlier in the season. It also shows the vast improvement that the team has made in the last two months.

The University were under constant pressure for the first 15 minutes, and the defence had a few panic moments as it struggled to re-adjust to the speed of the game after its five-match lay-off. Birmingham gradually made their way back into the contest and were unlucky not to be two goals up; Maile's strong shot was well saved by the Cheltenham 'keeper, and Barlow shot just over the bar from close in, having dispossessed the centre-half. The team turned round with no

score, and Birmingham prepared to play into the strong wind that was sweeping down the pitch. However, Birmingham were able to find gaps in the opposition's defence and Maile made several strong runs before, following a fine pass from Gamble, he rounded the full-back, drew the goalkeeper and slotted the ball past him into the net from the narrowest of angles. Birmingham really got on top from this point

and were never really in danger from then on of losing, with Finch rarely troubled in goal. Mention must be made of the three "new boys" in the side: E. Pearce, Bignmore and Hanlon—all three fitted in easily with the rest of the team, with Taft Bignmore having an especially good game at right-back. With such reserve strength, Birmingham must certainly have a very fine squad of players.

The main point brought out by the U.A.U. "debate" was the vagueness shown by the supporters of the motion. Rob Fishburn, who proposed the motion, based his arguments on the fact that the U.A.U. General Committee, which had decided to play the South Africans, contained representatives from all the constituent universities. This apparently made the decision a good one in Mr. Fishburn's eyes and didn't merit him producing any more arguments in favour of the motion. His whole approach to the motion seemed to me to be typified by one statement: "The fact that the South Africans decide to pick an all-white team is beside the point."

BY ANDY HOLDEN

What both of them ignored was the fact that the U.A.U. decided to play this match as far back as last July, since when the South African situation has altered markedly. Until recently it might have been thought that the South Africans were gradually loosening the racialist bonds from sport. However, recent decisions to ban the international Cavaliers and Arthur Ashe have confirmed many people's suspicions that the South African Government were determined to continue imposing their policies on sport.

It was left to Gerald Lobley to produce the first real argument in favour of the motion. His main point was that sports were a straight contest between two sets of individuals and that the only thing that mattered was their skill at the sport. He said that he wanted sports and politics to be kept completely and utterly separated and, judging by the murmurs of approval, this seemed to be the main reason for people supporting the motion.

This is a very nice concept in theory, but as far as South Africa is concerned, separation of sport and politics is impossible. This is because the South Africans themselves have introduced politics into sport by applying their system of Apartheid to it. The whole process of training and selection of teams is contradicted by this abhorrent principle.

Gerald Lobley feared that politics in sport could easily spread if sanctions against South Africa continue. He thinks that British teams may be boycotted because of aggression in Anguilla. This argument is rather irrelevant because nowhere apart from Rhodesia is there a parallel to the situation in South Africa. Here the majority of the population are denied the best facilities for playing and training and are excluded from representing their national team, solely because of the pigmentation of their skin. As one Sunday newspaperman put it—the Springbok ought to be replaced by the white rhinoceros.

The other argument put forward for the motion was that banning South African teams or demonstrating against them has no effect. This is demonstrably untrue. Three years ago the South Africans were willing to concede some ground in this issue but they weren't prepared to have mixed trials, so the ban was re-imposed.

The passing of this motion is further regrettable because of the gulf it will create between the Athletic Union and the student body in general. A.U. stand to lose from this, as they derive their income from the student body as a whole, a relatively small percentage of which is interested in sport. The Guild, who control the purse strings, are known to be opposed to the principle of playing South African teams.

Southampton are contemplating taking the issue to the N.U.S. Easter Conference if the motion of censure is not proposed and U.A.U. don't agree not to play any further games against segregated South African teams. The end result could be that all the universities will withdraw from the U.A.U. organisation. This would be sad as one of the integral parts of a university sportsman's life would be removed.



BASKETBALL

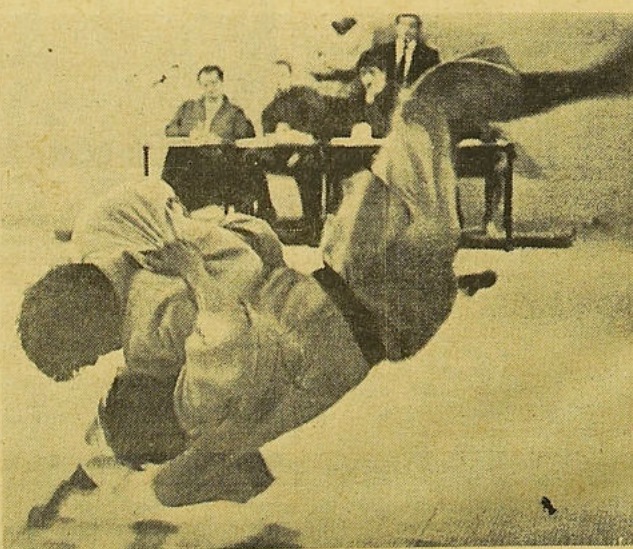
PHLEGMATIC SIMONS

Warwick Univ. 58, Birmingham 14

ON Tuesday night Tower Power, seeking their second successive win in the W.M. League, travelled to play Warwick at R.A.F. Gaydon. No doubt distracted by thoughts of instant conscription, the squad started slowly and were down at the half by 28-32. However, the non-appearance of the R.A.F. police seemed to dispel the lads' fears, and they really let rip into an appreciative but bemused opposition, whipping up 46 points in the second period to win by 74-58.

This was, of course, a great victory, inspired by the superb defence and playmaking of Dave Griffiths and Doug Olsen. Big Graham Campbell contributed an invaluable 23 points, but the evening really belonged to John Simons. Coming face to face with his favourite referee, our worthy captain ignored the fact that it was that gentleman

who had sent him off against the Dons, and besides not committing a single foul during the game, was not even heard to dispute any decision—a truly amazing performance. Graham Campbell must have had an off day—he hit only 20 points. But Graham Pile, returning at last to something like his true form, stuffed 16 points in a relatively short time on court.



JOHN BLACKBURN CARRIED HIS SIDE TO VICTORY.

German group present threat to Festival

ON Monday night, members of a visiting drama group disrupted the start of one of the performances in the International Drama Festival in the Deb. Hall.

The incident happened when members of the Theater Syndicate Cologne found that they would not be allowed into other groups' performances without paying half the price of a ticket.

The group, who had been invited to the Festival after having sent a note saying that if they were not invited they would come anyway, then started to demonstrate against the decision. Worried by the threat of violence, members of G.T.G. decided to hold a collection amongst the audience which raised sufficient money to allow the group to see the performance.

Later in the evening, an emergency meeting of Executive was called to discuss the situation. The meeting decided that visiting groups would be allowed free entrance to all other groups' performances.

Festival chairman Clive Grace was known to be very unhappy with the decision, and one member of Executive said on Tuesday morning: "We should have called the police in to deal with these trouble-makers. Having capitulated to their demands on this point, they will go on to demand other rights."

Some groups have complained about the amount of the allowance they are given for food and travelling. Most of them are being accommodated in the games room of the Union. The Cologne group declares itself to be anarchistic in outlook, and after Monday's demonstration it is reported that human excrement appeared in the Union corridors during the night.

The Executive member said: "There is no knowing what this group might get up to next—they will break the place up if something is not done."

A G.T.G. spokesman said that it

was ridiculous to speak of having people thrown out of the Union or making them pay to see performances when they had been invited to the Festival. However, G.T.G. seemed to be concerned at Monday's display, particularly as the groups might go on to demand more money. There was talk of having contracts to be agreed upon for future events of this kind.

OUTRAGE

Last year, at the first International Drama Festival to be held as part of Festival, the Cologne group outraged city councillors and the management of Cannon Hill Arts Centre when they stripped naked during one of their performances and threw paint over themselves, the stage and the audience. It was partly because of the trouble caused by this performance that the decision was made to hold this year's Festival in the Deb. Hall rather than Cannon Hill.

Mammoth Hora

THE latest attempt at breaking a world record will be made during Festival week. The event is the Marathon Hora dancing attempt in Colmore Circus on March 14th and 15th.

Hora dancing is an Israeli form of dancing, and the mammoth 38-hour event will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and end at Midnight on Thursday. People are invited to go to Colmore Circus at any time during those two days either to take part or just to support. Sponsorship forms are obtainable from the Festival Information Desk.



The semi-final of the "Observer Mace" Debating Tournament, which took place in the Council Chamber last week.

Tonight, Deb Soc are hosts to the English Speaking Union touring team from the United States. The motion to be debated is: "The White Man Bears the Guilt." Council Chamber, 7.30.

ASTON FEELING HIGH

POLITICAL files on student activities are being kept at Aston University's Mech. Eng. Department, students alleged yesterday.

Following the discovery of political files at Warwick and Monday night's 12-hour attempt by Oxford students to retrieve similar evidence from their uni-

versity registry, the Aston students are to hold an E.G.M. at 6.30 p.m. in their Great Hall.

Members of the Union's Soc. Sec. will, it is understood, press for immediate action to retrieve any such political files. The emergency meeting will take place after a Symposium on the Aston Polytechnic issue over which student opinion is already inflamed: stu-

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

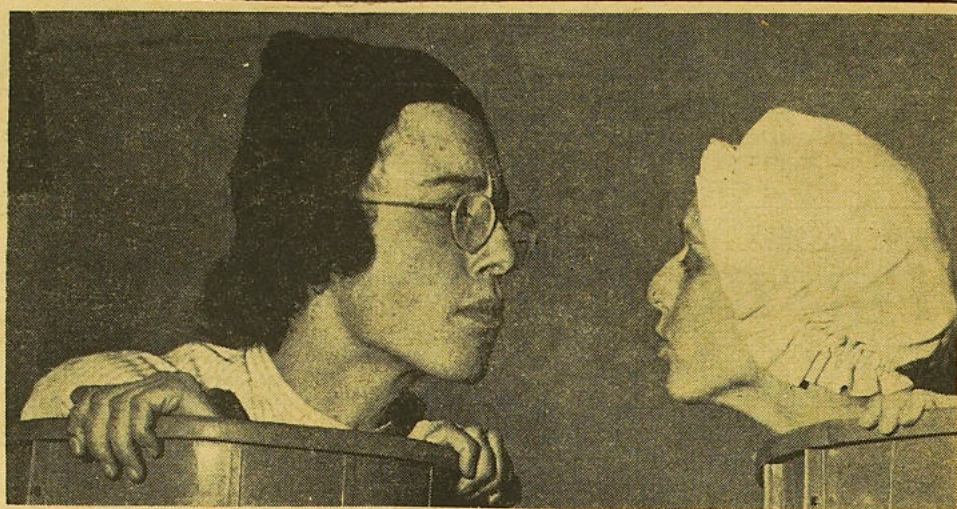
A MEETING of the Conservative Association will be held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, March 3rd at 1.15, when a representative from the Embassy of the Republic of Vietnam (otherwise known as South Vietnam) will speak on the subject of policies—social and political. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

redbrick

No. 779

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25th, 1970

Price 5d. 2p.



A scene from "End Game" by Samuel Beckett, performed by University House last weekend.

Rotten theatre

"THERE is something rotten in the state of drama," said Michael Simpson, associate director of the Birmingham Rep. Theatre at yesterday's Open Lecture.

In a talk that was itself acted out, Simpson spoke of the loss of understanding on both sides of the footlights as to why people come to the theatre.

Today there was only rarely true quality of meeting between the actor and his audience. He accounted for this by claiming that young actors did not know why they were in theatre and by pointing to the cut-throat nature of their profession.

Regulations review

THE activities of the periodic review body of B.Sc. regulations in the Faculty of Science and Engineering seem to have been shrouded in secrecy. The first meeting is on March 4th.

Despite recent affirmations on participation, students are represented only by two postgraduates, Gerald Lovley (Bio. Chem.) and David Dimeloe (Chem. Eng.). Dave Dimeloe appealed yesterday for students to send him their views before March 3rd. When asked what had already been done to determine student ideas, he claimed that every department had been consulted, although exactly how was not made clear.

He also stated that the matter had been discussed at faculty meetings—which had been notoriously badly attended.

A reason for this lack of publicity may be found in recent agitation for radical change in the faculty, led by "Ad Infinitum", the Maths Department newspaper.

Student challenge to wrestlers

BY PETE HARRIGAN

A STUDENT and a University employee will challenge two of the wrestlers appearing in Monday's Student Bedlam event, it was learnt yesterday.

The challengers, a member of the Department of Physical Education and an employee in the University Maintenance Department said they "intend to climb into the ring and offer to fight the wrestlers." Said the student: "These wrestlers are harmless actors and we intend to show them the art of combat."

Mr. Tony Harms, one of the organisers of the event remarked: "I have been in touch with these gentlemen and they seem quite adamant in their foolish plan to challenge the wrestlers. I have given them complementary ringside tickets and will offer them £5 if they are successful."

Last night the promoter of the wrestling, Mr. Joseph Szabo, warned, "I cannot be responsible for the consequences of intervention by members of the audience." Szabo added that he was sure that the wrestlers would willingly accept any challenges.

Three top Birmingham surgeons will be attending the event. One of them explained: "I read of the details and immediately thought it wise to offer our services. I am certainly not an alarmist but I think

that this kind of precaution is necessary." The doctors, from a local Birmingham hospital, will sit alongside the ring with first-aid equipment.

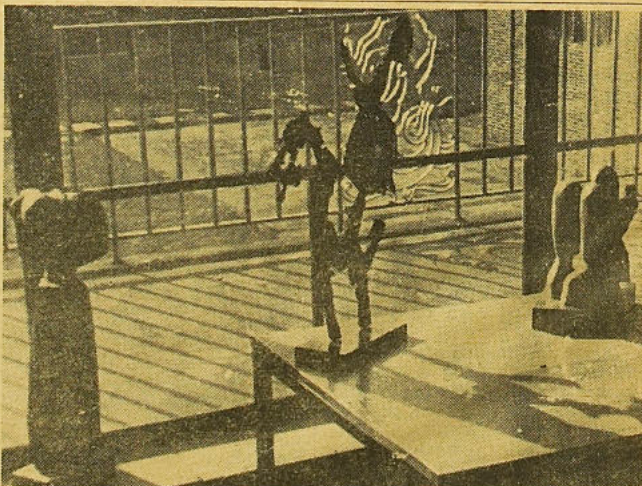
It has also been learnt that the Pre-Queensberry Rule Fight could be against the law. Answering these doubts Harms said, "We felt that a bare-fisted contest would give an ideal Victorian flavour. But I fear that this could be against the law." The fight will probably be staged with minimal glove protection. Harms maintained that the contest "would defy the Queensberry Rules whether illegal or not."

Meanwhile a mounting body of student dissent against the Event has come from a group of several students.

"The Union should be used for cultural events. Neither myself nor the majority of students want to be subjected to this cheap, dangerous and exhibitionist trash. It should be banned," complained a student from the Department of Transportation.

And now the dissident's opinion could be further inflamed once they learn a strip artist is also booked to perform on the night. The stripper's agent from Delta Promotions told me: "Caroline will strip in the ring and will move out into the audience. She is very kinky."

Mr. Clive Grace, Chairman of Festival, would not comment on the Event.



Sculptures in the sun in the Compendium Gallery exhibition in Concourse. Also on view are Arts Council reproductions of paintings and drawings by Paul Klee.