

UNEMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION

ON Saturday evening about one hundred students and staff demonstrated outside the University Refectory, where Mr. Robert Carr, Secretary for Employment, was due to address the Edgbaston Conservative Association's Annual Dinner.

The demonstrators gathered outside the building with banners whilst the four hundred guests were arriving and proceeded to chant "Carr out, jobs in." Police and security men had, however, swarmed the area by then and kept a close check on all those entering the Refectory and Staff House.

The protesters had hoped to hand in a letter inviting Mr. Carr to visit St. Chad's Crypt and speak to some of the dossers, but they were not allowed to do this.

by the arrival of steel drums from the Union which were banged solidly for an hour, and the letting down of several tyres on Rolls-Royces.

A stone was also thrown at a skylight window which sent glass

showing on to guests inside the building, but no-one was hurt.

The demonstration was called to an orderly withdrawal at about 9.15 p.m. and it is believed that the police and security men continued their guard until Mr. Carr and the guests had been seen off the campus.

Mr. Ken Hickman, of the Communist Group, organised the demonstration and this group have since issued a statement on the event entitled "Police Take Over University." After a brief description of what took place, the statement asks several questions, including: "Who let Edgbaston Tories completely take over the Refectory and Staff House?" and "How many of the University Court, Council



and Administration were feasting with Carr and his friends?"

Mr. Carr spoke after the dinner on employment and said: "I believe we should be seen to be doing everything that human ingenuity can devise to find a cure to the problem of unemployment. If we did not do this, we would deserve the fate that would be coming to us." He warned the assembled Tories that the Government must act or suffer the consequences at the next election.



WALK OUT!

FOR the majority of students without cars, Saturdays are becoming stay-at-home days. The absence of Birmingham buses means the absence of not a few students from the university. No doubt there are some hardened drinkers who still manage to make it to the Main Bar on Saturday nights (and what's more refreshing than a few pints after a walk from Moseley?) but most students either stay in their digs/flats/bed-sits, or pay a visit to their local.

The former save some money and the latter probably save at least their bus-fare. Fortunately (or unfortunately), depending on your point of view) the strikes are restricted to Saturdays only, a day not noted for an excessively high

attendance anyway, and few courses are affected.

Spare a sympathetic thought for Lewis's, Rackham's, Grey's, etc., who must surely be awaiting anxiously the outcome of the dispute. Saturdays are their BIG days, and with the Christmas rush upon us they will be worried lest the rush doesn't materialise, due to lack of transport.

For those students in digs a word of advice: smile sweetly at your landlady and ask her casually what's for dinner. If that doesn't work there's always the chippy.

So when you're hunting feverishly for change to feed into the all-devouring Autofare machine, think how lucky you are actually to be travelling on a bus. Long live W.M.P.T.!

Deb. Soc. row

FOLLOWING the successful debate last Wednesday in the Deb. Hall, which some 1,500 students attended, a row has broken out in Debating Society Committee as to who should pay—resulting in the resignation of this year's Treasurer, Chris Gibbons.

The main contention, according to statements made by John Ringguth, Deb. Soc. Chairman and Chris Gibbons is the dinner and after-debate party which are being paid for out of Deb. Soc's £400 Guild Grant.

In an interview to "Redbrick" Gibbons stated that the Guild should never pay for a private party for speakers and committee members; normally only the speakers were bought drinks in Mermaid Bar after a debate which cost about £2. He estimated that the cost of the drinks for the party which was held on Middle Park Estate in Northfield cost some £10. He further suggested that the dinner which cost some £30 was both elaborate and over-attended. Normally members of Deb. Soc. committee pay 50p towards the cost of the dinner but just recently this had been deferred.

In a statement from John Ring-

guth and Deb. Soc. Committee issued to "Redbrick" it is stated that the last Debate was in every way "exceptional". Debating Society does not pay its guests any fees and that in view of the excellent line-up of speakers Debating Society Committee felt justified in providing for this occasion more lavish entertainment. It is also argued that because Mermaid Bar closes at 10.30 p.m. and their trains did not leave until 12.15 p.m. some provision had to be made for the speakers. It is hoped that such hospitality by the Committee will cause the speakers to recommend the Guild Debating Society to other possible future guests.

A motion has been tabled at Deb. Soc. tonight about the matter and it is also expected to be discussed by Guild Council at its next meeting on November 23rd.

Correction

LAST week "Redbrick" carried a front page report of the S.G.M. on "Student Unions—Danger" held in the Debating Hall on Wednesday, November 3rd, entitled "S.G.M. rejects Document". In this article it was stated that the Vice-Chancellor had expressed his willingness to alter the University Charter in order to implement non-compulsory membership of the Union. However, it was brought to the Editor's notice that this should have read "unwillingness". The Vice-Chancellor is, it is believed, not entirely happy about the Government's proposals. It is hoped he will make a statement in the near future to clarify his position.

News in brief

Buildings opened

THE Earl of Avon, the former Sir Anthony Eden, in his capacity as Chancellor of the University, opened the new Library extension and the Arts/Commerce Muirhead Tower on Monday last.

The ceremonies included short speeches by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to a gathering of staff and student representatives.

During the ceremony in the Library Lord Avon was presented with a bound copy of Persian poetry which is one of his especial interests.

Press Council Convened

GUILD Press Council has been called for the first time this year to consider a complaint brought by Martin O'Shea Jenkins (French IV) against the editor of "Wall" magazine.

The complaint states that in an article on "Wall" last week it was alleged that Jenkins was amongst other things an "anti-semitist and papist".

The meeting is expected to take place today at 1.15 in Private Dining Room. Press Council has power to remove the offending article and force the editor to publish an apology in "Wall" and "Redbrick".

'UNIONS' MARCH TODAY

THIS afternoon all college students are being asked to support a march organised by Birmingham Area N.U.S. Committee to demonstrate their opposition to the Government's attack on Student Unions. The march will assemble at 2.00 at Aston Joint Guild of Students building at Gosta Green and proceed to the Council House to hand in a petition to the local Council.

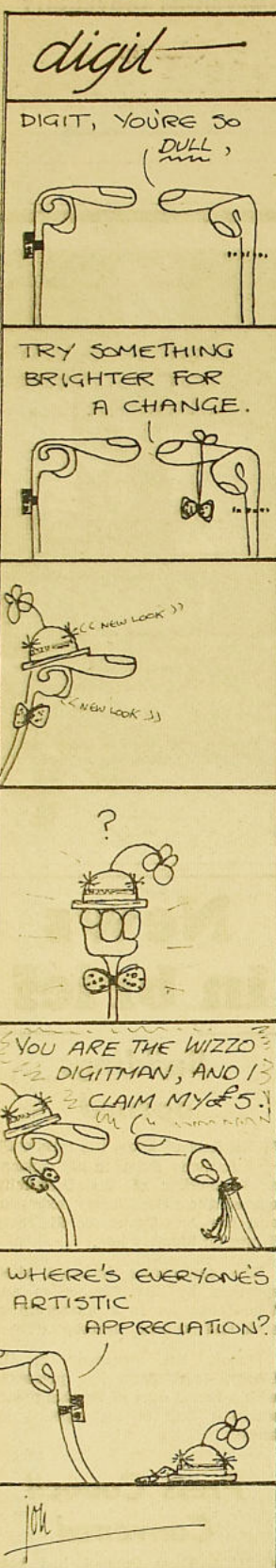
Signatures to the petition, which states total opposition to the D.E.S. consultative document, have been collected on the Edgbaston campus these last three days and it is hoped that every student, if they cannot support the march, will sign. If the Government's recommenda-

tions are implemented the City Council Education Department will find itself financially worse off as it will have to pay for all local College Unions in the city instead of the burden being shared by all local education authorities through the present "per capita" system.

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Report states case for multiple occupancy

THE report of a survey of student accommodation sponsored jointly by the University and the Guild of Students draws attention to problems arising from the City of Birmingham's policy of discouraging multi-occupation of houses.

It says that the accommodation market for students is nearing exhaustion and that "multiple occupation of houses would relieve pressure on other forms of accommodation, particularly purpose-built flats," but that the city's policy is not to permit rent-sharing arrangements which involve the sharing of w.c.s, bathrooms and other facilities.

The report refers to a public enquiry in May when four people appealed against the Council's decision to evict them from their multi-occupied house in Selly Oak. It says: "If the City Council case is upheld this type of accommodation, which would relieve pressure on other types, will be denied to students. It would be helpful if the City Council was able to find a satisfactory solution to these problems." The result of the enquiry is not yet known.

The report reveals that the most notable gap between demand and supply relates to private houses. Nearly 20 per cent of those questioned would prefer to live in one but only 8.6 per cent did so.

Attention is drawn however to the fact that a number of students living in rented houses or flats have successfully applied to the City Council for rate rebates. The report urges that this "should be known as widely as possible in order to reduce the cost of living for students."

A comment on the operation of the means test for student grants is provided by the discovery that 13 per cent of students living away from home have a total income which is less than the full grant. They appear to economise by living in self-catering accommodation where they can cut down on food bills, some spending less than £1 a week on food.

Broadly, the report indicates that the average student would like to live in a flat or house within a mile of the main campus, sharing with up to three other persons (preferably students), and paying £4-£5 a week as his portion of the total accommodation costs. He would spend 17 hours a week studying in a private study-bedroom, less than five hours in recreation or sport, a similar period in society or Union activities, four hours on housework and cooking and two hours on shopping and laundry. The last would be facilitated by a grocer's shop and launderette on the campus.

For lunch he would use the existing campus facilities five days a week, but other meals would be taken at home or elsewhere.

However, reality falls well short of ambition. Of those questioned 18.9 per cent lived in lodgings or bed-sitters, but only 4.4 per cent would do so by choice. Griffin Close is preferred by 10.1 per cent though only 5.9 live there at present. Private flats were the choice of 37.8 per cent though only 28.9 per cent had found one.

Other points from the Report shed interesting light on the way students are living, for instance; most students have income in the £250-£500 bracket, but 4.8 per cent have less than £250 whilst 9.7 per cent have more than £1,000. About one-quarter of all students drive to the campus in their own car. Over 35 per cent of students have no room suitable for study, most of these being in flats or bed-sitters.

Although first-year students are concentrated in halls and lodgings, approximately 12 per cent of them are now in flats, bed-sitters or houses; this can be explained by the change in the University Residence Regulation, and it is still the case that after the first year, student preference is for the self-catering type of accommodation. This would seem to be the reason why a high proportion of students would like a grocer's shop and a launderette on the campus, and there is some interest too in the provision of a swimming pool and a chemist's shop.

There is an increase in the number of students bringing sandwiches which suggests that no extension of the catering services is required at the present and indeed, a restricted service in the evening might be called for due to the fact that many students prefer to cook for themselves.

The greatest demands for use of the University facilities are for the Sports Centre (20 per cent), the Library (16 per cent) and the Union (30 per cent).

Guild elections

NOMINATIONS opened last Monday (15th) for the election of Guild Councillors and Representatives on the University Court of Governors.

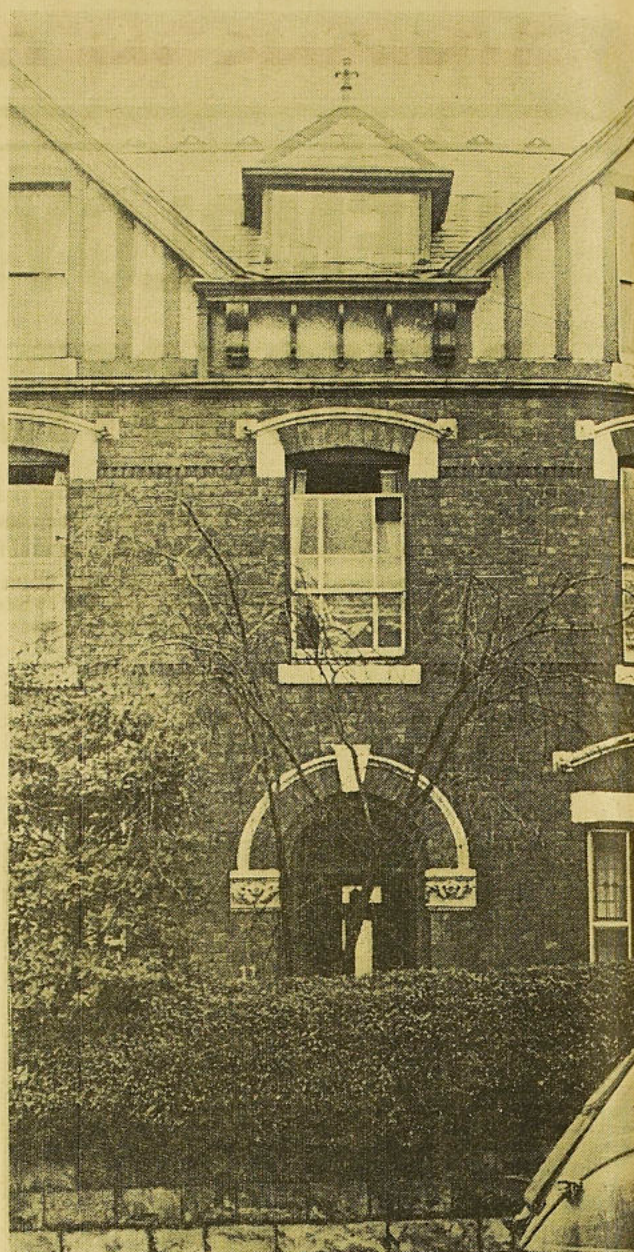
It is important that first-year students be prepared to participate in the election of Freshmen Councillors either as candidate, proposer or second, and, most important of all, when the times comes, VOTE!

Elections are also taking place simultaneously for Postgraduate Representatives of Guild Council, there are some seventeen vacant seats.

The forms can be collected from Reception in the New Entrance Hall of the Union and they must be returned to the Returning Officer (The Registrar, Senate Division, The University) or the Permanent Secretary, The Union, as soon as possible, but not later than 10.00 a.m. on Monday, November 22nd, 1971.

SMALL ADS.

ANYONE who would like to help reform the Hairy Coconut Society and to attend a Hairy Coconut Dinner in commemoration of the first sit-in, please contact J. W. Aukett via Union P.H.
ARTS FACULTY Council Elections:
 Nominations open Nov. 15th-22nd.
 Voting Nov. 25th.



A multi-occupied house in Moseley.

ONLY CONNECT

THERE are inevitable high expectations of a Reith lecturer and many past and present Birmingham students and others influenced by his book "The Uses of Literacy" will fully approve the choice of Richard Hoggart this year.

He combines awareness, intelligence and articulateness with an acute consciousness of the working classes in which he was brought up and where many of his affinities lie.

By skipping schizophrenically between mutually opposed classes, yet maintaining a stable integrity, Hoggart has achieved a rare appreciation of class differences and similarities. His secret is that he has never lost contact with "ordinary reality"—those worried about the detachment of the academic world may at last be assured of such possibilities.

Hoggart sees the mass media as it affects the lives of the people he knew in Leeds, through to all society. Whilst Professor of English, he was appointed a co-director of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies—he is at present on an "extended adjournment" working in Paris, on a worthy

He has often been accused of the intellectual sin of excessive caution but this results from just that sensitivity to the "money-layers responses" of individuals and the necessity of qualifying inadequate language that he advocates. With his utilitarian view of art, he achieves legitimate understanding of the influence of popular and traditional culture on people.

In his lectures—"Only Connect" (a reference to an Ian Foster poem—"... Only conform whispers the prevailing wind today"), Richard Hoggart is searching, doubtless expressed in his challenging wit, for better connections between society and the way in which it expresses itself. This must increasingly be the concern of more of us.

RADICAL ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON (Birmingham Group)

The following working parties have now been set up:

- LEGAL REPRESENTATION
- HOMELESS MEN
- REMAND
- EXISTING ALTERNATIVES IN BIRMINGHAM
- EFFECTS ON PRISONERS' FAMILIES

Anyone interested in joining a working party or the Group generally will be warmly welcomed at the next General Meeting, on Thursday, November 18th, at 6.30 p.m. Committee Room B, St. Francis Hall.

BRIAN MORRIS PREVIEWS NEXT WEEK'S N.U.S. CONFERENCE AT MARGATE

'UNIONS IN DANGER' WILL DOMINATE

N.U.S. Margate Conference, which begins November 19th, seems likely to be dominated by one topic—the D.E.S. consultative document on student unions. After the political excitement of Lancaster and the election of Digby Jacks in the summer, the delegates still have to turn to the question of the survival of N.U.S. and its constituent unions. Perhaps the most worrying part of the D.E.S. document is the statement that N.U.S. affiliation fees "could be" paid by college authorities. In other words, college authorities can disaffiliates their students from N.U.S. by refusing to pay their fees; and this is by no means unlikely in the case of some smaller and weaker colleges.

Birmingham's delegation, led by Anne Naylor, has a clear policy, ratified by Council and General Meeting, of opposition to any controls other than those now existing. It seems possible, however, as was revealed by last week's N.U.S. Action briefing in London, that a body of opinion inside N.U.S. is prepared to explore the possibility of a deal with the D.E.S. Hertford College, Oxford, before the D.E.S. document was issued, had submitted a motion for Conference approving the idea of a Registrar for student unions.

This would be marginally better than the present proposals, and it has been suggested, among others by the Vice-President, Paul Dodgson, that the D.E.S. document is in fact a bluff designed to make students accept the idea of a Registrar quietly as being far the lesser of two evils. This manoeuvre,

if such it is, seems certain to fail, as Conference will probably declare its total opposition to any sort of controls.

It remains to be seen what N.U.S. can do to alter the purpose of a government which has the will and the power to enact the most reactionary policies since the premiership of that distinguished Birmingham graduate, Neville Chamberlain.

The D.E.S. proposals, unfortunate in themselves, have the unfortunate side effect of pushing into the shade the other important matters Margate conference will have to deal with. Contrary to popular opinion, N.U.S. spends most of its time debating perennial student issues—grants, accommodation, educational problems. There is the usual quota of shrill, mis-spelt, and ungrammatical political motions on the agenda, a fact which has led Hull to put down a sardonic motion

drawing attention to N.U.S.'s total inability to influence matters such as the Common Market entry or the Industrial Relations Bill.

Important and constructive debates will come in the discussions on educational problems, especially the binary system. Birmingham's motion on sex education should receive wide support. Another important discussion will be that on student accommodation, rapidly emerging as No. 1 practical problem for student unions. A control issue is that of "moral" discipline by college authorities, as exemplified in the case of the student teacher in Bradford who was expelled for having a man in her room.

Margate Conference, thus, will not lack interest. It is up to the student body of Britain to make sure that it is not the last of its kind.



Bugs Beat Ball band noisily paraded the campus last Friday with constant rhythmic chant of three vital seductive monosyllables. The campus did not erupt with boisterous (dis)approval at the disruptive lunchtime display; but the response, as desired, was delayed until the evening. Then many came to frolic with Friday Wild, or perhaps for the beer—at those prices! The real experience was The Sensations; stimulating, very original, primordial, born of genuine negro expression, and achieved by successfully integrating a demonstrative stage—act with basic, sophisticated and throbbing music, stirring antagonisms, subsuming them into the non-violent activities of the underinvolved floor dancers. The individual was left to find his own contentment—for the evening many did.

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Chunderful

Eventful trip

IT has been a consistent feature of Guild Events Committee policy to make itself well known in the trendy London Scene. Last week they finally succeeded.

A London-based entertainment organisation invited Events Committee down to a special concert which included many top name groups. Thirty tickets were sent by the company to Events Committee, which were hurriedly disposed of to friends and hangers-on. A coach was quickly chartered to take the happy band of pilgrims down to London and last Thursday they set off to the reddening hues of decaying sunlight and several verses of "Amazing Grace."

The journey to London is a long one and on a motorway such as the M.1, tedious. To get suitably turned on for the coming concert, several members of the trip decided to wile away the time on pot. The coach soon filled with a particular kind of smell, and quickly becoming dreary, no one remembered to open a window. In London the coach got lost, and the unsuspecting driver, being a good Boy Scout, drew up alongside two bobbies to ask the way.

The door was opened and the two policemen were deluged in a strange, thick odour, which they did not know or could not understand. Realising the error of his ways, partly caused by a terrific pandemonium in the back of the coach, the driver sped off leaving two coughing law-enforcers rapidly going high.

Events Committee eventually found the concert and apparently enjoyed themselves, but in the traditional manner, somehow managed to make a loss on the venture overall.

Carr strike

On Saturday last a small group of students assembled loyally outside the Refectory to protest at the arrival on the campus of Robert Carr, Minister of Employment in the Tory regime. Although they missed getting any sight of Carr, the fact that students locally are concerned at high unemployment, particularly in Birmingham, is in itself commendable and few would dispute their right to make orderly demonstration.

However, not satisfied at voicing their annoyance to Carr and the Tories, several decided to attempt to disrupt the meeting. The Music Room in the Union Building was invaded and several tin drums were found which were proudly banged for some two hours. Such behaviour, more typical of spoilt four-year-old children, must have done the sleeping sick in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital a lot of good. Indeed, attempts to silence people talking have often been a feature of all well-founded totalitarianisms. Goebbels would have approved.

The result of the banging was to discredit and devalue the cause for which they came and cause several formerly sympathetic students to leave the demonstration. The demonstration gradually degenerated into an embarrassed picnic party, finally dispersing at 9.30 p.m. It was nice, however, to see the Library wall floodlit and two University Vopos proudly patrolling the area.

Sauna over

In a building somewhat reminiscent of a coal bunker lies the University Sauna Bath system. For the greasy, the dirty and the weight-watchers such baths are a tremendous torture. Not only when one first enters the shimmering abyss is one rudely glared at and quickly evaluated, but also subsequently subjected to intermittent periods of heat and cold which is said to make you slimmer. Unfortunately, only one set of sauna baths was put in the design and consequently they are regulated so as to alternate between the two major sexes.

However, demand began to exceed supply and in an effort to get round the regulations, several students asked for MIXED sauna bathing. It seems there is nothing nicer nowadays than taking your girl friend for a quick drip. An action group was formed and a motion put to Athletic Union General Committee. After a lively and heated debate some five members of the committee were in favour, some three were against, and 25 in abstention.

A petition was then circulated in the Sports Hall which gathered some 200 signatures, including that of a member of University Council and the then Chairman of Athletic Union. People started to get worried at this wave of immorality—think what the papers might say. The decision was finally thwarted by the Sports Centre, who, instead of allowing mixed seminars, built a new sauna bath on to the ladies' changing rooms. Viva la difference!—the alternative permissive society was once again foiled.

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"I would particularly draw your attention to the possibility of improving the sales of "REDBRICK" by having a more intensive approach . . ."—Quote from letter to Business Manager from Guild Treasurer, Nov. 8.

Those who would like to help "Redbrick" and stop Mr. MacFie having to write letters should contact Nick Booker via P.H.s. There might be something in it for you at Christmas!

redbrick staff

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What is Comac?

by Mary Benton, Lynfa Moses and Ros Manser

WHAT do you see Community Action as? A band of do-gooders painting old ladies' houses, or middle-class intellectuals attempting to run the lives of the working class? Perhaps the Marxists who read this see us as filling in the gaps left by the Welfare State; merely covering up the cracks in the whole decaying system. Perhaps they are right; but while they wait for the revolution kids still live in cramped, vermin-ridden rooms, elderly live in isolation and squalor, and dossers are still starving.

When we analyse the title of our organisation, we find it means involving the community, acting upon its own behalf. You might well ask—why then should students be involved? Firstly, most students possess more free time than the average worker who has long hours and a family to cater for. Secondly, there are deprived minorities such as the homeless, disabled, sick and elderly that cannot act for themselves; they have neither the knowledge nor ability to claim their full rights.

Students can help in various ways. "Redbrick" pointed out last week, students can either act for the community or with it and thus help to bring about social change. Surely, both objectives can be achieved. For some, service is their protest, whilst others see protest as sufficient service. Something can be done about the immediate problems and simultaneously pressure can be applied on the authorities for improvement of conditions.

In the recent Student Community Action-N.U.S. Conference at Durham an even larger objective was discussed. Students should become involved in some form of community action in the university, for in later life they would recognise the human problems connected with their employment. We are continually being told that we are the country's "future decision-makers" and we will only be able to do this properly if we become more socially orientated.

Another way to achieve this is by linking community action with curriculum reform. All courses could be reorganised to include some type of study on the social effects of that subject. In 1968 we saw the hypothermic survey undertaken by medical students who put their specialised knowledge to social purposes and hence brought to light countless numbers of old people having to live in temperatures below the acceptable norm.

What is Community Action doing this year then? For example: Engineers are helping to construct an adventure playground for educationally sub-normal kids in Moseley. Another project concerns an adventure playground in Selly Oak. We have found "suitable land" (a

Council quote) and a small survey is being conducted to determine whether parents would support the pressing need for play-space in this neighbourhood.

Many of our projects this year concern the development of community centres, such as the ones in Winslow Green and Handsworth. Both of these require renovating work now but, once completed, students could help with playground after-school activities, "out of school" education and the elderly, etc. The aim is to bring the people together.

Many groups within the community such as epileptics, elderly, blind, dossers and ex-prisoners enjoy students visiting them, especially when regular contact is maintained.

These are just a few of the community action projects we are undertaking. Others include home visits to Asian women so that every day English can be learnt, and informal English lessons for a group of Arabs run at the Mount Pleasant Centre every Sunday afternoon.

Our major project this year is one in which other colleges are joining us. It centres around the problems of the disabled. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Act of 1970 compelled all local authorities to set up a register of all the disabled in their respective counties or county boroughs and to provide certain basic facilities such as hand-rails, special transport and gadgets etc. New public buildings have to have access and facilities available for the disabled.

Our aim is to see if this act is being implemented in Birmingham. We intend to do this through conducting a survey in two wards of Birmingham (Selly Oak being one) by interviewing a sample of disabled people. We will then act upon the results during the Community Action week (Feb. 21st to 28th). During this week, in which all students have two days off, there will be abundant practical work and also meetings to publicise our findings.

For one meeting, Sir Keith Joseph (Secretary of State for Social Service) and A. Morrison (initiator of 1970 Act) have been invited. For surveying, beginning on Saturday week, we need your support. More details will be published in "Redbrick" next week (or come to Comac office). Overall, we hope this project will have a lasting effect as the hypothermic one did in 1968.

Finally, Comac is organising talks by some of the project leaders. This is so that you can learn more about the projects before visiting them or committing yourself. Two such talks are on how a community centre works and how students can help organise activities such as building a football pitch at a boys' club in Northfield.

Having read this article are you still wondering what Comac is all about? Or are you still critical of our activities? If so, come up to the office and voice your views.

Appointments Board's purpose to get them. It needs more money and better facilities. It is unfair on the dedicated band of people who work there; it is unfair on us, the students.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL WILLSON,
Guild Secretary.
(This letter is a personal opinion and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Guild Executive of which I am a member.)

DEAR SIR,—In the past a graduate from University was regarded as a highly desirable employee. This is now not so. All one has to do is to read the newspapers to see that jobs are more specialised but what is more important is that employers are cutting back on their manpower. It is not just the guy on the shop-floor who is going, but executive personnel are being pruned and very heavily so.

This is a trend which should level off, but never again will today's graduates hold the status of yesterday's.

What I am saying is that all graduates will get a job; often better ones than non-graduates but not necessarily in the field of their choice. Both short and long-term solutions are needed. I hope the Review Body is dealing with the long-term solutions.

For short-time solutions, there is the Appointment Board in Birmingham University.

This collection of old, run-down prefab-type buildings in which seven careers officers, their boss and secretaries do their best to find jobs for us, is our main chance. It appears from their buildings that they come far down the list of financial priorities. Yet most of us are here to obtain a degree to get a good job.

For the 2,000 or so graduates at Birmingham, this collection of small and decaying buildings represents the transition from an academic to a working life. It's disgusting.

It's about time the University got off its high horse and faced realities. We need jobs. It's the



vide certain basic facilities such as hand-rails, special transport and gadgets etc. New public buildings have to have access and facilities available for the disabled.

Our aim is to see if this act is being implemented in Birmingham. We intend to do this through conducting a survey in two wards of Birmingham (Selly Oak being one) by interviewing a sample of disabled people. We will then act upon the results during the Community Action week (Feb. 21st to 28th). During this week, in which all students have two days off, there will be abundant practical work and also meetings to publicise our findings.

For one meeting, Sir Keith Joseph (Secretary of State for Social Service) and A. Morrison (initiator of 1970 Act) have been invited. For surveying, beginning on Saturday week, we need your support. More details will be published in "Redbrick" next week (or come to Comac office). Overall, we hope this project will have a lasting effect as the hypothermic one did in 1968.

Finally, Comac is organising talks by some of the project leaders. This is so that you can learn more about the projects before visiting them or committing yourself. Two such talks are on how a community centre works and how students can help organise activities such as building a football pitch at a boys' club in Northfield.

Having read this article are you still wondering what Comac is all about? Or are you still critical of our activities? If so, come up to the office and voice your views.

Letters

Graduate unemployment

DEAR SIR,—In the past a graduate from University was regarded as a highly desirable employee. This is now not so. All one has to do is to read the newspapers to see that jobs are more specialised but what is more important is that employers are cutting back on their manpower. It is not just the guy on the shop-floor who is going, but executive personnel are being pruned and very heavily so.

This is a trend which should level off, but never again will today's graduates hold the status of yesterday's.

What I am saying is that all graduates will get a job; often better ones than non-graduates but not necessarily in the field of their choice. Both short and long-term solutions are needed. I hope the Review Body is dealing with the long-term solutions.

For short-time solutions, there is the Appointment Board in Birmingham University.

This collection of old, run-down prefab-type buildings in which seven careers officers, their boss and secretaries do their best to find jobs for us, is our main chance. It appears from their buildings that they come far down the list of financial priorities. Yet most of us are here to obtain a degree to get a good job.

For the 2,000 or so graduates at Birmingham, this collection of small and decaying buildings represents the transition from an academic to a working life. It's disgusting.

It's about time the University got off its high horse and faced realities. We need jobs. It's the

Yours faithfully,
E. RANDOLPH GEORGE

Polluted reader speaks

DEAR SIR,—It is with great distress that I am forced to pen this letter to you. However, it is not a task that I have undertaken lightly. The problem, sir, is that collection of words which appears each week under the heading, "The Gavin Tweedsmuir Column."

What, my good fellow, possesses you, a thoroughly reasonable sensible-minded chap—I have this on hearsay only—to include such a worthless piece of idle gossip to appear each week in your otherwise excellent organ?

It is to me and my wide circle of friends, journalistic incest of the worst kind, composed as it is of a catalogue of the petty fumbblings of mysterious personalities who haunt the Union like ghosts from the worst kind of Hollywood "B" picture.

However, imagine my horror when seated in the Debating Hall last Wednesday, listening to the debate on British humour, to be confronted with "Gavin Tweedsmuir" alias Antony Lee himself! He sound exactly as he writes—I was compelled to leave the Hall as quickly as possible.

Please, how much longer does my Wednesday reading of "Redbrick" have to be polluted with the band scratches of Mr. Lee?

Yours faithfully,
E. RANDOLPH GEORGE

Something completely different...

AT 7.30 last Wednesday evening, Mr. John Ringguth, in a light green creation sporting a salmon pink carnation, called an extraordinary meeting of the Guild to order. Balloons would not have floated so wantonly from upon high in the Council Chamber, the B.B.C. sound team were positioned, Bill Carson had done his little bit, J. Bates had attempted to do his, and the debate was under way.

Already Johnny Speight was sinking below the table, but stirred himself to mutter somewhat incoherently some choice comments on the death of British humour, producing reasons which had been obsessing him some time, a wreath out of which Miss Kenny appeared with practised aplomb.



John Wells, having an "embarrassing evening."

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The Gavin Tweedsmuir Column

"Who is puny as a flea?
Handsome, ageing, John MacFie."
(Traditional).

AT one Guild Council meeting recently, one could not help noticing that there was an air of expectation about the assembled political groupies who had squelched into the chamber with less than their usual quota of drunks or stretcher cases. What was happening that was so important that even Guild Council were aware of its occurrence? Why should the noble member for Elec. Eng., Mr. Pieter Von den Hitchen (deceased) have stopped his usual squeaks, meanderings and gargles which for so long now the Council has accepted as Conservative policy, and silence himself for the almost apocalyptic event that was to come?

What was this unmentioned phenomena which even lured Mr. Martin O'Sheer Nonsense to sit quietly at the back of the chamber and try to fit his head into the radiators in the way we have all grown to enjoy watching? Any sane member of the Guild who had burdened himself with going along to watch and had bothered to look at the order paper, would have seen that it was the Guild's annual prizegiving, when all those gallant souls and friends of Anne who con the Guild into letting them run some form of entertainment, find out exactly how much pocket money they screw the geriatric, epileptic, senile, etc. Guild for.

Not only was this a draw, but this year the master of ceremonies for the show was to be, for the first time, the much loved Dr. John MacFie, whose boyish charm and naive incompetence has for many years passed as honesty. As Dr. MacFie (or Mama Doc, as he is affectionately known to his three best friends) rose to speak, the disgusting hacks, chiblamis and carbuncles of Guild Council and executive, grovelled and whimpered at the feet of the Bounteous Bestower of Booty For The Boys, and cheerfully moaned "Aye" to every item that the Great White Dove announced as given.

At the end of the proceedings the Munificent Maker of Much Money For MacFie Maties sat down to the sound of 50 or so society representatives licking his left toe-cap.

It is scenes like this which tend once again to throw much suspicion upon the motives driving the friendly Doc, who even now advances to claim his undeserved place upon the Guild Commission. I am told that if it was not for the fact that this diabolical little squirt is a medical student (I use the polite name for it), he might today or possibly next year, be President of the Guild. This is an absurd rumour with no foundation at all. As everybody knows, Dr. Dick will almost certainly stand next year against the translucent Mr. Binkie Beaumont, and both will get thrashed by a surprise third candidate in the shape of La Duchessa di Tootini, the vibrant debutante and lesbian abortionist.

May I take this opportunity to compliment Miss Barrie Thornber on her appearance at Guild Councils? It is always encouraging to find in the fetid atmosphere of the Union someone who still takes a pride in her appearance, and is always ready to lend a little charm to the scene with a suitable coat, discreet hat, or well planned evening outfit. For Miss Thornber elegance is not enough. To this she adds the colours of an Arabian summer and Alpine spring. Her hair is set in the modern manner and her carriage and quick step are a lesson to us all. Her smiling face and carefree countenance aptly complement the outfit she wears at the time. And the fact that she still looks ridiculous is neither here nor there.

The Unknown Naylor—an exclusive interview with the Union's first lady.

G.T.: May I, ma'am, as one of your fondest and most devoted admirers, compliment you on your first few months as President of the Guild.

A.N.: Will Guild Council come to—oh, we're in my office.

G.T.: Oh a witty jest, ma'am, if your servant may say so.

A.N.: Indeed, indeed.

G.T.: Now, may I for one moment refer to your eminence's brilliant policy as regards the N.U.S.?

A.N.: You'll aff too excoose me Mr. Tweedslaw—

G.T.: Er, Tweedsmuir, your worship.

A.N.: Aye, oh aye, Mr. Tweedslaw.

G.T.: My question your highness.

A.N.: Look Mr. Thingy, I'll give it to you straight.

G.T.: I am honoured ma'am.

A.N.: My attitude to the N.U.S. has never been in doubt.

G.T.: What is your attitude to the N.U.S.?

A.N.: I think I've answered your question in quite enough detail Mr. Terry.

G.T.: Er, Tweedsmuir, ma'am.

A.N.: Oh aye—my mistake.

G.T.: And you make very few of those if I may make so bold.

A.N.: Oh (giggles coyly), you mustn't say that... even though it's true.

G.T.: One final question may I crave.

A.N.: Of course peasant.

G.T.: It has been suggested by some lewd persons, with whom I may add I am constantly at variance, that your term as President of the Guild has proved you as a tempestuous, egocentric, tantrum-throwing madam who—

A.N. (jumping on table and adopting a Joan of Arc pose): Never! Me? Never! How could they think it? Just give me their names and I'll break 'em. Ungrateful wretches... ad infinitum.

G.T.: Thank you, ma'am.

The Only Too Well Known Naylor—The End.

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IT has been said often enough that truth is relative, subjective. This has perhaps been too easily accepted. The immediate reason is obvious, it is a comfortable, vaguely paradoxical statement which does not seem to lead anywhere and can therefore be assimilated safely. In fact, it is worth examining more closely, not so much to determine whether it is philosophically sound — it is not within the scope of an article such as this to establish or refuse this assertion — but rather its practice, what its effect turns out to be.

Used cleverly, it can be an implicit justification for those who choose to prevent and distort objective facts for their own ends. Yet these people cannot propose this hypothesis openly — the point of propaganda is that one seeks to convince by the weight of alleged truth. This "truth" is less persuasive if we are constantly reminded that truth in general is subjective, and there are certain difficulties in maintaining that while truth — in general is subjective, this particular truth — which peculiarly supports our own analysis — is an objective, universal one.

This observation has especial relevance to security situations. Here recognizable truth can no longer be shared by persons of different backgrounds and beliefs. It becomes instead the fenced-in property of factions in the struggle—each side at great pains to gain for itself as much popular support as possible. Apart from disposing partisans to a definite interpretation of all sets of facts, this consideration will also eventually compel the propagandist to omit and distort any facts which fit badly into the scheme of interpretation. Put simply—they lie—and that is not a question of truth being relative or subjective.

The Ulster crisis is one which should concern us all and Ulster is a propagandist's paradise. For every incident there are conflicting "truths" and each faction is determined not to modify any aspect of its beliefs in the face of counter-"truths" from its opponents.

At the same time, the objective circle of world opinion and pressure groups before whom the various factions present their versions of the "truth" rapidly dwindles, as the hysteria of conflict slowly engulfs their ability to remain disinterested.

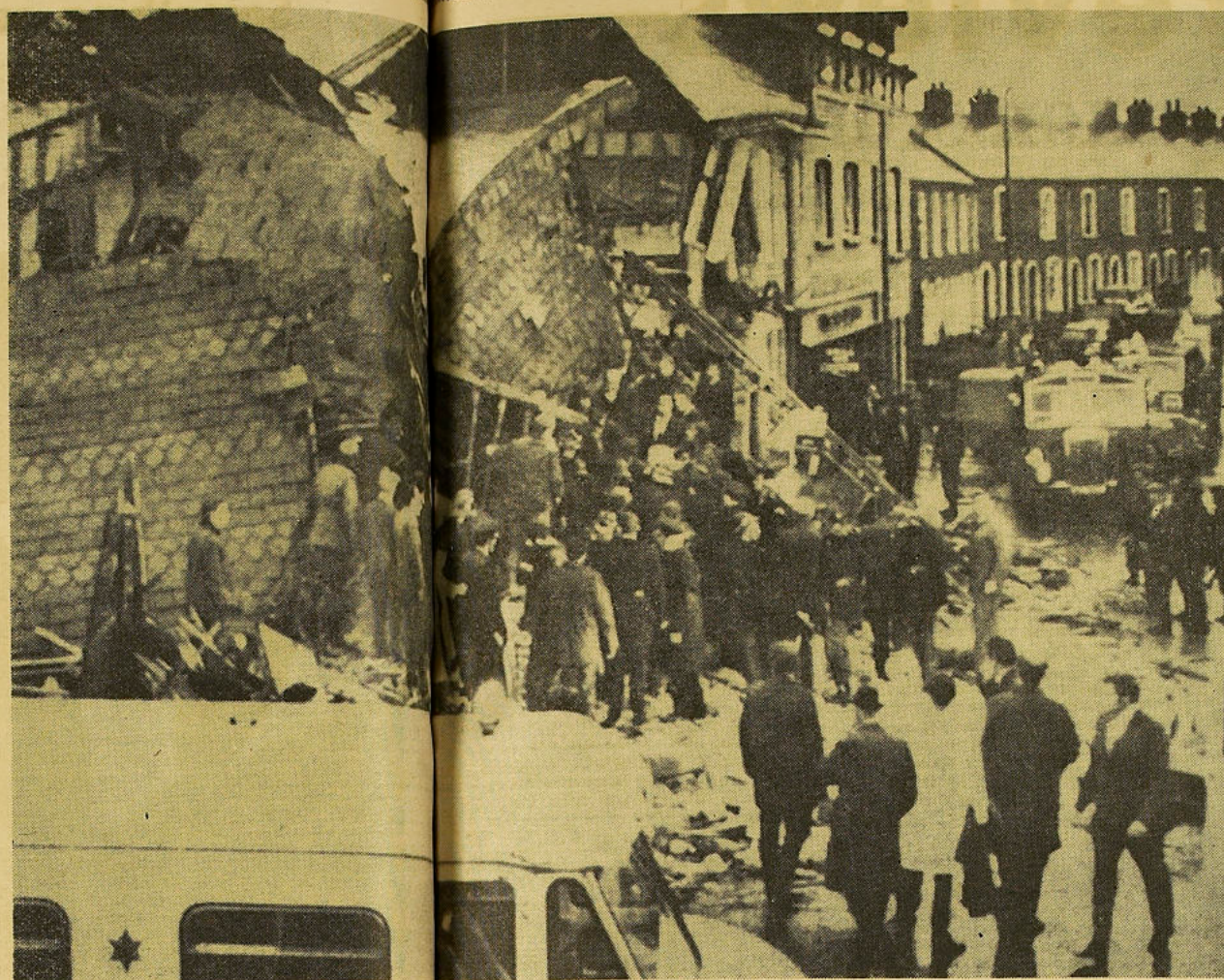
To view the events of any one night in Belfast, as presented by British and Irish television, brings this out clearly. Both channels claim to give a true, disinterested picture of events, and yet the Irish viewer switches off after the news, convinced of the brutality of the

British Army and the R.U.C. and views with doom the sinister, unhindered operations of the Shanklin Road vigilantes and the conditions in the internment camps, while the British viewer is served with a pageant of atrocities by Catholic mobs in the Falls Road, and moving pictures of the families of soldiers killed by the I.R.A.

This polarisation of opinion and the emergence and proliferation of varying "truths" can be seen even more clearly in the recent incident where two sisters travelling in the back of a car were shot and killed.

An Army spokesman claimed that the occupants of the car had been responsible for shooting at the troops, Gerry Pitt claimed that the women were peaceful citizens dressed for a party, and the I.R.A. publicly honoured one of them as a staff officer of their organisation.

BY
**BARBARA
SLOMNICKA**



INQUEST IN ULSTER



dedicated to the I.R.A. policy of terror.

Each version had its audience, and anyone attempting (as "The Economist" did) to draw conclusions from the confrontation of these three versions, stands in danger of being attacked by all these three sections of public opinion at once.

It was in such an atmosphere that on the night of July 4th, 1970, a young man was shot dead by the British Army behind a house in a Catholic street of Belfast. The facts of the matter did not, however, bear the familiar characteristics of other incidents in Northern Ireland, which could be immediately interpreted according to the needs of the factions concerned at the given time.

The young man was 21 years old. It was his first night in Belfast. He had carried around a camera (although he did not have one at the time he was killed) and he had falsely presented himself as a newspaper reporter, accounting for the fact that he carried no Press card

by saying he was a reporter.

He was an area not covered by the police, but in the vicinity of a house where a sniper was found by his dead body was Zbigniew Uglik.

Here a pregnant woman was shot dead. As preparations were made for a police inquest into his death, the reaction of the I.R.A. and pro-Catholic groups was keenly awaited.

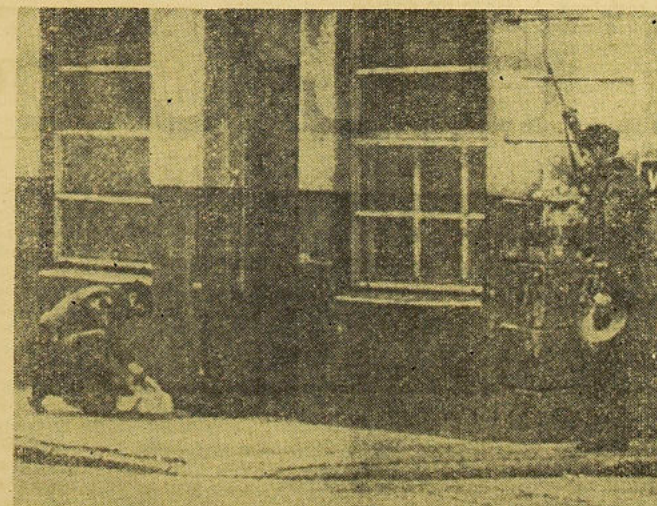
The inquest was left open to the public. In the end, the decision was made to withhold the truth. But in view of the evidence to be presented at the official inquest on October 1st, attended as it was by the young man's father-in-law, a statement was made.

The statement was on the exchange of fire. The scene of the exchange was the street where the young man was shot. The photograph, on the other hand, was the young man's father-in-law.

of "a return of fire" to a previous sniper's shot, and on the pathologist's supposition that the lead marks on the victim's hands made it possible that the victim had used a firearm.

The written testimonial of the

soldier who had shot Uglik was produced at the inquest, but the soldier himself appeared at the inquest dressed in civilian clothes (he had apparently been discharged, and was on his way home to Jamaica), his name was not given and he was not even required to



take an oath, or be subjected to cross-examination.

But the Army was quite content for the moment to exonerate itself from any guilt, consequently, it did not delve into any reasons why Uglik should have been in Belfast at the time, and let the official Coroner's verdict rest at "Misadventure."

In the meantime Army Intelligence and Special Branch delved into the victim's background and possible motives. Here the field for improvisation was extremely wide, leaving aside the existence of the camera, the mention of Paris riots, and the impersonation of a Press photographer, another major factor of interest with the victim's nationality.

Although he was born in Henley-on-Thames, and was therefore British-born, this fact could easily be set aside, and the term "Naturalised Pole" was considered more applicable. This means that Uglik came first of all from a country ruled by Communists, and secondly from a background with strong Catholic traditions.

Possible connections between the Communist movement and the I.R.A. was the particular hobby-horse of many officers in Special Branch, but the "Catholic fanatic" theory must also have had its strong adherents. Members of Special Branch tried out this theory first of all with Uglik's parents, but here they fell foul of the Mr. Uglik senior, himself an ardent Catholic, who said that "my son went to church because I told him he had to go."

This hardly suited the version of a dedicated Catholic partisan, nor could any evidence be found of "Irish associates" in the Post Office at Hounslow, where Uglik worked.

Besides, Special Branch had to take account of the well organised vociferous Polish community in London, to which the Ugliks belonged actively. Its traditions were strongly Catholic and anti-Communist, it had numerous friends on the retired Army list and in Parliament (particularly among the Tories), and was quite capable of putting up a strong fight in defence of its political stance, national interests, or its cultural heritage.

Any attempt to blacken the name of one of its members for being an ardent Catholic would lose the Government and the Army the backing of one of their best and most dedicated supporters.

Not so, if the victim was portrayed as a Communist. Here no public Polish body would have the courage to stand out and say that the boy was not a Communist. After all, the Polish community was constantly alarming itself about "Communist agents in our midst disguised as patriots," and anyway, any attempt to break the Army's case would force the Polish community to stand up and be counted among the opponents of Government policy in Northern Ireland, and thus to have to embrace the "other truth" about Ireland as preached by pro-I.R.A. sympathisers.

So Uglik remained a "Communist." The only problem was to decide when it would be most opportune to launch the story. This came 11 months after the inquest, in September 1971. A former Czech diplomat, J. Bernard Hutton, had produced documentary evidence of Soviet and Chinese plans to foster a revolution in Northern Ireland, and on September 24th came the famous expulsion from Great Britain of 105 Soviet diplomats for espionage.

In the sensational atmosphere brought about by these events, the Belfast correspondent of a London Sunday paper, John Moore, of "The People," was fed by one of his confidential informants—an unnamed "high-ranking security officer"—with the appropriate details of the "truth" about Zbigniew Uglik's death. Consequently, the facts ap-

peared in "The People" on September 26th as follows:

"For the first time, the security officer revealed the story behind the shooting of one man killed as an I.R.A. sniper in July last year.

"He was a naturalised Pole named Uglick Zbigniew (sic)—a 21-year-old living in London.

"On July 2, Zbigniew flew to Belfast. Soon after he arrived, gun battles broke out in the Catholic Falls Road area.

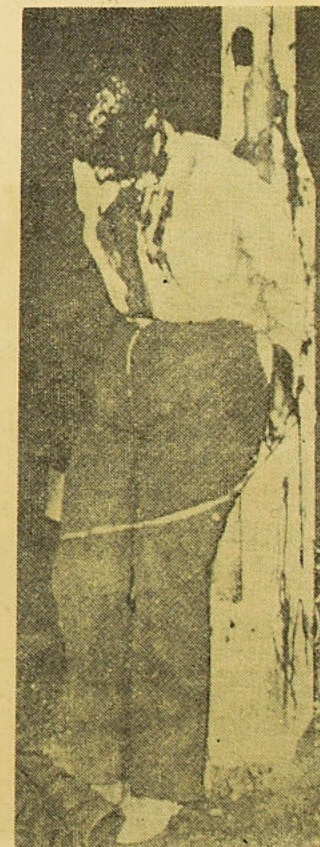
"Next morning he was shot as he climbed over rooftops—wearing a black sweater, with blackened face and carrying a rifle.

"According to security men, Zbigniew had also been involved in the Paris students' riots. And he was a known Communist."

A sensational story indeed, and in case there were any who doubted its validity the Press Officer at the Army H.Q. at Lisburn, near Belfast, was ready to stand by the telephone and advise all callers, including one who claimed to be a member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain, that the story was as far as he remembered, substantially true. Evidence for this? "Well, all the Belfast newspapers at the time wrote about it. It all came out at the inquest."

In case you should read of the Uglik affair again in the near future in connection with evidence of collusion between Soviet agents and the I.R.A., you might well marvel at the ingenuity of its construction. But at the same time, just remember that Zbigniew Uglik, an earnest young Scout leader, living with his Polish parents in London, with no interest in politics, and who had never handled a gun in his life, flew to Belfast for the weekend spurred on by the derisive laughter of his friends, who claimed he could never take any good action photos with the new camera he had just bought himself out of his savings, naively imagining that if he pretended to be a Press photographer he would get Army protection in order to take those photos, and that he got himself killed at 02.00 a.m. during his first night in Belfast when he clambered over a wall into the line of vision of a jumpy soldier covering the possible retreat of a rooftop sniper in a predominantly Catholic quarter.

And just remember, too, that even though that is the mundane truth behind the incident, so long as the war in Northern Ireland lasts, no one is going to take the least bit of notice of it.





"Strawberry Statement", Arts Lab.



Wood carvings by Peter Inchbald, now on show at the Compendium Gallery.



"Julius Caesar," Odeon Ringway

cinema

NO doubt most students can remember quite well the violence and murders which took place on the university campuses of America during the summer of 1969.

"Strawberry Statement" is a film analysing such unrest, its causes and consequences. It has been acclaimed as one of the "big films" dealing with this theme, but sadly enough has failed to be released on the Birmingham circuit because of its possible commercial opportunism. Fortunately, however, it will be at the Arts Lab Centre from this Thursday for four days.

It is based on 19-year-old James Kunen's best-selling book, "The Strawberry Statement: Notes of a College Revolutionary." It differs from many other films in that it takes an entirely subjective viewpoint—thus the standard viewpoint of the American Left, that is, anti-establishment, anti-police, anti-war, etc. are unquestionably presumed—and also a highly emotional tone runs throughout.

The action of the film is realised in a main plot and a sub-plot detachable from it. The main plot is built on a documentary-type basis: an anti-racial move by the university authorities (proposed by the Dean in the "Strawberry Statement") triggers off a strong reaction from the students, who forthwith organise a sit-in at the Administrative Buildings.

Most of the students on the campus are involved, including Simon (Bruce Davidson). His psychological reaction to the situation is brought out in the sub-plot—at first sight a romantic diversion with Elaine (Kim Darby). In fact, it proves to show a confrontation of attitudes: Simon is the onlooking student faced with an unforeseeable situation and gradually becomes fully aware of its implications; Elaine represents those already well-founded ideologies and wishes to apply them in such a given instance.

The two attitudes—reactionary based and radically based—interact and work towards a compromise as the political situation reaches its inevitable climax: a literally blood and thunder stained bust-up by the pigs.

In conclusion, a collection of songs by Jeni Mitchell; Buffy Sainte-Marie; Neil Young; Lennon-McCartney and others, reinforce the message as the situations present themselves.

PIGLET.

"NAUGHTY" is a similar film to "London in the Rain" but goes further as a very good film report on erotica. It endeavours to put this current subject into perspective in an objective way by means of dramatisation and a voyeur who gets his kicks from dirty bookshops, strip clubs and blue films. There are also actual interviews with Women's Lib champion, Germaine Greer, and Al Goldstein, editor of American porn mag, "Screw."

It takes a detached view of pornography in the context of our permissive society and is laced with amusing illustrations of their "naughty" manifestations through the ages, which goes to prove one thing, "we have all been at it."

The film is a very good research document which takes you as far as the Greek inventors of the word "orgy." They gave plenty of meaning to it and, though adultery was taboo, they mingled in every conceivable way.

Then it is on to the Victorians, regarded as a magnificent period in British history. It shows how a Victorian father practised the hypocrisy of the middle and upper classes, those respectable, church-going disciplinarians to whom it

was perfectly natural to have at least one mistress. How he would also buy pornographic pictures from street traders on the way to the office. Unparalleled hypocrisy in sexual matters: sex was an unmentionable sin, and, on her daughter's wedding eve, a mother would blushing advise: "Grip the bed tightly dear, and remember—it happened to the Queen."

There is also the notorious Mrs. Berkeley, who made a fortune from whipping her masochistic clients, and a certain Mary Wilson, who painted nude girls for publication. A vital public service was performed by Henry and Mary Hayler, who were the first purveyors of pornographic photographs. This part of the film is most hilarious, since, because of the lengthy exposure times required, the enterprising Henry was often able to join his wife in front of the camera.

The film is produced and directed by Stanley Long, who also wrote it with Suzanne Mercer. I had the pleasure of meeting her, and in answer to my questions, she seemed quite genuine in her belief that this was an up to date report on pornography. She made no attempt to moralise, and concludes that sex and all its delights which happen to be pornography have come to stay—for ever.

I asked her how she would describe pornography keeping her film in mind. She answered: "Whatever the definitions, it cannot be denied that millions of people throughout the world experience intense pleasure through the existence of illicit outlets for their sexual frustrations and inhibitions—pleasures which are heightened because of the strictures imposed by moralising and law-making sections of society."

S. K. JOSHI.

THINGS being what they are, it is cheering to note that the Odeon, Ringway, is groping timidly towards a more exciting policy—last week they had a daily programme of filmed operas and this week they are showing Julius Caesar which had a very short run in London last year.

Julius Caesar is a film of Shakespeare's play rather than a film of an adaptation of a play by The latter formulation allows a director greater freedom in controlling a film's visual structure but offends some literary purists. Why the text of a classic play should be sacrosanct to these people I find it difficult to understand—playwrights rarely have scruples in adapting material to make it more accessible for their medium.

Films of plays that remain faithful to the original text can be quite successful, like the series of films by the National Theatre Company which although unsatisfying in cinematic terms work because of the audiences' affection and regard for the plays.

Given the decision to stay closely with Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar is a very competent film—the great moments of the film as film—the deserted battlefield after Caesar's campaign against Pompeii—the assassination—all occur naturally within the overall structure.

There is no conscious feeling that the director has said: "Now here's some action—let's start making a film"—an alienating awareness which sometimes occurs in filmed plays. If the lightning and nightmare sequence before the Ides of March is flawed, it is because of a lack of imagination rather than cinematic extravagance.

The star-studded cast (as they say of Hollywood epics) includes Charlton Heston as Mark Antony, Richard Chamberlain as Octavius, and Richard Johnson as Cassius. Sir John Gielgud plays Julius Caesar and interprets the role in an almost clerical way—Caesar is a sincere

man dangerously ambivalent between his humility as a man and the dignity of his office. Jason Robards is superb as Brutus while Diana Rigg has a brief part as Portia. An unusual film for Birmingham, which if you like Shakespeare is not to be missed.

ANDY COLTY

gallery

COMPENDIUM Galleries has an exhibition of the work of three artists, Peter Inchbald, Tim Ward and Grace McDonald.

In the 3-D Gallery, Peter Inchbald displays very few pieces of sculpture, many are small bronze models of much larger works. One particularly interesting piece of work was a chunk of Portland stone ground down to a smooth surface which showed thousands of different fossils. Inchbald has also made several carvings. One is called "Moon Man" in laminated pine. This is an unusual piece which gives the impression of a face on the back as well as the front.

Another sculpture on the same line is called "Double Profile." Again this is a work in laminated pine, and from either side can be seen a profile.

Tim Ward is a painter of modern art. An oil which was his first piece of work when he was 16 years old, shows how much he has progressed in style, for this is a very colourful abstract. One thing that struck me about all his paintings, practically all of them incorporated green. "Karate Fighters" is a fine water colour in green with sketched lines.

The most impressive of all his work on exhibition was called "Christ on the Cross." A smooth gold background with "squiggly" lines in gold paint making the subject.

Tim Ward shows a touch of humour in another painting, "Exhibition Opening Night." The figures, for they can hardly be described as people, stand around a table drinking wine and none of them is looking at the paintings hanging on the surrounding walls. Fortunately, this did not apply for the opening night of this particular exhibition.

In the Upper Gallery is displayed a more basic form of art. Grace McDonald's subjects are very simple but she must be complimented on the way that she can produce very lifelike characters, such as "The Smoker," "Granny" and "Au Pair Girl." Unfortunately, her paintings are very static and with very little depth. "Silema-Sunday" is typical of this; several people sitting around a tiny bay on a sunny day. I did like one particular painting which is exactly what the title suggests, "Red Landscape."

GINETTE TAYLOR.

theatre

WITH such an impressive exterior, it is disappointing that the New Rep is so uninspiring in its choice of plays. It seems to be favouring comedies as regards theme, style and technique. Apparently the programme strives to satisfy all those to claim:

"I want to be entertained when I go to the theatre. I shouldn't have to think."

The latest production, "Roll Me Over" by the little-known writer, Bill Caraway, certainly fits into this category. Auntie Min might be shocked by the occasional vulgarity, but would be delighted by the complete lack of innovation in the play. It opens in a tyre yard where Old Cottie, one of the workers, spends

—reviews—

music

THE night rent free, unknown to the management. He is joined by a tart and a brawny simpleton, and the comedy arises from their attempts to make the dump function as their home. After "Steptoe and Son" it is not a particularly original theme and it lacks the acute observation of human character of the TV series. Some of the slapstick sequences are very funny, but the attempts at verbal wit are clumsy and the delivery slow.

This is not to say the play is an absolute failure. For an audience intent only on a relaxing night's entertainment it might well fit the bill. Although they would probably enjoy a television comedy more. But anyone expecting adventurous approaches or even good quality oldies from Birmingham's newest theatre, would be deeply disappointed by the mediocrity of this production.

JILL L. NORMAN.

THE first night of Moliere's "The Miser," at the Midland Arts Centre, directed by Maria Sentivany and Philip Hedley, was very funny and an entertaining success.

The stage is set in the centre of the theatre, giving the audience the feeling that they are on the stage and part of the action, a feeling heightened by the occasional consultation by the players. The only prop on the otherwise bare stage is a rough wooden stool which accentuates the meanness of Harpagon, the miser. Yet the atmosphere of French high society is conveyed by the contemporary background music; the elaborate period dress of the cast; and the very fine original posters on the four walls of the theatre, including an exceptional poster of Moliere which acts as a backdrop.

Harpagon is bent and small, with an exaggerated hooked nose, dressed like a monkey at a fair. It may seem anachronistic to describe him in terms of modern humour, but this production intends to reflect Moliere's involvement with the Commedia Dell'Arte—15th and 16th century Italian comedy improvised from a bare script with great freshness, spontaneity and creative power—and this is not unlike contemporary television humour.

Harpagon is portrayed as a combination of two "Laugh-In" characters: sometimes the "verray interesting but stupid" German, then later the dirty old man, giving guttural groans when excited by women or, more often, money. His relationship with Cleante, his foppish son, is akin to "Steptoe and Son."

Frosine, "an intriguing woman," dressed in red and orange with matching hair and moles on her bountiful breasts, looks as if she came straight from Soho, full of bawdy talk and double entendre.

The lovers are shown to be the distraught and anguished persons they should be, and they really do appear to be in love.

The realist, Maitre Jacques, who combines the offices of cook and coachman, is amusingly portrayed. He seems to be an Othelloan Moor, but his accent is Lancastrian. Though his face and hands have been blacked, he is wearing white stockings, through which his pink legs can be seen.

The literally incredible and implausible ending, when brother realises sister, and the father finds his children, and all are happily to be wed, drew a lot of jeering laughs from the audience, especially from an estoteric group of people who seemed to be friends of the actors.

Even if unacquainted with the story, it is easily followed, and for an evening of laughter the play is worth going to. Frosine sums it up best: "Great Heavens! What a farce!"

JOHN ARCHER.

A FOLK concert at Mason Hall, with the Strawbs and Steffan Grossman, proved to be one of the highlights of last year. Last Wednesday's concert at Mason with Tir Na Nog and Al Stewart was easily in the same category.

An audience of about 100 (a complete sell-out) packed into the dining hall for this event, organised jointly by Mason Hall and Folk Club. Tir Na Nog opened the evening. There music is a pleasant blend of guitar and bongos/tabla, and the lyrics switch between the tender, poetic, and the humorous. Playing a number of the songs from their album, "Tir Na Nog," they made a more than able job of warming up the audience and thoroughly deserved the applause and cries for more at the end of their set.

Al Stewart gave a performance that was the best I have seen him give. Not only was his singing as good as ever, despite a slightly defective P.A. system, but his long introductions to the audience were so relaxed and natural, that he almost seemed to be talking to each person individually.

The music came in two halves. The first half was made up mainly of fairly new pieces. The second half consisted of older songs, each one being warmly received by the audience—we even had "Love Chronicles."

The concert eventually finished at well past midnight, with Al Stewart playing for about two hours. On the basis of his performance on Wednesday he must be one of the best folk singers touring the country at the moment.

PAUL TAYLOR.

THE C.B.S.O. concert last Thursday night was conducted by Rafael Fruebeck De Burgos, with Osian Ellis playing the harp concerto by Ginestera.

Also included in the entertainment were: "Overture Egmont," by Beethoven; "Symphony No. 8 in F," by Beethoven, and "The Three Corners Hat, Suites 1 and 11," by Falla.

The overture is the incidental music to Goethe's drama Egmont. The performance was clearly delineated and lively. The orchestra was reasonably well co-ordinated in this attractive piece of music.

This was followed by "Symphony No. 8 in F," by Beethoven. Unlike the "9th Symphony," this has no great depth which showed in the performance. The finale was unimpressive, a gay momentum as Beethoven intended it to be with its strong rhythmic drive and its plunges into remote keys, "a splendid piece of muscular activity full of spirit and fiery humour."

The "Harp Concerto," by Alberto Ginestera was first performed in 1905. At the beginning of the first movement the orchestra was not ensemble with the harp. However, they recovered quickly and the final two movements were quite pleasing, especially cadenza at the beginning of the last movement. Here Osian Ellis showed his technical and musical abilities.

Finally, the C.B.S.O. played the suite "The Three Corners Hat," by Falla. This is a popular composition, but it lacked spontaneity and the zest one would expect to find in Spanish styled music.

JANE FOSTER.

THE renewed interest in girl singers, in all types of music, may mean that Jackie DeShannon's album, simply titled "Songs," will do better than it would have done, say, a year ago. Overall it is a pleasant album without being particularly outstanding.

The choice of numbers is wide: from Dylan's (retitled) "Lay, Baby, Lay" through to an arrangement of "Down by the Riverside." There are three numbers by Jackie DeShannon herself and these prove to be quite interesting—it's easier to see what a singer is all about when she's singing her own numbers.

The arrangements are also varied between something like Carole King at one end and Delaney and Bonny at the other. "Songs" is an easy album to listen to on a simple level—no heavy music, no complicated lyrics. In itself, it will probably get little recognition either on the radio or from record buyers. Yet it may pave the way for Jackie DeShannon to record more successful albums in the near future.

PAUL TAYLOR

JULIAN BREAM played a fine selection of pieces composed between the early sixteenth century and this year, at the Town Hall last Tuesday evening.

The Hall was filled with a quiet and respectful audience who limited their reaction to bouts of coughing between pieces and polite applause at the end of each section. This silence was probably essential since Mr. Bream used no amplification. The only equipment on stage was his guitar, piano and tools.

The music was pleasing but lacked sufficient innovation. Although the pieces themselves were varied, Julian Bream's style of playing did not bring this out to the best advantage.

At the end of the concert some large-footed people in the upper circle stamped as well as clapped. This woke up the audience who clapped with such effect that Julian Bream played four encores, for the nicest part of the concert.

JOHN REDFERN

books

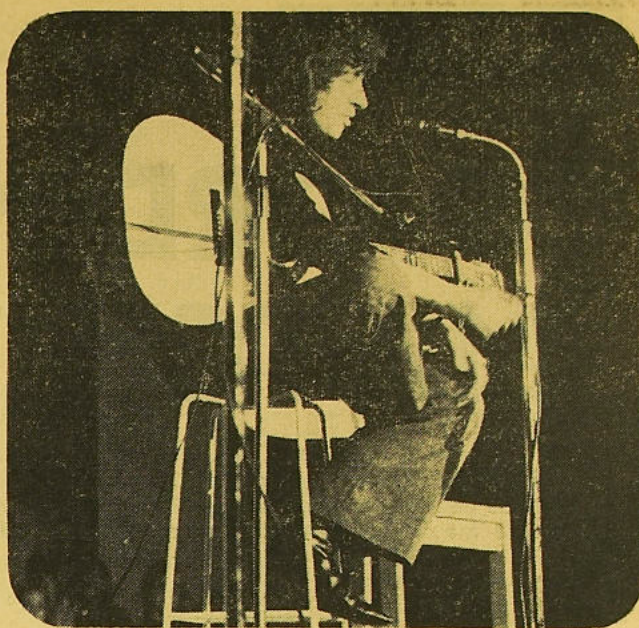
FROM Penguin this month comes an extremely pleasant book, "Darwin and The Beagle," by Alan Moorhead (£1.25).

This is the complete story of Darwin, the naturalist, on his five-year voyage around the world. Moorhead has written this book in prose style which makes the book much more interesting than if it had been a mere monologue of events during the voyage. He has used a lot of detail recorded in Darwin's autobiography, which makes the story extremely colourful reading, it cannot fail to attract a very wide range of readers, even for those who have little interest in nature.

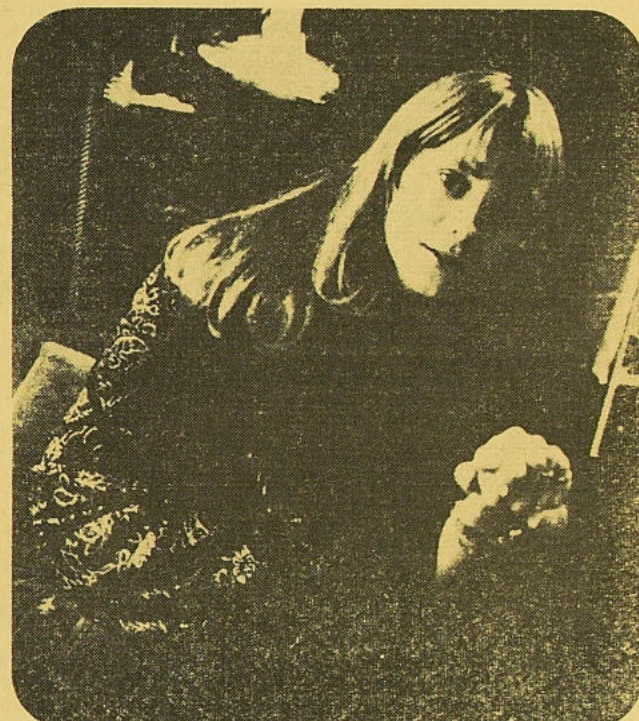
Moorhead excellently describes the change in Darwin's attitude, the change from a devout believer in the Book of Genesis to his conclusions of "The Origin of Species."

One of the most pleasant aspects of the book is the choice of illustrations and colour plates. Many of the illustrations are by Augustus Earle, the artist who travelled with Darwin on the voyage and who drew many of the specimens which Darwin collected. The colour plates are mainly paintings by contemporary artists; in fact, it's worth buying the book just for the drawings.

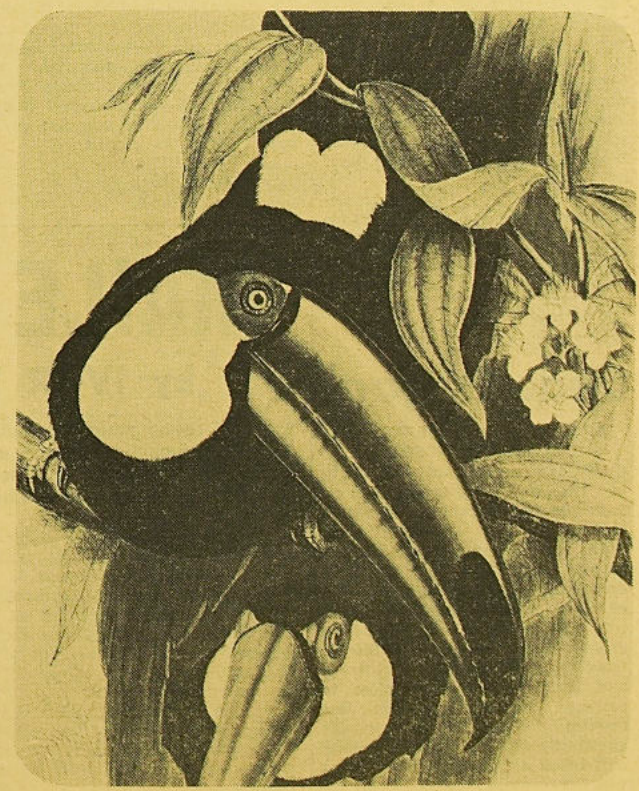
GINETTE TAYLOR.



Al Stewart, one of the best touring folk singers.



Jackie De Shannon—pleasant album, simply titled "Songs."



One of the superb colour plates from "Darwin & The Beagle."

sport 1

HOCKEY

CO-ORDINATION IS MATCH WINNER!

IN the W.I.V.A.B. Hockey Rally, held at Warwick University on Saturday, Birmingham 1st XI showed their supremacy by gaining 11 points out of a maximum 12 and without conceding a goal came top of the first division to retain the Rally Shield. This entailed beating Reading, Nottingham, Warwick and Leicester, though the team could only manage a draw with Oxford in a scrappy match where the defence looked susceptible and the forwards seemed to lack compulsion.

This was their second match, having already beaten Reading, but it wasn't until the third game against Nottingham that Birmingham really seemed to come alive and scored three goals in the 14 minutes allowed for each match. Two of these came from Ange and one from Haze — both showing remarkable finesse in difficult conditions.

Yet, though individuals shone, co-ordination was the order of the day—not only between the forwards but also between defence and forward-line. This was again apparent in the next match against Warwick, and is the first time it has really been evident this season.

The last match was a "friendly" against Leicester, this should have been played earlier and would probably have been Birmingham's toughest match, but Leicester arrived late and thus conceded the game.

Kate, determined to show off Birmingham's prowess and ability to overcome any opposition, decided to play them, and in an extremely good-humoured match (a change from the aggression both teams usually show) Birmingham managed

to score—not quite a classic shot for which right-wings are usually famed but enough to give them a deserved victory.

The inevitable tweed skirts and sheepskin coats of the W.I.V.A.B. selectors were much in evidence on the sidelines and a welcome end came when six of the Birmingham side were chosen to go through to the next trials at Birmingham on Wednesday. Congratulations and good luck go to: Helen Disney, Wendy Barron, Kate Jackson, Jane Tinkler, Hazel Jamieson and Ange Edwards.

For all those with a vested interest in the club's raffle—to prove Jude was not working her usual fiddle, the draw was held after the Rally. The winner was a Mr. Hart with yellow ticket no. 14; runner-up was Mrs. Grahame, yellow ticket no. 136. The club would like to thank all those who supported them and hope they will continue to do so in future (the next raffle will be next term—have you sponsored anybody in the goals competition?). Approximately £13.50 was made.

Ange: I think T.T. are looking for some soap.

LACROSSE

MAGNIFICENT ELEVEN

WEST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES 7 — ASHTON 8

WEST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES gave their best display for several seasons when narrowly losing to an Ashton team three divisions their senior at West Hills last Saturday in a Junior Flags match. Due to the last-minute transport strike W.M.U. found themselves two men short; a replacement was found for one of the lost souls but the team had to play one man short for the whole match—a galling situation when the club has its strongest playing strength for many seasons.

The depleted Universities side gave their illustrious visitors the complete run-around for virtually the entire match. After recovering quickly from a two-goal deficit within the first 10 minutes, West Midlands led until 10 minutes from the end when three quick goals by Ashton saw a 6-4 lead disappear into a 7-6 deficit. W.M. weren't beaten yet, however, and Herculean rally calls from Ashcroft and yet another good goal from Bennett brought the scores level again.

The home side thoroughly deserved a draw, but it was not to be; with a few minutes left Ashton scored from a disputed free throw and found themselves in the em-

barrassing position of having to admit that they "robbed" the West Midlands of a game they came to Birmingham expecting to win easily.

Every player, without exception, in the Universities side, played his heart out and it would be almost unfair to single players out. As just rewards for their efforts, however, Bennett, Ashcroft and Chris Boulough (a superb stand-in goalkeeper) must be mentioned.

This West Midlands side, unstoppable in their own division, proved on Saturday that they are

HOCKEY

Genesis goal

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY 1, KIDDERMINSTER 0
SUCCESS in the league came to the side for the second time on Saturday with literally a last-minute goal from Mayle.

On an uneven pitch, which played remarkably true, the side dominated the first, but all their efforts at scoring were frustrated.

In the second half all the fluidity drained from the attack, and the defence began to look suspect at times, and Kidderminster went close to scoring. However, in the last seconds a shot from Mayle was generously deflected by the opposing centre-half to give the side a lucky win.

Team: Burt, Gilbert, Taylor, Allum, Wheeler, Tapp, Moyle, Longman, Camar, Stevenson, Furtado.

MAILE SHOCK

by IVOR HEARTACHE

SHOCK soccer news this week is the return of Andy Maile from Loughborough with the news that his multi-pence transfer deal is off. The official reason is that Maile failed to fail the Colleges I.Q. tests. This came as a resounding shock in soccer circles.

Today Maile was unavailable for comment as he is hidden away in a padded cell with his pet grass snake. Soon he is to have further tests from neurological experts.

However, I was able to tackle team coach Bike Spoke, who told me: "Maile has consistently failed all our I.Q. tests. I cannot see what these Loughborough officials are on about. Our resident trick cyclist has never detected the slightest amount of grey matter. Of course he will have further tests, but all I can say is I hope his idiocy will be confirmed and he can continue in to game."

Team mates are also shocked by the news. Ray Barlow, well-known gibbering idiot, told us: "Anyone who has seen Andy playing or training will refuse to believe this. He rushes around with a complete lack of purpose or plan. Certainly he is inches behind the rest of us in basic brain power."

All I can say is that I hope Maile will be declared fully demented as soon as possible and that this whole nasty sequence will be cleared up with as little fuss as possible.

SHORT SPORT

U.A.U. TABLE TENNIS

Birmingham 9, Leicester 6

BIRMINGHAM beat Leicester 9-6 and consequently won their division yet again, and may play the runners-up in the other Midlands division, probably Nottingham, for a place in the quarter-finals.

The day started badly for the Birmingham team when John Maloney, who had been taken off, failed to turn up for the contest and we embarked for the match with only four men. In the match the fortune did not help, as it became evident that John Grocke was sadly out of form and, despite effort, failed to record a win.

The match was saved by the efforts of Brian Mitchell, Mostyn Lewis and Steve O'Neale, who all won a maximum of three sets each, though the "crucial" set between O'Neale and Leicester's number three was a tense affair until the Birmingham player established an unassailable lead in the deciding game and ran home an easy winner.

The ladies' W.I.V.A.B. team have also been successful in their encounters against Aston, Leicester and Nottingham and now play Warwick for a place in the quarters. "MRS. FLUG"

NETBALL REPORT

DESPITE dawn hikes to reach the north car park for 8 a.m. to Brummy bus failures, the netball teams naturally managed to collect yet another two players to add to the 3,752 already accumulated (at 50 Dawlish Road).

One player qualified for the W.I.V.A.B. trials from Keele and one from Lancs, but only 11 out of 14 managed to qualify from Birmingham (better luck next year girls!).

The results of the actual matches for the first team were 24-3, 13-3, 30-0 and 20-5, against Keele, Lancs, Liverpool and Manchester Universities respectively.

The 2nd team's results were 19-3, 21-0, 10-2 and 12-4 against Keele 2nd, Lancs, 2nd Liverpool 2nd and Manchester 2nd.

SWIMMING

IN a triangular match on Tuesday against Nottingham and Loughborough Birmingham men's and women's swimming teams gained a double victory.

Outstanding performances were that of Joan, winning both the women's butterfly and breast-stroke races, Pam who won the women's back-stroke, and Dave who won the men's breast-stroke.

The climax was an exciting mixed relay in which both men's and women's teams swam. Birmingham men won the race while the women were unlucky to finish second in their section.

Men's team: Dave S. (capt), Jonathan, Nicholas, Dave M. Bemie, Pete.

Women's team: Joan, Pam, Sue H., Janet, Sue J., Sylvia.

SOCCER

Barbs click

Old Wulfrunians 1, University Barbarians 3

WITH a much tighter back line and considerably more bite up front the Barbs beat Old Wulfs convincingly in Wolverhampton on Saturday.

After the Wulfs had forced an early goal in off the near post Barbs took control of midfield where the strength and authority of Waller and Tanner and the busy running of Mick Short made it only a matter of time before the first goal came. Eventually Mick Short scored from close in and just before half-time John Gerrard, whose speed up front put the Wulfs under constant pressure, was unceremoniously brought down from behind and Mike Tanner scored from the spot.

In the second half Tony Rogers made no mistake after a good low cross from John Gerrard and the Barbs walked off feeling a lot happier than in recent weeks. There is a much more solid look about their play now and if they can keep the present side they should reach a good position in Division 3 by the end of the season.

Next a chance came to Wall who beat everybody he could find in the box before slotting the ball home. Parnell was substituted for Short after 80 minutes and was immediately distinguished himself with a fine effort from 30 yards.

TEAM: Moon, Jones, Leach, Hutchings, Timmis, Shepherd, Buckingham, Redfern, Wall, Davies, Orchard, Sub. Parnell.

sport 2

GOLF

BILL FAILS AGAIN!

BRITISH Winter Time again messed up the match, this week against Olton Golf Club. Our first pair, Bob Aston and Bill Harrison, have still to regain their old form and although pressing hard they were eventually beaten on the 17th. Well, Bill, if you can't get your oats on blind dates, now, what?

Richard Lister (continuing to play the golf of his life!) and Keith ("I beat Handsworth") Andrews were smashed by Aston University's wonder boy Ian Gradwell (he's all yours, Bill).

Tony Bond, 4936, and Ken (the Olton Song) Clarke, 2541, increased Brum's hopes with a half; the last three holes played in Ryder Cup fashion, in complete darkness.

George Mitchell and Karim Klat continued their good form to win one up. And Karim rushing off early was later found frolicking with some fair maiden. (Is it good for golf rhythm, Karim?) Sad to say Bill, the Hawk, and Paul Stanley ("I swing thisaway, the ball goes thataway") also lost, and the result 3-11 to Olton.

The University golf team played Handsworth Golf Club on Saturday, October 30th. They are one of the strongest sides we have to face and last year they whitewashed us twice.

The tough time we were going to have was pushed home when Bill Harrison and Bob Ashton lost 6 and 5, but if this was some defeat there was more to follow. Richard Sharp

and Richard Lister (does he really write these reports?) were pulverised 8 and 6.

From here the position brightened. Keith Andrews, playing the round of his life, and John Wood won on the 17th and for the first time in 18 months we had taken a point from Handsworth. Tim O'Byrne (back on the 'Smoker' trail) and Ken Clarke (reported to be alive and well and working!) were unlucky to lose on the 17th, as were George Mitchell and Tony Bond.

Our little Lancashire flyer, Bill Hawksworth and Paul (Woodland Wonderer) Stanley, the Brum rear-guard, gave us our second point with a tightly fought 2 and 1 win. Result: Handsworth victory 4-2.

CROSS-COUNTRY

FIENDISH COURSE

by RANDY SOUTHAM

A COMBINATION of injuries, bus-strikes and dislike of the course brought near tragedy to the Cross-Country Club's first home fixture of the year. The hordes of Oxford and London massed against our lads and outnumbered them seven to one at the start.

They had not the problems we had, for they had not seen the fiendish course mapped out by the devilish Aggro Smedley and Miles Gilmore. But cunning tactics won the day. From the start, conducted elegantly if not efficiently by Dr. Hike Mayes, plan X was used. This meant that all the team had to

rush off in front of the opposition so they could not bring their superior numbers to bear on us.

Swooping round the course the six first team runners all finished in the first ten, which is a difficult gambit to counter. Smedley and Gilmore came in joint first with the sort of smiles on their faces which said they had found a short cut.

The second team fared badly in comparison. Six runners were only found because that ex-glorious hero super star Geno Griffith turned up to see if there was a party on. As he always carries his kit around with him, "just in case", he was roped in. But it was to no avail.

Ian Aldridge took an injured hockey player to hospital, picked up this nurse and has not been seen since and Nigel Bailey pulled out after one lap because, as he said: "I haven't got time to finish the course, I've got my finals in June." Sadly we did not furnish a record team.

VOLLEYBALL

Spirit returns

BIRMINGHAM volleyball team, with a victory over Nottingham University, finally achieved the form that they have been seeking this term. The match, which was won in three straight sets (15-9, 15-8, 15-8), proved to be one of the most exciting to date for players and spectators alike.

Although unbeaten this year, the team has been far from satisfied with its performances. The reason for this apparent success is the abundance of individual skill in the team, the true potential of the squad not being realised due to the lack of co-ordination between the players, and a total absence of team spirit.

This spell which has plagued Birmingham for over a year has finally been broken.

It seemed that Birmingham could do nothing wrong. The consistent spiking of Richard Shaw and Jeff Wilson, combined with the devastating play of Tom Markvart and accurate setting-up of Bob Drozdowski, overwhelmed a Nottingham side which played better than the score suggests. Every point in Nottingham's favour was hard fought and well won.

The match, although not an official fixture, was important because the two teams along with Loughborough Colleges will have to fight out a preliminary triangular match to ascertain the two teams from the Midlands that will proceed to the U.A.U. finals.

Loughborough, a team that is always difficult to beat, will be even stronger this year with the addition of the home international and ex-Birmingham captain John Lyle.

The confidence gained in this latest match combined with a team spirit that was born in the match will, we hope, give Birmingham the moral booster it needs for the crucial triangular to come.

Squad: M. Brezina, P. Brook, B. Drozdowski, S. Lee, T. Markvart (capt.), R. Shaw, J. Wilson.

and Richard Lister (does he really write these reports?) were pulverised 8 and 6.

From here the position brightened. Keith Andrews, playing the round of his life, and John Wood won on the 17th and for the first time in 18 months we had taken a point from Handsworth. Tim O'Byrne (back on the 'Smoker' trail) and Ken Clarke (reported to be alive and well and working!) were unlucky to lose on the 17th, as were George Mitchell and Tony Bond.

Our little Lancashire flyer, Bill Hawksworth and Paul (Woodland Wonderer) Stanley, the Brum rear-guard, gave us our second point with a tightly fought 2 and 1 win. Result: Handsworth victory 4-2.

SUCCESSFUL START

To continue the story of Saturday night. Is it a fact that certain players were seen in Handsworth Golf Club bar at 11 p.m.? Were we playing Harborne Golf Club on Sunday morning at 9? Is Tim O'Byrne still teetotal? Will Bill Harrison become teetotal or give up

RUGBY

BUZZ REBOUNDS

Leicester University 1st XV 3, Birmingham University 1st XV 13

REELING from the attack they received that day from this very page, the boys went out to deal a death blow to the foul rumours that were being spread about them.

Having beaten Warwick University 35-7 the week before, in a bit of an "eye-opener", the team was expecting to beat the Leicester team handsomely. However, due to a number of technical details—unfriendly natives refusing to give up information, such as the location of the grounds and a referee who informed them that they "were half an hour late already and so had best be on the pitch in the next five minutes"—thereby making

them warm-up during the whole of the first half—they did manage to succeed!

In the second half the team changed into top gear and the scene shifted. "Buzz" Bastable was now determined to get to the opposition line even if he had to sprint there carrying the whole of their pack on his shoulders. The "Animal" in the pack was unleashed—trying to outdo Steve.

Dave Gann—"de-fluted" for the afternoon, also "try-ed and try-ed again" using his low-level and determined flying to best advantage. Unfortunately, Bruce Ward caught the ball and a boot at the same time and so won't be with us for a week or two.

So the final score in the U.A.U. matches was:

Oppositions: Two split heads, Us: Three split heads.

Question: Does this count? PETER.

ALMOST WON!

BIRMINGHAM 2nd XV 4 pts., LEICESTER SWIFTS 7 pts.

ASIDE, much weakened by injury and 1st XV thieving, played what can only be described as a blinder of a match. The pack, containing only three regulars, dominated all phases of play and it was only some superb covering and tackling by Leicester which stopped a totally unlooked-for victory.

From the beginning, however, things looked black when the Leicester flyhalf (ex-London-Welsh and Sussex) landed a magnificent drop-goal, but the side rallied well and pressed the Swifts' defence hard.

The second half saw the University pressing all the time but we remained unrewarded until after two scrums close to their line Steve (Putta) MacAndrew dived through three players to score an unconverted try. The game ended with our heroes attacking well and morally victorious.

JOHN & TIM
(With thanks to Ian who supplied the incentive.)

SPORTSCENE

THE recent furore created by the non-transfer of Asa Hartford has thrown into the spotlight the whole aspect of medicine in sport.

In fact Hartford's is not the first transfer to fall down because of medical reasons, but the sum involved was so high that this particular case became hot news.

However it does bring into question the levels of fitness required by sportsmen, and what medical safeguards are provided for them. Are the facilities in this country equal to those in other countries.

Facilities on the other side of the Atlantic are certainly better than over here. Whilst I was in Canada in 1967 I went to a Canadian football ground (the club was equivalent to a small Third Division side) to receive physiotherapy treatment. This club had a staff of several physiotherapists using sophisticated equipment.

The East Europeans and Scandinavians have developed testing centres which far outweigh anything we have in this country. Similarly the facilities in Turin which were available for the World Student Games competitors made the users envious that these sort of resources were not available at home.

The question of level of fitness is also raised. How far do footballers and other sportsmen push their bodies. Some football managers drive their players very hard in training whereas others seem to demand a much lower level of fitness. I spoke recently to an international athlete who helped one of the leading First Division clubs while their pre-season training. He told me that the manager was afraid to let his players do any really hard training.

Some athletes are now pushing their bodies to almost unbelievable limits. For them running 150-200 miles a week is almost routine. But

by Andy Holden

what effect is it having on their bodies? Are they really capable of withstanding the pressures?

These are questions which are only just being asked in this country. The Germans, the Swedes, the East Europeans have been testing their athletes for years. Now the British athletics authorities are setting up testing centres throughout the country but this is still only on a small scale and there is a long way to go.

Physiology, physiotherapy and physical medicine must all be collated to get an overall picture of the sportsmen's requirements. Maybe as Ian Stewart says: "No matter what they find out, we'll still have to get up in the bloody morning and run" but at least some thing will be known about what is happening to the body and the possible dangers we are facing.

Another aspect is the use of studying fit athletes in order to help the sick patients in hospital. One of the physiologists connected with the British athletics study told me that he felt sure that great strides could be made in medicine—especially in relation to the heart—by studying super-fit athletes.

He felt that university departments which had some contact with teaching hospitals are in a particularly good position as far as this is concerned. Perhaps in the next few years we will see rapid strides in this direction.

There is to be an Annual General Meeting followed by A.U. General Committee Meeting this Friday at 5.15 in the Council Chamber. This meeting is quite important as it will be dealing with this year's grant allocation. Anyone with any moans will have to speak now or forever . . .

There will also be a discussion on a motion proposed by our old friend Kingsley Manning on the dangers in the Government proposals on Students' Union grants. Please come along and support this meeting.

B. R. WALKER

around

DAY BY DAY

WEDNESDAY, 17th

Film Soc.—"Jules et Jim", Mech. Eng., 7 p.m., 15p.
Scaffold—P.C. Plod Once Again, Union.
Deb. Soc.—"This House Believes that Students Have No Real Power," Union, 7.30 p.m.
Organ Recital—G. Thalben-Ball, Town Hall, 1 p.m., free.

THURSDAY, 18th

Cannon Hill Film Theatre—"The Manchurian Candidate", Frank Sinatra, 10.30 p.m., 30p.
Film Soc.—"The Bride Wore Black", Haworth Lecture Theatre, 7 p.m., 15p.
Uriah Heep—Kinetic Circus.

FRIDAY, 19th

Fairport Convention—Town Hall, 7.45 p.m., tickets from 40p.
Head, Hands and Feet—Plus Cochise, High Hall.

SATURDAY, 20th

C.B.S.O.—Plus Birmingham Choral Union, 7.30 p.m., tickets from 30p.
Disco—Union, 8 p.m., 15p.
Georgie Fame and Alan Price—Aston University.

SUNDAY, 21st

Sunday Flic—"The Trip", Deb. Hall, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, 22nd

Black Sabbath—Plus Glen Turnick's Wild Turkey. Town Hall, 7.30 p.m., tickets from 50p.

TUESDAY, 23rd

The Supremes—Odeon New Street.

CINEMA

Odeon New Street—"From Russia With Love" and "Hang 'Em High", L.C.P. 6.15 p.m.
 Next week: "Willard".
Odeon Ringway—"Julius Caesar", L.C.P. 7 p.m.
 Next week: "The Awful Story of the Nun of Monza".
Gaumont—"The Sound of Music", L.C.P. 7.15 p.m.
ABC New Street—"Villain", L.C.P. 8.10 p.m.
ABC Cinerama—"The Devils", L.C.P. 7.45 p.m.
ABC Selly Oak—"Little Big Man" and "Eternal Nile", L.C.P. 7.35 p.m.
Futurist—"Naughty and The Violent Enemy", L.C.P. 7.10 p.m.
 Next week: "The Todd Killings" and "The Cat O' Nine Tails".
Cinephone—"Danish Blue", L.C.P. 8.45 p.m.
Jacey—"Secret Africa" and "Take a Girl Like You".
 Next week: "The Husbands".
Arts Lab—"Strawberry Statement", Thursday to Sunday, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
 "La Bonheur" and "La Femme Infidele", Friday and Saturday 11 p.m., Sunday 3.30 p.m.
 "Dillinger is Dead", Monday and Tuesday, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

THEATRE

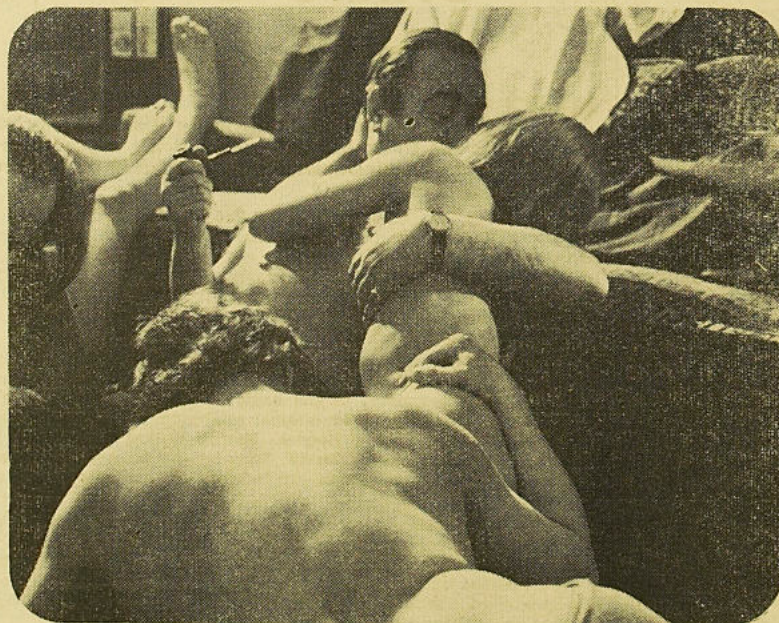
Midlands Arts Centre—"The Miser", by Moliere.
Alexandra Theatre—"The Jockey Club Stakes", with Wilfrid Hyde White. Weekdays 7.15 p.m., Saturdays 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry—"St. Joan".
Birmingham Rep.—"Roll Me Over", Monday, Tuesday and Friday 7.30 p.m., Saturday 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.
 "First Impressions", Wednesday, Thursday 7.30 p.m., until December 11th.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford—"Twelfth Night", Nov. 17th 1.30 p.m., Nov. 22nd 7.30 p.m.
 "The Duchess of Malfi", Nov. 17th 7.30 p.m.
 "Othello", Nov. 18th 1.30 p.m., Nov. 20th 1.30 p.m.
 "The Merchant of Venice", Nov. 18th 7.30 p.m., Nov. 23rd 7.30 p.m.
 "Henry V", Nov. 19th 7.30 p.m.
 "Much Ado About Nothing", Nov. 20th 7.30 p.m.

GALLERY

Compendium—Until Nov. 27th—3D Gallery: Peter Inchbald, Sculpture.
 Central Gallery: Tim Ward, Paintings.
 Upper Gallery: Grace McDonald, Paintings.
Ikon—Darcy Lange, Nov. 16th—Dec. 4th.
Cannon Hill—Photographic Exhibition until Nov. 28th.



Last chance to see Scaffold in P.C. Plod tonight in Deb. Hall.



Something "Naughty" at the Futurist.