

redbrick

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2nd
BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
Price 3p



redbrick THE STUDENT AND HIS NEWSPAPER

IN a large University Community such as Birmingham one of the first problems confronting the individual is to acquire a sense of identity, and to associate oneself with other individuals or a particular interest group, whether it be a Hall, the Union, the Faculty or Athletic Union. Once this sense of identity is established and the individual has orientated his ideas in a particular direction a desire to express these ideas develops.

"Redbrick" is the University newspaper and is the medium by which information and ideas may be publicised throughout the campus. However, as "Redbrick" comes out weekly the emphasis has to be more on features, reviews and news features rather than just straight news which tends to be old news by the time it gets into print. Paul Taylor, last year's editor, pursued a policy of having a front cover block rather than a headline, which is indicative of this viewpoint which I share.

As a result people are needed to help the editorial staff in writing and researching for feature articles, reviews, and news items. Last year's "Redbrick" was produced by a dedicated few and a small staff have taken it on for this year. The survival of "Redbrick" not only depends upon its financial standing but also on the willingness of people to help produce it. The campus would be a decidedly empty one without a newspaper to inform the students of events and ideas prevalent in the University.

"Redbrick" can perform a useful function for any individual, group of individuals or interest group in that it provides a forum for discussion. The extent and intensity of such discussion is dependent upon the extent and intensity of student participation, and the demand which such participation generates for coverage in the media. This year's President and Vice-President hope to follow a policy of greater student involvement, something which is very difficult to measure. Perhaps one indication of this is the extent to which "Redbrick" flourishes as a newspaper and a forum of provocation and deliberation.

Therefore, from all angles "Redbrick" depends on you. If you want to help in any way, whether it be editorially, writing, selling, typing or just helping, come and see us any lunchtime in the office (Second Floor, Union Building).

RUSSELL BRYANT.

redbrick staff

staff	help and contributors
russell bryant	
paul taylor	ginette
john redfern	rod playford
gary marks	john keetley
nick booker	
andy holden	
pauline mundy	
mike horseman	

The Editor does not necessarily agree with the views expressed by the contributors.

ACCOMMODATION CAMPAIGN SHIFTS EMPHASIS

THE N.U.S. has announced an Accommodation Campaign to try to rectify the growing problem of student accommodation shortages.

The campaign, although on a national scale, will be locally-based and Birmingham University will fight along with the other colleges in the area to get the accommodation situation improved. The three main aims of the campaign are to increase the supply of accommodation, bring student housing under the Ministry for the Environment, and to protect the principle of the expansion of higher education.

The Birmingham campaign leaders feel that the first aim should not be achieved by an attack on the University authorities as they are building all they can. The University Council has just approved contracts totalling £860, to provide additional self-catering accommodation for 850 students by October 1972. Each unit will provide five students with individual study-bedrooms and the use of a common kitchen and bathroom.

It is believed that a direct attack on the local authority is necessary as it is this body that has failed to play a positive role in student accommodation.

At present students are not included in housing programmes, suffer discrimination regarding rent rebates and have been evicted on grounds of multi-occupancy under the Birmingham Corporation Act.

By bringing student housing under the Ministry for the Environment it is hoped that equality with other citizens will be achieved, and legal reforms would enable building societies to lend money to student housing associations. However, as Anne Naylor, Guild President, stressed, the object of this exercise is not to give students a privileged position, but merely to gain recog-



Work has begun on new homes at Griffin Close.

nition and equality in the eyes of the Government and local authorities.

The third aim of this campaign, to protect the principle of higher education, has been introduced because it is feared that by stressing the student accommodation shortage and demanding an increase in accommodation it will perhaps cause a recession in the expansion of university places.

The Robins Report recommended that two-thirds of all students should be in university-provided accommodation and at present the country is 75,000 places short; the blame for this has been put down to the University Grants Committee and the Government. Therefore, whilst the shortage of accommodation must be stressed emphatically, the expansion of university places must not be threatened by the fact that this shortage exists in a critical form.

The campaign will take the form of meetings and co-operation with

relevant organisations such as Shelter and tenants' groups, a poster campaign and a mass rally on either October 27th, 28th or 29th, to be held in the city with speakers such as Jill Knight and Denis Fisher.

It is hoped that students will also help themselves individually by use of a "Check your living standards" poster and leaflets entitled "Protect your rights."

The University Lodgings Warden, Bob Hughes, forecast that there would be no accommodation crisis affecting the University this year. However, Aston University's Lodgings Officer said that the situation there was desperate, with as many as two or three hundred students still unaccounted for.

Food prices increased

A FIVE per cent increase in the cost of a meal at the Union has been necessitated by the 10 per cent increase of the minimum wage for cleaners, porters and maintenance staff, which meant a substantial rise in the running costs of the Union Building.

The Guild Executive fought to keep the increases as low as possible despite pressure from the University Centre Management Sub-Committee (Refectory Committee).

The Refectory proposed increases on all food which would have meant that a main meal would have cost as much as 34 per cent more. Examples of the increases included three pence halfpenny on a portion of beef (14p to 17p), and a penny on a cup of coffee (3p to 4p).

The Guild Executive refused to accept these proposals and eventually the Management Sub-Committee backed down.

Executive Officer Les Beaumont believes that had not the Guild Executive taken steps to check these proposed increases by the Refectory, such steps as an emergency meeting at the end of last term, the Refectory prices would be considerably more severe than at present.

LES BEAUMONT.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT — STRICTLY PERSONAL

PERHAPS one of the most disturbing features of the Freshers' Conference is the annual University oversell. The Guild of Students, the faculties, the departments are all put in a University open window to which the unknowing and unsuspecting new students are drawn.

The fresher is invited, nay, persuaded, to not only "come and see" but "come and buy." The myths of university education vie eagerly with trendy views on education to quickly socialise the new into the environment. The result is that after some three weeks of confused activity the fresher begins to see through the hoax. Disillusionment sets in as he or she begins to realise that the simplified paper-mache of a complex and confusing reality.

Constitutions

Well, what is this reality? Firstly, despite all you may hear to the contrary, university governments are antiquated complex structures which seem to work efficiently and undemocratically. The Charter of Birmingham University is not unlike the various constitutions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire—power descends from the Visitor (the Queen) down through the University Court and Council to Senate and Departments.

At the same time there is also a movement of views from the bottom by staff and students upward which may or may not be taken into account in decision-making, usually dependent on the decision being made. Birmingham is in many ways typical of the civic universities; she was originally founded by the city fathers to enhance higher education in Birmingham, a situation that has been eroded by universities becoming national institutions taking students from all parts of the country.

The governing body, the Court, reflects this situation, being comprised primarily of representatives of Midland organisations and lay business people. Court is a purely formal body meeting only once a year to receive a report, all its functions have been delegated to the real governing body, the Council.

The Council deals with the administrative and financial matters of University government. The academic matters are delegated by President to the Senate. The Council meets monthly and consists of such notables as the faculty deans, lay business people and representative observers. Last year the graduates, who have two seats on the Council, elected a student to the Council.

Representatives

The Senate, the supreme academic body, consists of all the professors and heads of departments and representatives of the non-professional staff. There are two student observers per faculty as well as two from the Guild of Students. Under Senate and Council there is a large amorphous committee structure dealing with such matters as health, accommo-

dation, broader education, the University Centre. It is easy and frustrating, as with any bureaucracy, for matters to get lost or misinterpreted or shunted around until forgotten.

Faculties

The major committees of Senate are the faculty boards presided over by a dean. On faculties there is some student representation which differs from faculty to faculty. The Faculty of Commerce and Social Science, for example, has an equal number of professors, non-professors and students (called the one-third principle). Faculties similarly have committee structures and sub-committee structures, and similar to the central University machinery much is dependent on personal contact and choice within a rather formalistic structure.

Under the faculty is the unit which affects most students, the department. It is ruled by the head of department, invariably a professor. He is solely responsible for all matters pertaining to his department; although he can consult with his staff and students, he does not have to take their advice into account.

The Guild of Students constitution is like that of the Belgium Kingdom in the 1860s. It allows for those who wish to participate—the dedicated few—to run the Guild and it allows the vast majority the liberty to passively enjoy all that is provided. It is not exclusive but merely a recognition of the elite theories of democracy, that running such activities is not everybody's cup of coffee. Despite the dreams of mass participation eagerly conjectured from year to year by students leaders and trendies, the reality again differs.

Guild Council

The norm is for the student to participate not in Guild Council or its committees but in those spheres of interest in which she or he is really interested—Socialist Union sport, Guild cultural societies, Hall J.C.R.s. This really reflects a wider situation of a university which includes competing areas of interest on one's time.

By comparative standards Birmingham University Guild is good. The work it does for students on educational matters is respected nationally through the N.U.S. and locally by the encouragement given to it by the University. As well as providing the obvious eating and drinking service, the Guild also has quite an elaborate range of society and welfare facilities, including an insurance bureau and travel office. It is regularly consulted by the University on matters pertaining to both the education and welfare of students.

Like the University, it is governed by Council, Guild Council, elected

yearly from the student body. Day-to-day decision-making lies in the hands of an executive elected every summer term. The Guild of Students, however, tends to mirror the University in losing matters in a perhaps over-complicated committee structure.

It will be easy in the first few weeks of University life to adopt some convenient formula to understand the parts of the University one agrees with and explain away those that one dislikes. If any generalisation can be made about it, and in the Freshers' Conference there are at least ten a minute, it can be said that the University provides a whole range of differing and competing spheres of activity, the emphasis being to participate. The tragedy is that it's made out to be so utopian that it fails to live up to its expectations and few do participate.

Community action

BIRMINGHAM'S socially deprived areas such as Balsall Heath and Handsworth are keeping their fingers crossed. Community Action, the University's dynamic and fearless group of student social activists are staggering towards another year of inaction.

After a meeting of interested students and the election of a committee last term, it was expected that the vacation would see a certain amount of planning to enable students in the winter and spring terms to make a positive contribution to the alleviation of distress in Birmingham's slums.

But following discussion amongst the committee it was decided that the Community Action Group could not really be expected to launch a wide programme of social action until as one committee member said "we first of all have to conduct a survey to discover what problems exist" (!).

This remark highlights the problem. Birmingham's needs for financial and voluntary aid are so diverse and complex that agreement as to what should receive priority is difficult to reach.

Should money be raised for the elderly, the handicapped or homeless families? Is the teaching of English to immigrants more important than providing a playground for their children?

In many respects the raising of money is easier, for once obtained there is only the decision of who is to receive it to be made. Voluntary work such as visiting the elderly, helping the handicapped or running a playground requires a sustained and regular effort on the part of the student.

At first this may seem a novel idea to the student with a social conscience. But it seems that the number of students who are prepared to give up an hour or two every week are few and far between and the way the Community Action group dissipates its energies in mere talk is not going to improve matters.

So all you conscience-stricken students seek out all those Community Action committee members and demand that they do something positive for a change, instead of sitting in the coffee bar and just talking about it. Otherwise they are going to continue talking amongst themselves for the rest of the year and the University will continue to make its negative contribution to the life of Birmingham.

"SPECTATOR"



A REFLECTION ON CARNIVAL

THE idea of a student Carnival first reached fruition in this Union in the early 1930s

These were the days when students regarded themselves, and were regarded by the rest of the community as "special animals"—people who didn't have a real purpose in the community, until after they had left the University. In those days Carnival or Rag, was "jolly good fun"—a time when students as a special section of the community were allowed to get away with things which ordinary people might get arrested for.

In the years that have passed, the idea of Rag has not changed fundamentally, but students as a body have.

Today many students, and certainly representative bodies, such as the N.U.S., feel that the student

is only an ordinary member of the community who happens to have rather a different job. Carnival, however, still essentially belongs to the days when students were seen but not heard for almost all of the year. Today students are seen and heard all the year round.

If, as many people seem to think, we are full members of the community, then perhaps we ought to think radically about the form our "Rag" should take. Students as a body seem to have grown up—we take our responsibilities more seriously now, the point being, is Carnival really the most suitable way of showing our concern for the people of the city of Birmingham?

PAUL DODGSON

Community work in Birmingham

DURING recent years, students have become increasingly concerned with and involved in community work in Birmingham. Such work is particularly needed in two of the city's most socially deprived areas—Winson Green and Handsworth.

In the former, an exile from and one-time political prisoner of the South African government, A. F. (Robbie) Robinson has been placed by the local authority in a slum, terraced house in the midst of poverty. Here he has evolved a philosophy of community involvement in order to tackle problems.

His latest venture—for which the council has not provided funds—is to take over a large church building for use as a community hall. He would like a number of students to commit themselves to the area, to help with the conversion of the building, and to offer their services to local residents.

In Handsworth, members of the University have long been associated

with an adventure playground, youth clubs, football teams, a day care centre, and with putting pressure on the local authority to allocate more resources to the area. The playground is temporarily disbanded as it moves from one site to another. In the meantime, the leader of the playground would welcome help with the youth clubs and with setting up the new site. The help would be required regularly and consistently.

Students interested in either of the projects should contact Bob Holman, Department of Social Administration, Arts/Commerce Tower (internal telephone, 5714).

BOB HOLMAN

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SECOND CITY

It is hard to find the soul of the Second City: maybe its identity was never established as it discovered itself in the centre of the Midlands conurbation, but with its ever-shifting bus-stops and maze of subways, the bargain-seeker's paradise called the Rag Market and the solidarity, the very "class" of Rackhams, it supports the thronging masses.

Immense

The Rag Market is just a few minutes' walk from the Bull Ring Shopping Centre and is a Saturday afternoon haunt. It has the appearance of an immense jumble sale, although the prices are a bit more expensive than jumble sales.

Look out for the couple of secondhand jewellers in there, as they are usually worth a visit.

In the line of boutiques, Tiffany's is noted for its rails of good trousers and shirts (and a 10 per cent student reduction); for men, I only know that Austin's have a cellarful of a superb collection of Levis!

To supplement hall food, or furnish the flat-larder with delicacy, Prana (beyond Rackham's) has an array of healthy cheese (and assorted silver and ceramic rings).

Same range

If you intend to live on health foods rather than just dabble, the Health Food Store in Union Street is probably more in your line. It stocks the same range of foods as Prana but minus most of the fancy packaging and, more important, at lower prices.

But when, utterly bewildered, you discover all this, there is

an escape—down a quiet passage by New Street Woolworth's—is Drucker's where, if you can claim enough cubic feet of air (there's no hope for floor space) the Swiss gateaux and coffee are excellent and not exorbitant.

There are three main art galleries in this city, often referred to as a cultural desert. The City Art Gallery, just past the Town Hall, has one of the finest collections of pre-Raphaelite paintings in the country. There is also a permanent display of Staffordshire pottery and gemstones.

The Ikon Gallery, in Swallow Street, changes its exhibitions monthly and covers a wide range of subjects. Moseley has its own gallery, the Compendium, which is situated by the traffic lights in Salisbury Road. Layout of the exhibitions is enhanced by the pleasant "un-gallery" type building.

Beware

At 5.30 the shops close their doors, the pigeons stream to roost between the ornaments of Victorian masonry, and evening comes. It has its possibilities. The Town Hall stages music from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, to a variety of bands and groups, and they can manage to create a terrific atmosphere despite the lingering sulphurous aroma of the archaic heating and the atrociousness of Albert-style architectural design. However, beware the Kinetic Circus in the Bull Ring, which bills many a potential show-stopper—even Atomic Rooster could not surmount the plush and gilt that surrounded the seething teenyboppers!

Publicity abounds for the theatres and cinemas of Bir-

mingham, but worth remembering is the Crescent Theatre, situated unostentatiously along a side road, off Broad Street. Modern and small, it is a little theatre world of its own creation, and the production of "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" I saw there was indisputably good rep. (and what is more, those possessors of a Union card can enjoy the facilities for the reduced sum of half-price if they remember to pay their visit on a Monday or Tuesday!)

Variation

Also, if you happen to emerge hungrily from the Odeon, Ringway, Gino's is straight opposite which serves very reasonable Italian dishes (both in price and quality), including many variations on pizza which are certainly quite palatable with the aid of a little wine—and you can always add to the thousand-and-one Chianti bottles romantically pendant overhead.

For the connoisseurs of curry, go the opposite way to Gino's, down the Bristol Road about fifty yards and . . . Curry Row. About a dozen Indo-Pak restaurants side by side give little range in actual menu but a range in quality and atmosphere.

Cheap price

The Chamon, down in Selly Oak, offers a reasonable mid-day alternative to the Refectory at a cheap price. Birmingham is not without its fair share of Chinese restaurants. Try the Flower Drum, on Broad Street, for value.

So the day ends in the city, with night streets almost deserted. It will start up again tomorrow; maybe you can discover just why . . .

PAULINE.



A scene in the Rag Market held in the Bull Ring Centre.



The alternative scene?

If you've got a spare afternoon, maybe on a rainy, misty day, take a look at Birmingham. Don't go by car—use the bus, travel in the rush hours, explore some of the backstreets, and find the factories.

Smooth people

Stumble off the swish urban motor lanes into the back-to-backs, and watch the faces, meet the people. Swoop smooth Edgbaston for Balsall Heath, middle-class Moseley for Handsworth. Discover Winson Green. Get the whole picture.

Perhaps you won't need this deliberate exercise to bring yourself down but if you're interested in the truth, go ahead and try it. Under the snappy, spick and span facade of a prosperous second city there lurk layers of discontent constantly irritated by the continuing industrial game, the consumer deity and the oppressive conservative ethic. Birmingham gives you all that is bad—even the liberals have a hard time of it here. So what about real alternatives?

Part of the compelling desire to create this alternative structure is explained by the need to ensure survival in a society which is becoming more openly and more heavily oppressive.

The next year will show if there is an alternative to be built in Birmingham. It's taken time to start and it will take time to grow but there are a few pin-points of activity already, poking gently above the sur-

face. But it's what lies beneath the tip that ultimately matters—the seeds of a life-style.

Right now they're pin-pointed in mounting dissent, an old story but with a new twist: now there is a compelling desire to create practical, physical alternatives, to organise ourselves and each other to demonstrate that alternatives exist and to resist the signs of hysterical, puritan reaction of a frightened autocracy.

"They will say we are repressed and withdrawn and out of contact with them. True enough, we have a long, long way to go back to contact the reality we have all long lost contact with. And because they are humane, and concerned and even love us, and are very frightened, they will try to cure us. They may succeed. But there is still hope that they will fail."—R. D. Laing.

Think about it. Then look a bit further. Then listen for the message. Nobody's going to say it—it's going to come from you. You might want to find out what's going on.

Lagged behind

Birmingham has lagged behind all along. It usually takes a few years before anything new hits this part of the world, and that's why the need is so great. PEOPLE NOT PSYCHIATRY was never more timely. The FREE UNIVERSITY will soon be joined by a FREE SCHOOL. CLAIMANTS' UNIONS are springing up as the employment fiasco spreads towards total collapse.

The PEACE CENTRE will be just one whole bunch of shops where you can step into a more human, loving and caring dimension.

There are hopes for an alternative CONCERT HALL as soon as the premises become available. Then there will be an INFORMATION CENTRE to go with a STREET AID OFFICE.

Enemy

GRAPEVINE tells you about a lot of it in its information monthly. STREET PRESS is the local subversive papare and a declared enemy of the "Birmingham Post and Mail." It's an alternative medium for a growing alternative scene.

S.A.U. is finding its voice in the classrooms, and WOMEN'S LIB. expands. All these things exist in embryonic form.

"If I could turn you on, if I could drive you out of your wretched mind. If I could tell you I would let you know."—R. D. Laing.

The problem is to make them a visible example for everyone to use. To stand side by side with society's conventions and expose the bullshit. Wipe out the belief in the profit and greed motive and help to support each other.

Turn your minds to other ways of living out Longford's nightmares. Turn our hoses on the Beacons and Deacons of Light. Turn their system upside down and save the planet, and the human race—if it's not too late already.

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music

THIS year Folk Club have arranged an ambitious programme which has been designed to cater for all tastes in the hope that people will come to the club for a good night's entertainment.

They start with a concert featuring Tim Hart and Maddy Prior, plus Tudor Lodge. Tim and Maddy have been singing together for a number of years and have released several albums as well as two albums as part of Steeleye Span.

See handouts at beginning of next week for further details. Membership cards and tickets available from Folk Club stall on Saturday afternoon, or Folk Evening on Sunday evening in Priestley Hall, or from Rich Thomas at the conference.

There will be strictly limited seating at the concert, so don't be disappointed.

The following Thursday at the club in the Union, Pat O'Connor, from the U.S.A., will be singing and playing guitar and piano with a blues bias.

At Stewart needs no introduction whatsoever, and appears in conjunction with Mason Hall J.C.R. at Mason Hall. With him is Tir Na Nog, an Irish duo who have an album of the same name out and have played at colleges and clubs all over the country with much success.

Tony Rose follows at the next club. He is an excellent singer who has recently released an album on Trailer called "Young Hunting," which is one of the cheap folk records which will be available as an extra club concession this year.

Bob Axford has recently been in partnership with Rosemary Hardman doing contemporary songs and arrangements. We have Bob on his own, and he will be doing all sorts including trad songs with an incredible Carthy style guitar accompaniment, and singing contemporary and his own songs, and doing some Ragtime guitar work.

If you think Stefan Grosman is good, wait until you see Bob Axford—it's really amazing when you think his fingers never leave his hands!

The penultimate club of the term will feature the Matthews Brothers, Larry and Terry, and to round the term off there is a cello dance, which should be a really good laugh if nothing else. It doesn't matter if you don't know the steps, no-one else does either, but there's always a caller there to tell you what to do next—and how to do the dance!

Traffic formed back in the flower-power days of '67 and since then they've succeeded in becoming a British rock institution, despite periodic splits. One of the group's problems has always been that of carrying two volatile and highly talented personalities, both of whom

could name their own fee on the superstar transfer list.

"Welcome to the Ganteen" marks about the fourth reunion of Stevie Winwood and Dave Mason and was recorded at two live concerts where the vibes were obviously good. As a live L.P. it is superlative for it captures all the impetus of a world-class band rocking for all it's worth. What is lost in studio-type perfection is more than compensated for by sheer excitement.

Dave Mason's two contributions ("Sad And Deep" and "Shouldn't Have Took") provide gentle relief against the tour de force which stretches over the whole of the second side ("Mr. Fantasy," "Gimme Some Lovin'") where Mason and Winwood stretch out on guitar and organ respectively. Mention must also be made of the incredible rhythm laid down on the two by the three percussionists.

The only criticism which could be made is that some of the material has been around as long as the group. But who cares, when they play as well as this?

LEN SMITH.

Deep Purple are one of those groups which music critics tend to ignore or tolerate rather than actually enjoy. Nevertheless, they have a numerous and devoted fan following and their records sell in vast quantities. All of which must go to prove something.

Their records can really only be evaluated in terms of one another, as their particular approach is difficult to compare with that of many other bands. Fireball is similar in content to their previous offering "Deep Purple In Rock" which, I must admit, I thought was dreadful. This one seems to be no exception and contains the same mixture of ordinary songs, pretentious lyrics and pseudo-frenzied singing.

Purple could probably be a good band, as the individual instrumentalists play quite well. Maybe they should sack the singer and get some new writers. But then they wouldn't be Deep Purple, they

at the "Old Crown" pub in Digbeth. The "Old Crown" is an old public house dating from the 17th century at least, although the jazz is more 1930's style. For a Saturday or Sunday night out you can't beat it for value. Twenty pence if you are a member (5p to join) and 25p if you're not.

It's the sort of place with the band at one end of the room and the bar at the other with chairs, tables and a minute place to dance in between. There's a definite atmosphere about the place which undeniably proves infectious as you stagger back to your table clutching the girl friend's pint in one hand and your own in the other.

Dress is optional. Go in your suit and you wouldn't be noticed, neither would you be in your Levis. The music is strictly trad jazz played on an interesting combination of instruments including a euphonium, and it's all a great "lark."

Details: "Old Crown" is in Digbeth on the Stratford Road, just a short walk from the Bull Ring. Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. "Eagle Jazz Band" also plays at Samantha's, Pershore Street, during the week.

NICK BOOKER.

books

ON May 4th, 1970, four students were shot dead by the Ohio National Guard at Kent State University. The instant judgment offered from many quarters was that "it was all a problem of communication" that had finally manifested itself in these needless killings. In "Communication Crisis at Kent State" (Gordon and Breach, £4.15, paperback ed. £1.50), Tompkins and Anderson, two members of the Kent State academic staff, examine the hypothesis that the



"The Go-Between" — ABC, New Street.

The authors conclude that indeed there was a communication breakdown, the ultimate rift being "a mistaken impression" formed by a university attorney which forced the final, fatal confrontation between the students and Guardsmen.

A picture emerges of an incompetent and bungling administration, totally unable to manage a university that had doubled in size over a 10-year period to a population of 21,000 students by 1970. Not only were the administrators apparently unable to communicate effectively with the student body, they were also unable to sooth the "town-gown" rift that rapidly developed as the student population came to equal that of the town of Kent itself.

The book is rightly critical of the bureaucratic establishment that must bear a substantial burden of the blame for the tragedy of May 4th. The failing of the book, however, is two-fold. On the one hand

tributory factors to the killings. Throughout the book one gets the impression that beneath the surface lie many highly significant political threads which may have emerged to tangle themselves into a communication crisis, but which need to be pursued to a far greater depth if the tragedy if Kent State is to be fully understood.

JOHN RANDALL

cinema

WHY is it that if a film contains any amount of nudity, film reviewers of certain "popular" papers can be guaranteed to play on it, and film advertisers can be relied on to use the most explicit of these statements on their posters. Thus for Ken Russell's "The Music Lovers" (Odeon Ringway) we get it—They might just as well have said: "Sex starved nympho tries to cure a homo."

The nudity in the film can hardly be called erotic. Even Glenda Jackson rolling around in a railway carriage, complete with pubic hair close-up, expresses the pathetic situation depicted by the film rather than an orgy.

But to the film itself. All round "The Music Lovers" is a superb film. Russell's direction fits perfectly into a story of this kind. Richard Chamberlain emerges as Tchaikovsky, the man who wanted to marry but didn't want a wife. His music is depicted as the results of his inner conflicts; his strife to be rid of his homosexual tendencies alongside his repulsion of a sexual relationship with his wife, Nina (Glenda Jackson). She tries everything but fails miserably.

Richard Chamberlain has now left the nice smooth Dr. Kildare miles behind him, while Glenda Jackson once again shows herself to be one of the best actresses in modern cinema.

Meanwhile ABC Cinema is showing the latest Ken Russell film on release, "The Devils." A lot has been said about the horrific gore nature of the film but still it plays to packed houses.

Odeon, New Street, retains "Vanishing Point," the 90-minute car chase, which commendably manages to keep the excitement level reasonably high throughout.

Andy Warhol's "Flesh" gets its first general release in the city at the Futurist starting tomorrow (it has previously played at the Arts Lab.). A touchingly-directed film in true Warhol style.

The "sex season" at the Jacey resumes tomorrow night with "Sex from a Stranger," although there is still a chance tonight to see one of the better witty films this year, "Deep End."

ABC, New Street, retains Losey's highly acknowledged film "The Go Between" for a second week, while the Gaumont continues its interminable season of "Waterloo" (surely they must be playing to empty houses by now).

PAUL TAYLOR

UNIVERSITY SPORT IS FOR YOU!

By Andy Holden

TRADITIONALLY, the sports page of the Freshers' edition of "Redbrick" contains a carefully composed load of bull from the Chairman of A.U. This year, the traditions have been broken by the absence of any copy from that lovable character, Rog Plank. Besides, you'll have already heard from him (or at least two per cent of the Freshers' "Redbrick" readers will have heard from him).

So instead of the chairman's words of wisdom, you're going to have to suffer about 500 words of carefully composed bull from me.

That being the amount needed to fill up the page.

Elsewhere on the page are messages from the great Randy

Southam and the mysterious Alpha—more usually associated with the Dental School Common Room notice-board. They give their views of University sport, so here are a few of mine.

The first thing to do is to throw away all your preconceived ideas on what sport involves. The majority of people have had sport thrust upon them at school. Here the choice may have been between plodding round some muddy fields pursuing equally unenthusiastic colleagues in the so-called school cross-country, or hacking chunks out of other freezing bodies in pursuit of a leather object of varying dimensions.

At university, sport is entirely voluntary and the choice of sports is a much wider one. Why not go along to Athletic Union and find out the range of leisure activities available? From squash to karate, from weight-lifting to badminton, excellent facilities exist for a large number of sports.

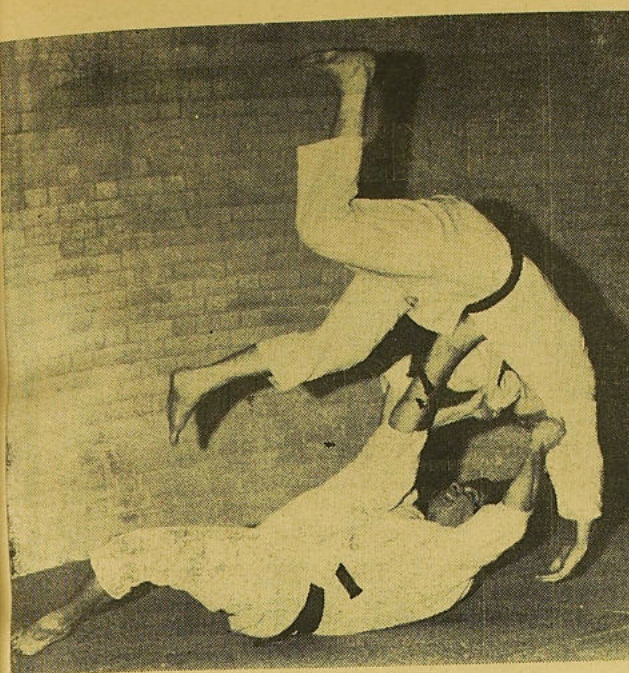
The next thing is not to worry about the standard. From internationals to the most casual of casual players, all are welcomed at the Sports Centre. For people who wish

to play team sports, if you can't make the University or faculty sides, then there's almost certainly going to be a departmental or hall sports rep requiring your services.

Coaching is available from many clubs, so why not, if you haven't done so already, contact the club secretary of your favourite sport? He'll be delighted to help you. The Sailing Club, for instance, are arranging for a series of lectures this term to instruct people who have no previous experience in sailing. Kingsley Manning assures me that he will be willing to give any necessary extra tuition after the lectures.

In these days of increased leisure availability, more and more local authorities are coming to realise what an important part recreational sport can play in the life of a community. Health departments are becoming aware of the dangers of increased mechanisation and transport. They realise that sporting activities are necessary to counterbalance these traits.

Many people would love to have the facilities at this university, so why not use them while you are here?



Judo is just one of the many activities which can be carried out at the Sports Centre.

Some paternal advice from Father Randy Southam

TO those countless hordes of you freshers who have come to Birmingham to bolster the strength of our great Athletic Union generally and our Athletic Club in particular . . . welcome. Now all you non-athletes and non-prospective athletes, clear off from this article and let those who are really interested read it.

Now, there are two things I want you to do. On Saturday morning you must all form an orderly queue at the A.C. stall at the bazaar and introduce yourself to this year's captain, Pete Crone. He's the one with the startling resemblance to Ernie Wise (short, fat, hairy legs). He will listen to all your troubles, buy you beer, find you girl-friends and take down the particulars of your recent achievements.

Then next Wednesday afternoon you must parade at the athletics

track for the freshers' trials. Don't worry, all the rest of the team will be there to offer advice. Also, the ladies' team will be in attendance, trying to chat up any worthwhile males.

The one big selling point of the Athletics Club is that we've never refused to let anyone race. If the entire campus turned up and asked for a run in a match we would divide you up into hundreds and start each hundred off at 20-second intervals. It's this spirit that made us what we are. (See next "Red-

brick" to find out in scandalous detail—Ed.).

So keep off the asparagus and we'll see you at Monday night's training session. That's the one night the club trains together. If you are lucky you might meet in person: Aggro Sedley, Niggle Boosey, G.W.H., Godmore, Pete Crone, J. Skintbrant (ex-English Schoolboy Mafia international), Chris X, John O'Mainia, Jaimie McAukettle, Herb the Leap, Steve the Board and many other favourites.

TERROR OF TRIALS

FRESHMEN, beware. The season of trial and error is with us once more. Trials and trials and more trials to get into the teams, and error of judgement when you're not picked. Disappointed at your failure. Don't be. With the advent of our new multi-million (?) pound athletic union, all sports are feasible, all fields (literally) are open.

Watch out in the near future for mixed sauna bathing as a sign of the super go-ahead permissive attitude of your Athletic Union. Watch for the successes which must continue to flood to Birmingham as a result of our new super efficient Athletic Union.

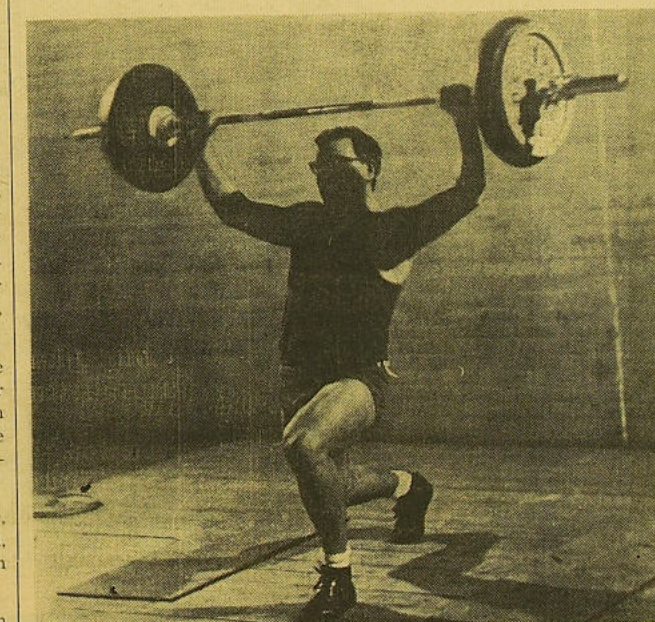
Marvel at the way in which you have to worry about nothing except playing (and training), at the way in which your money is so expertly spent, or utilised, or how well informed you are kept about your club's and other clubs' activities, interests and successes.

Marvel at how our coaches leave and arrive on time, whilst other teams are late. The Athletic Union of the past was an institution to be proud of, an example for the country, nay, for the world to follow.

But now, with the super-duper, go-ahead, with-it, action-packed, dynamic, eager new executive, watch out. Anything can happen.

Go along to Athletic Union general committee meeting and find out and marvel at the happenings. Oh, just a minute. I forgot. The dates are not in the Guild Diary. Someone must have forgotten to send them in!!!!

ALPHA.



The weights room affords excellent facilities for weight training and competitive weight-lifting. Here, Howard Payne, British hammer record holder and Phys. Ed. lecturer, utilised the facilities.



The Soccer Club is one which will be looking to freshers to provide new power. Tom Thorpe (pictured above) is rumoured to be the only remnant of last year's UAU runners-up!

SOUTHAM SAVED Ace reporter rescued from rivals' clutches

LAST year athletics reporting in "Redbrick" and thus the United Kingdom, entered a new dimension. This was due to the emergence of that brilliant young crime-sports reporter Randy Southam. Avid readers of this sports page will remember how they watched with growing fascination a new concept in crime-sports reporting develop.

Over the long, hot, jobless summer the young Southam has been inundated with offers, plus the chance of a job as a senior journalist on many top society journals. He was just about to accept a position working for the "Illustrated White Thighs Weekly" when "Redbrick" struck.

Guild had agreed to increase their grant to try to keep Southam, and this, plus the photographs, were sufficient to persuade him to return to the fold.

Southam once succinctly described his own style as "I've never let the truth spoil a good story." His column will appear at frequent intervals, starting with his advice to this year's freshers.

ANON.
Editor's Note: The total of jobs offered to R. Southam is thought to be not unadjacent to none.



One long car chase . . . "Vanishing Point" — Odeon, New Street.

around

DAY BY DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2nd

Birmingham Triennial Music Festival, C.B.S.O.: Roman Carnival (Berlioz). Symphony No. 40 in G Minor (Mozart) and other well-known works.

Jazz: "Old Crown," Digbeth "Eagle Jazz Band." 8.0.
Birmingham Arms Moat Row, Louisiana Shake Band. 8.0.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3rd

Standard Gauge Steam Trust: Tysley Depot, Warwick Road, Open Day with visiting locos, "King George V" and "Princess Elizabeth." 10.0.

Jazz: Eagle Jazz Band: "Old Crown," Digbeth. 8.0.

Folk Singing: Grey Cock Folk Song Club at White Lion Hotel, Horsefair.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4th

"10 Years After" at Town Hall.

Speedway Racing: "The Brummies," at Perry Barr Stadium, Walsall Road.

THEATRE

Alexandra Theatre: "Doctor at Sea" till October 9th.

Midlands Arts Centre: "Peter and the Wolf"—tonight.

Birmingham Repertory: Closed until October 14th, then "First Impressions," with Francis Matthews.

CINEMA

Odeon, New St.: "Vanishing Point." Retained for 2nd week. L.C.P. 6.55 p.m.

ABC Cinerama: "The Devils." L.C.P. 7.45 p.m.

ABC, New St.: "The Go Between." Retained for 2nd week. L.C.P. 7.50.

Gaumont: "Waterloo." L.C.P. 7.30.

Jacey: Tonight: "Deep End." L.C.P. 7.10 p.m.

Tomorrow for 7 days: "Sex from a Stranger" and "Virgin Youths."

Cinephone: Tonight: "'S' for Sex" and "Wife Swapping, French Style." L.C.P. 7.35 p.m.
From tomorrow: "The Connection" and "The Savage Eye."

Futurist: Tonight: "Charro." L.C.P. 6.55 p.m.
From tomorrow: "Flesh."

Arts Lab: Saturday: "A Passion." 7 p.m.
"Switchboard Operator" and "Simon of the Desert." 9 p.m. "The Shame." 11 p.m.
Sunday: as Saturday but with "The Shame" at 3.30 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday: "Tar Babies" and "Close to the Wind." 7 p.m.

GALLERY

Compendium Galleries: Paintings by Jan Stevens and Alan Bramley. Constructions and paintings by Peter Evans until October 16th.

Museum and Art Gallery: The Loire and the Seine until October 11th.

COMING EVENTS

Velvet Underground: Friday, Oct. 8th: Union.

King Crimson: Wednesday, Oct. 13th: Town Hall.

Stray: Friday, Oct. 15th: Union.

Sunday Flic: Oct. 17th: "The L-Shaped Room."

Yes: Monday, Oct. 18th: Town Hall.

Steel Eye Span: Tuesday, Oct. 19th: Town Hall.

Who: Wednesday, Oct. 20th: Odeon, New Street.

Jerry Reid and Friends: Friday, Oct. 22nd: Union.

Sunday Flic: Oct. 24th: "Lord of the Flies."

Tom Paxton: Monday, Oct. 25th: Town Hall.

Medicine Head and Genesis: Friday, Oct. 29th: Union.

Pentangle: Saturday, Oct. 30th: Town Hall.



Velvet Underground. Union, Friday, October 8th.



The Devils. A.B.C. Cinerama, Bristol Road.