Redbrick

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Price 3p

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23rd, 1972

Inside: Carnival

Supplement

News in brief

GUILD THEATRE GROUP is not putting on "The Birds" as was stated in the last issue of "Redbrick"; lack of cast and a resulting lack of time means that it is impossible. G.T.G. is, however, producing "Le Malade Imaginaire" at the end of this term. For details, contact Jane Rann (G.T.G. secretary and co-producer).

Something else which might be of interest to any theatre-minded person is the Revue which requires any talent going for writing, singing, acting . . . you name it, you do it! Contact A. Vallance-Owen for any details.

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"And the $64,000 question . . ."

If you failed to get on to University Challenge, do not despair, Cecil Korer (Producer, General Features, B.B.C.) is preparing a new quiz series for B.B.C.1. The exact format has not yet been fully decided upon but something along academic lines is being considered.

Mr. Korer is looking for students who would be interested in taking part and having their knowledge tested on television. Anyone interested should write to Cecil Korer at:

B.B.C. TV. General Features,
Kensington House (Room 2051),
Richmond Way,
London, W.14.

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RACE . . . RACES . . . RACIALISM. Is this a natural progression?

A number of prominent speakers and representatives from a wide spectrum of opinions will be gathered together in the Council Chamber next Saturday (26th) with the aim of educating the campus generally on this topic. It is directed not so much at the obvious racialism which one finds in Rhodesia, for example, but at the injustices here in the large cities of England, and the polarisation of attitudes everywhere.

The Chairman will be the Rev. Fitz Allen John and the teach-in starts at 10 a.m., ending at approximately 4 p.m.

Aston's choice

Mr. Graham Knaggs, a fifth-year Metallurgy student at Aston University, who is sponsored by Rolls-Royce, has been elected the next President of the Joint Guild of Students. He pulled 706 votes of the 1,398 cast.

PAUL McCARTNEY AND WINGS GIVE SURPRISE CONCERT TO 700 IN DEB. HALL

'ON THE ROAD' PAUL STRIKES BIRMINGHAM

by PAUL TAYLOR

PAUL McCARTNEY and his band Wings casually drove up to the Union at 5.15 p.m. on Monday and asked if they could play there that evening. After talking with Events Committee and looking over Deb. Hall, it was decided that the concert should go on. Word quickly got round that McCartney was going to play, and posters were hastily made. By seven o'clock a queue had started to form. By seven-thirty about two hundred people were crammed into the old entrance hall, and the queue was growing rapidly.

Wings' wandering tour started a couple of weeks ago at Nottingham University. The pattern has been the same since. Driving round the country, they decide on somewhere to play and just turn up.

It wasn't until gone nine o'clock on Monday that the doors of Deb. Hall were finally opened. By that time the queue had stretched back to Concourse Lounge and Wings had already played a couple of warm-up numbers to the empty hall.

Wings took to the stage as the seated crowd were still settling down. It took a moment before it was realised it was actually them. The McCartney aura filled the stage, with all eyes on him. "Lucille" was the first number—an obviously well-rehearsed and tightly-played version, with McCartney taking the vocals.

Perhaps the most interesting point in the concert came with the Wings single, "Give Ireland Back to the Irish." Despite being banned by the B.B.C. it is bound to do well. With an almost reggae beat, and an easy, catchy chorus line, it's the sort of tune everyone joins in with.

The rest of the set consisted of numbers from the last album, "Wildlife", and a couple from a forthcoming album. For the last fifteen minutes McCartney had everyone on their feet dancing to end an unexpected and enjoyable evening.

This type of concert will hopefully catch on with others of the big bands. One of the best aspects is that the ticket price is so low. Wings are working this tour on the basis that they take all of the ticket money and pay the expenses. With seven hundred and fifty people in Deb. Hall on Monday, Wings will have taken £300. Anyone who knows anything about the price of bands will realise that this is ridiculously low—especially for one that can pull in so many people at three hours' notice.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

By "REDBRICK" REPORTER

POWER cuts are expected to last for at least another two weeks and the Central Electricity Generating Board say that it won't be back to its pre-strike position until late March and early April.

The University has been completely reliant on the whim of M.E.B., having no electricity generating capacity of its own. This has resulted in some parts of the campus being completely blacked while other parts glimmer away despondently.

Even the University's computer has been affected, which is used to print out the pay-slips for the Guild's permanent staff. This resulted, so it is said, in some members of the staff having blank pay-slips and others being paid astronomical sums of money.

The Library has been quite seriously affected and has been closing at 5 o'clock in order to conserve electricity and books. Imagine the number of books you could sneak past the turnstile in the dark!

Even the Muirhead Tower, which looks like a lighthouse even at midnight, has been dimmed for the time being.

Students in their flats and digs have been forced to resort to the lost art of intellectual conversation during the blackouts and go to bed. Or both.

But you can't even use the electric blanket now, so why not go to bed with a friend.

APATHY RULES

THREE meetings organised by the Guild in the last two weeks have been abysmally supported. The General Meeting on the "Right to Work", the Catering Symposium and the Guild Council meeting on the Review Body had to forego any Constitutional power because of lack of support.

On Wednesday, February 16th, both the Catering Symposium and the General Meeting were called off within ten minutes of their projected starting time, and the Guild Council meeting, organised to discuss the Review Body's consultative document last Tuesday, was inquorate.

Guild Executive decided to give individuals the responsibility of drawing up submissions to the Review Body for ratification by Guild Council last night.

The motion that was intended to be put to the General Meeting on the Right to Work was deferred for discussion by Guild Council.

Although the speakers and staff concerned turned up for the Catering Symposium, organised by Eric Galvin, it was called off because no students were in attendance—presumably everyone is satisfied with their food.

Guild elections

Guild Council elections take place on Thursday, February 24th. Eighty-six candidates and standing for 74 places. Faculties where battles are taking place include Commerce and Social Science—nine candidates for five vacancies; Law—four vacancies and eight candidates, and Medicine—six vacancies and 12 nominations.

No nominations have been received for French, German, Russian and Psychology.

COURT APPEARANCE

JOHN BUTCHER, Birmingham University's Third World First field officer appears at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London, tomorrow on a charge of "obstructing a police officer in the perofrmance of his duty."

He was arrested whilst taking part in the Anti-Rhodesia Settlement demonstration in London on February 13th and has been in custody since then.

See inside for "Bloody Sunday" demo. report.

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'Bates for chairman—Birwood for chastity'

by Angy Mann

LAST Wednesday night the Council Chamber was filled to capacity. Was it Martin O'Shea Jenkins's charismatic presence that had pulled them in? Or the promise of hearing "Private Eye's" favourite peeress do her nut? Maybe everyone thought Mr. and Mrs. Pearson sounded like fun. Or perhaps it was something to do with the election of next year's chairman.

Five nominations were made and, the candidates having left the Chamber, five compelling proposal speeches were delivered. The candidates returned to face questions, the first of which was a demand for a dirty joke. Mr. Gerry Bates, debonair as ever and nursing a Newcastle Brown gave us the one about the man going to the fancy dress party as a petrol pump and was followed speedily by Dave Stapley's little offering which despite being unintelligible, was liberally spattered with obscenities and therefore a great success. Miss Slomnicka, pleading femininity, declined to tell a dirty joke, and preferred to tell a political one. Mr. Rob Saunders launched into one about two hamsters which everyone knew, and Mr. Pat Finlay played safe with a variation on the perennial "milkman" theme.

The candidates then outlined their prospective motions and plans for Debsoc. and left the Chamber for the voting. After the first ballot Mr. Stapley was eliminated and in the second ballot Mr. Bates (Law III) gained more than 50 per cent of the total number of votes, and will thus take the chair for the session 1972-3.

The debate itself opened with Mrs. Margo Pearson, to propose the motion that "This House supports the campaign for free contraception and abortion on demand and upholds the woman's right to choose." She lamented the fact that woman cannot escape her fertility and has been exploited as a unit of production. She maintained that the right to choose in these matters was synonymous with a woman's rights as an individual.

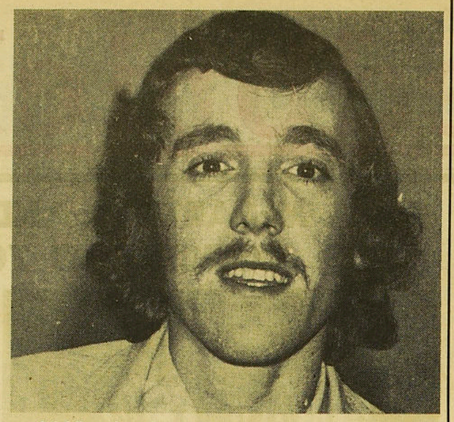
The Dowager Lady Jane Birdwood's speech was a little less like a lecture in sociology. She brought depth of experience and deep emotional sincerity to the House, begging women to see that they were being exploited by men as sources of cheap sex. She regarded the contraceptive pill as a harmful drug and appealed to women to exert compassion and discipline on their bodies.

Derek Pearson seconded the motion (he is a lecturer in social science and, like his wife, is concerned in the campaign for free contraception and abortion on demand). He explained to the House the difficulties a woman must face in getting contraception or an abortion.

Martin Jenkins, seconding the opposition, considered sex to be the opiate of the masses and enquired whether, since sex was a luxury, the House demanded free beer and food as well.

Speeches from the floor were addressed mainly to Lady Birdwood, who assured us that she was, among other things, not a member of the National Front (surprise, surprise).

After summing up the vote was taken by acclamation, and the motion passed overwhelmingly.



A jubilant Jerry Bates after being elected next year's Chairman of Debsoc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Bones' redressed

DEAR SIR,—I was interested to read your article "The Bones of 'Bones'" in the last "Redbrick". This deficient piece of journalism was particularly distressing to me as I am the person whose words and opinions wede so deviously reported.

This is neither time nor place to set all straight. I wish merely to rectify one glaring error. Namely —Bones of "Mermaid" did **not** sell a hundred copies—it was seven times that number. It was the last issue of your age—old, glossy "Mermaid" (non-existent) which could only sell 100 copies.

It was this sad figure of 100 which caused me to think that it was time to give the Guild magazine a change of both content and appearance. As well as the fact that glossy paper costs far than one can afford (perhaps you have noticed that even file-paper is becoming expensive).

The next issue of "Bones" will be with you in a week or two, provided the printers can get enough electric power. If you like, even a little, what you read and see then hopefully this University can show its ability to perpetuate some form of magazine communication for more than a term of two.

PAUL MEDLEY.

Master SAMMwise

DEAR SIR,—It seems for another year that we are to be bored with yet more "joke" interventions in the elections for President and Vice-President. The whole trauma of Guild politics is trivial and pathetic enough already and some of the prospective candidates are sufficient jokes in themselves without deliberate "humour". Lately small huddles in Concourse and the Mermaid Lounge have attempted to familiarise us with the initials S.A.M.M., I suspect this is merely a premature joke Presidential campaign. Can I take this opportunity to tell them to forget it as most students are tired of the whole business.

Yours faithfully,
P. HALL (Geography 2).

Chunderful

Court hearing

NEXT Thursday is an important day in the University calendar. Carpets will be carefully swept, brasses will be polished, the floors around the Great Hall will be duly scrubbed; someone will be sent scurrying to retrieve the University mace from the pawn-shop.

It is the annual meeting of the Court of Governors, the august supreme governing body of the University of Birmingham. From the national and local business elite, the Professoriate of the country, both Houses of Parliament and past University graduates some 300 amnipotent will gather to debate and approve the annual report of the University Council and make any necessary ordinances as required by both Council and the Senate.

To most of us the title "Governor of the University" conjures up a picture of a benign elderly gent thrusting two-penny pieces into gesticulating student fingers or alternatively pausing a moment in the Students' Union to talk paternally with a student trendy and pat him liberally on the fuzzy hair-piece.

Since 1900 three students have sat as members of the Court, a right granted by the Charter. Although in present day climates three students in a body of some 300 is regarded as something equivalent to the Munich fob-off.

This year's caper to put forward student views to the governing body one of the student governors decided to hold a meeting to guage student opinion. Notices were displayed calling a meeting of the constituency — potentially seven thousand seats—for Friday last. The date came but only five students bothered to attend. Mass student apathy? Or alternatively students realising the political facts of the situation, that Court is just a showpiece; in reality it has little power and merely stands like some colossal fancy dodo over a complex University desert with its head firmly in the sand!

☆ ☆ ☆

Paper chaste

The Union coffee bars seem to be disappearing in bumpf. Daring to venture in the Guild of Students' building the other day I decided to indulge in a little repast and trundled over to my usual table in the coffee bar. The table was unusually clean and clear. A rather attractive young lady approached me. I smiled, she gave me a blank stare and three handouts advertising a Union debate.

I continued to sip my caffine. I received three leaflets and a grimace. Five minutes later another girl approached. Fortune and bliss—a returned smile plus six Community Action handouts. A young man then approached—he smiled. I wondered, and took the two leaflets he was holding out. This procedure repeated itself a further four times in the following 30 minutes.

The results of this process (apart from two scowls, four smiles and two indifferent glances) was that in an hour my table had accumulated some 26 sheets of paper, indeed, it was impossible to put my cup on the table. If this was repeated for the 50 tables in the two coffee bars this would mean in total some 1,300 leaflets had been dispersed, costing some £10 sterling. If this process continued every day of the week in the two coffee bars the overall total would be some 7,000 sheets of paper at an expenditure of some £50, which, with water, could make enough material for a full-size paier-mache replica of the Vice-Chancellor.

SNIPPETS

DERIK BISHOP

TALES OF OLD EDGBASTON

IF one looks at old maps of Edgbaston, about the time that the University first spread its redbrick, the astute eye may notice something a little odd, to say the least. The Medical School was originally built next to the site that the Refectory now occupies. Thus to any student of average intelligence, and I include medical students in this category, it would appear a movement has occurred. Either the Medical School has shifted or the Refectory is inching its way towards the Library. Learned men tell us it is the Medical School.

Apparently, the Medical School started moving soon after its completion and has been drifting towards Harborne ever since, that it is until it came to somebody's attention. A University gardener was the first to perceive the movement when he noticed brick prints in his cabbage patch. He informed the authorities who promptly sprang into action—they built the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in an attempt to stop the Medical School travelling any further and declaring U.D.I.

Well this ploy slowed the passage of the Medics from the rest of the campus but didn't stop it. Hence the authorities are now building the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, which they hope will halt the Medical School for ever.

However, I can now reveal that the authorities have it all wrong. The Medical School isn't moving, it's the rest of the University which is slipping into the Bristol Road.

CANDLES TO THE FORE!

During the power cuts, some of us have had our activities severely hampered—I mean candles are very romantic, but even my etchings look a bit desperate in candlelight.

One friend of mine recently attended a party during the blackout and after a few pints fumbled his way to what he thought was the loo, to answer nature's call. Well, peeing in the dark requires courage, accuracy and precise knowledge of one's pressure and trajectory.

Confident he had the range, my friend proceeded, only to hear a voice ring out: "What the hell do you think you're doing".

Giving the obvious answer, my friend continued in his activities, only to hear a girl shriek with delight and . . .

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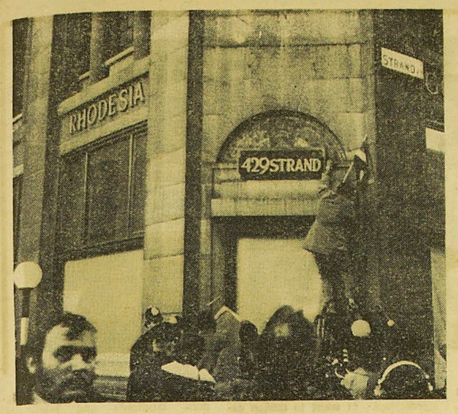

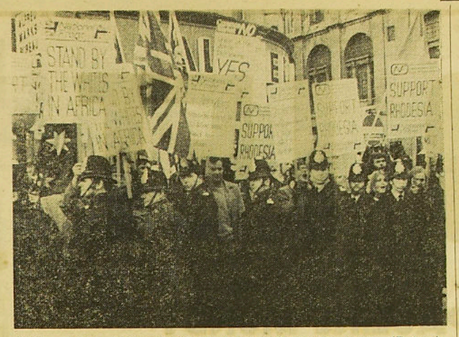

(Above) The National Front protected in a side street. (Below) The Demonstration assembled in Trafalgar Square. (Left) An empty gesture? • Pictures by Andrew Pickles

'BLOODY SUNDAY'

DISTURBING VIEWS – EDITED BY NICK BOOKER

LONDON on Sunday, February 13th witnessed a demonstration organised by the Rhodesia Emergency Campaign Committee against the proposed settlement between Britain and Rhodesia.

Demonstrators who crammed into Trafalgar Square heard speeches deploring the settlement and urging people to join the struggle against racism.

So far a perfectly ordinary demonstration. But when the demonstrators eventually marched to Rhodesia House the more unpleasant aspects emerged as these quotes from eye witnesses show.

"Demonstrators filed past a heavily policed Rhodesia House, chanting and good-humouredly singing . . . then two bottles were thrown—which was apparently the signal the police had been waiting for . . . Without any warning they pushed, shoved and kicked demonstrators.

"The police kneed, punched and held on to hair while shouting abusively. Cameras that might have contained pictures of this disgusting scene were seized and smashed . . ."

"During the scrummage several people fell to the ground. About five people collapsed on one another. I heard screams and tried to pull people up. At the bottom of the pile was Pete Wolley, writhing in agony. I tried to help him to his feet. I shouted to the police to move back and that he had a broken arm. 'Tell him to get up then,' and one of our guardians of the law kicked Pete in the thigh."

"It was about this time that John Butcher, Birmingham University's Third World First field officer, was arrested. I turned round to see him being dragged away. It's not clear why he was arrested except that he was easy to grab.

"He was limping quite badly and told me he'd been kicked in the groin by the police. He was obviously in great pain.

Eventually the demonstration dispersed. It would have been relatively peaceful except for the incidents related above. The "sticks, bottles and bricks thrown" reported on B.B.C. radio news did not exist, apart from the two bottles thrown at Rhodesia House, possibly by an *agent provocateur* — the National Front(?)"

What is disturbing about the whole affair is the reaction of the police to an otherwise law-abiding demonstration and the failure of the national Press to pay much attention to the whole affair.

"Perhaps it's itchy fingers in Ireland cause itchy feet in big black boots in London."

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The Gavin Tweedsmuir Column

THAT WAS THE SNEAK THAT WAS

ON February 8th, a most excellent plan to drop three of the nastiest Guild personalities around at the moment into the Union fountain, was dropped at the last minute in an atmosphere of shoddy mystery and outright double-cross. The sight of the awful Duchess of Tooting (plus eyelashes and kidneys); the totally banal Ann Davies and horribly sycophantic Phoney Lee floundering in more muck than their usual surroundings, would have been the best pantomime since Martin O'Sheer Nonsense last spoke in public.

This brilliant plan was dropped inexplicably by ambling, gullible Eric Galvin (103), a man whose incompetence and cowardice know no bounds. But by far the worst offender in this sorry tale is one Robert Gregory, a pimply, scruffy, ignorant, urchin-like, opportunistic first-year lawyer (what DO they let in that faculty now!) whose obvious unsavouriness has not been seen in the Union for the last one thousand years. The story of Gregory the Crag's plan to avoid the water-babies comes from his own mouth, so may very well be untrue.

Needless to say Gregory was (quite rightly) on the water list and did not like it. The whining fool was to be seen at varying points on the campus, white-faced and trembling, clawing at various V.I.P.s and pleading for mercy, mentioning as an afterthought his infirmities—'flu, shivers, diarrhœa, paranoia, etc.

But Governor (yes, dears, the twerp IS a governor of the University) Gregory had one more trick up his revolting sleeve. (The story here becomes even more heart-rending and unbelievable). Gregory the Grass went to a man known as the Vice-Chancellor, and harangued him in an hysterical manner. The result was that the best plan the Guild has come up with in years was dropped on its head—indeed such an action could well be applied to Gregory.

WHERE KINGSLEY GOES FORTH

The idea is being spread in some quarters that the best man for the job of President will be Mr. Kingsley ("Blondie") Manning. Such an idea is so wildly idiotic that readers of this column need not be told the obvious reasons why Blondie is not the man for the job. Boring articles in "Redbrick" and boring speeches at that elephants' graveyard of political dignity, Guild Council, apart, Mr. Manning is also not unassociated with Athletic Union, a group of neanderthal-brained, teutonic, thumping sub-intellects who are quite rightly at the moment confined to a wildlife enclosure in one of the less salubrious parts of Birmingham, and quite wrongly allowed a large slice of Guild funds to run their hovel. The fact that Mr. Manning openly mixes with these people and has even risen to a position of "responsibility" within their ranks is enough condemnation of this co-opted, plummy-mouthed twit.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Michael Gordon, a politician, has been letting his thoughts run free on his fellow candidates for the Guild Presidency. Sample thoughts of Chairman Gordon:—

On John Tustin—
Another Rod Playford (heaven forbid).

On James Tyzack—
Condones everything in the present situation (including Gordon?)

On Martin O'Sheer Nonsense—
Does what God tells him to (but Playford isn't standing).

On Kingsley Manning—
A bandwagon jumper of enormous proportions.

Mr. Michael Gordon on the other hand is, of course, the sincere and efficient Guild Councillor whose undoubted genius, brilliance and foresight have made him the envy of the Law Faculty, not to mention the laughing-stock of the Guild.

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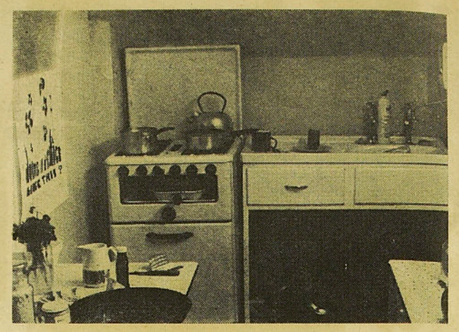
APOLOGY

Mr. James Tyzack is not quite the most boring man in the Guild.

TO LET

By PAULINE MUNDY



AMIDST the seventy-odd tables contained in the document entitled "University of Birmingham and the Guild of Students' Joint Accommodation Survey—Final Report" lies the vital data. It is a fascinating statistical compilation from which emerges not only the fact that 43.7 per cent of Birmingham students live in flats or bed-sitters at the moment (and the remainder probably will do before they depart from this campus), 30 per cent will stay in their present accommodation for more than one year and 10.8 per cent find it "less than satisfactory."

But two of the most interesting charts give the criteria on which the students sampled based their assessment of the accommodation (Tables 1 and 2). Each of the factors mentioned is a potential basis for personal and emotional mental attitudes to University life. Accommodation difficulties accentuate instability, security contributes to general well-being.

TABLE 1
Reasons for liking accommodation

Near University	16.5%
Inexpensive	11.0%
Comfortable	25.7%
Independence	14.5%
Company	10.5%
Good repair	5.2%

TABLE 2
Reasons for disliking accommodation

Distance	11.3%
Inadequate heating	5.1%
State of repair	4.5%
Too small	3.8%
Too expensive	10.1%
Little independence	3.0%
Lack of privacy	4.3%
Other	7.0%
Not applicable	47.9%

There are various methods for flat-finding, but whether it is through the Lodgings Office, by word-of-mouth from friends or on the proverbial grapevine, or by scanning the advertisement columns of the local papers, the first encounter must be with "the landlady"—the mutual assessment ordeal . . .

NON-COLOUR

Mrs. Scott thrives on students. She owns or manages what she somewhat cagily estimates as "quite a lot" of huge old houses in the Moseley student world. They are adequately, though sparsely, furnished, mostly in depressing combinations of mixedly-ageing and dully clashing non-colour schemes.

She is quite happy to have student tenants and claims that they all have "large working surfaces"; there was a small card-table in the bedsitter I visited. She offered an attic flat for two, but "had no idea" how cold it was up there.

On the question of requested improvements she said she would do what she thought was needed. Her rents are in the average range of about £12 to £16 a month, but when she was asked to confirm the rent for a shared bedsitter the answer was: "Whatever I told your friend".

Her attitudes to students are surprising in that she does not mind mixed groups, but asks her tenants to notify her whenever they give a party. She prefers postgraduates and groups of men rather than girls. **"Girls are always on the want; men stay put and don't fuss."** She charges the standard retainer of 50p a week over the summer vacation to help pay the mortgage, which she estimated at £100 a month for one of these properties.

TYPICAL

She could safely be classified as a "typical" landlady (pardoning the term). Her houses are sound, if not particularly comfortable or æsthetically pleasing; she makes a living, students get a roof over their heads and there would appear to be little mutual interest beyond basic business.

Mrs. Glassy is completely unstereotyped. **"I want to design exciting flats for interesting people who want something original."** She has two large houses in Metchley Lane and a small terrace dwelling in Selly Oak which she has completely renovated, designed and fitted, down to the detail of concealed alcove lighting, scalloped shelves, semi-partitions or a false bamboo-ceiling effect.

VIVID COLOURS

She is liberal with white paint and curves but splashes and highlights with vivid colours and tastefully chosen antique auction-room furniture. She is always prepared to modify the decor or provide extra amenities (like a fridge or splash-tiles) on request and aims to leave plenty of scope for personal identification with each room by the individual tenant. She fills her houses with artists, musicians, actors and students because they are "young and impressionable" and "like her taste"; she tries to know them as people, not just in their tenant role.

"One is the eternal student if one is alive. Good relationships, interesting things . . . are the values that matter . . ." Her rooms are mainly bedsitters, or rather sitting rooms with the surprise of a bed. She estimates £100 for establishing a room and her tenants pay for what they get, always £4 plus (and often a large plus) per week.

NO PREFERENCE

She says she has no preference for groups of men or women, but definitely prefers her houses mixed, not only between the sexes but also between students and artists. Her bias is against business people who she claims have different values in the shape of showers and other "mod-cons". However her high opinion of students seems to be limited to her experience of the less-penniless arts student . . .

The criteria of the mutual sell through the landlady's eyes must be rather different from the assessment viewed from the pocket of a student. According to the Accommodation Report, "approximately 6.7 per cent of our respondents at some point found accommodation which was acceptable to them, but which was subsequently refused. The problem is not restricted to any one group of students". Half of those who specified reasons simply would not accept students, as such.

EMBARRASSMENT

The report found little bias against foreign students but the Lodgings Office has a policy of only sending them to pre-approved addresses to avoid mutual embarrassment and possible unpleasantness.

Mixed flats are also a touchy question: the Lodgings Office can do little to help a mixed group, only sending them to addresses where acceptance is already inferred. This is because of cases in the past where addresses have been removed from the books by indignant landlords and landladies, horrified at the University's official "permissive" attitudes. Therefore, to keep as much accommodation as possible open to students, mixed groups have to fight the public antipathy through other channels.

Another prevailing (and somewhat surprising!) trend which emerged from these investigations is the general preference for groups of men rather than women, on the disputable grounds that men are tidier, have fewer emotional crises and are less responsibility than girls, who are more easily critical and dissatisfied with their living conditions.

MONEY

Whatever the considerations of the landlady, the whole venture really rests on the business level; the money must keep pouring in.

The student on the other hand has to find somewhere to live and has little negotiating power over potential exploitation. The flats and bedsitters on the Lodgings Office list are mainly in the price range of under three to just over four pounds a week.

But the size of the rent is not necessarily correlated with standard. It is a recognised fact that a group of students in a large flat pay more than a family living in the equivalent space; although a shared flat is cheaper per head, the profit for the owner is greater. An old mansion with a short lease in one of the popular student areas of Birmingham can be bought for about £1,000, which will house 20 students for two years. Even if the rent is merely £3 a week per head this brings in over £6,000—which one could suppose would cover the overheads nicely!

EXPLOITED

There is little doubt that many students are being exploited; the Rents Tribunal in Birmingham is now dealing with more student cases than immigrant difficulties; a dramatic change from the situation a few years ago.

DETERRENT

However there is a deterrent which limits the number of would-be complainers. Most landlords have not obtained the required planning permission from the City Council to sub-let their houses, so that the majority of students are living illegally in multi-occupation. Exposure by presenting a case to the Rents Tribunal could mean eviction. The student population is on the increase and if there is any tightening-up by the authorities many students could find themselves homeless; it is a vicious circle against rent-action.

So there is the situation and the system, as it stand. It is hardly a question of "take it or leave it", because halls or residence or squatting in the Union and camping in the city are not alternatives to the chosen freedom of flat-dwelling. But according to the survey, most of you are satisfied; the rest can only fight from within or stagnate in their squalid surroundings.

HOSPITALITY FOR FOREIGN VISITORS

By JOHN GROARKE

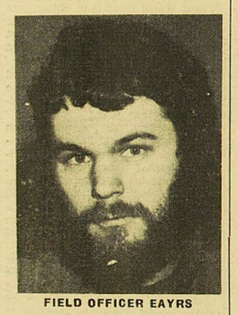
SHOULD you go into 120 Colmore Row you would find the Birmingham International Council, comprising at present Martin Eayrs (Field Officer) and a secretary (who is shared with two other organisations). Mr. Eayrs, who was appointed two weeks ago, is concerned especially with the running and developing of an international centre, here in Birmingham.

When the British Council decided to close down its centre for overseas students B.I.C. made arrangements to obtain premises in the British Council building in Colmore Row to use as a Student International Social Centre. At the moment the premises are not very extensive — a large downstairs lounge (with a canteen attached), a games room and a committee room—but it is hoped to expand as public interest grows.

Membership is open to all people living in or around the Birmingham area over the age of 18, and whilst it is primarily aimed at students, anybody with an interest in international affairs will be welcomed.

Some of the activities include English language classes for the wives of overseas students, together with a children's playgroup which looks after the needs of the children whilst their mothers are in the classes; there is a television, table tennis facilities, and other organisations are allowed to use the rooms for their meetings, which are open to any member of the Centre who wants to go along.

The Centre is financed mainly by two sources: the United Kingdom Council for Overseas Affairs (U.K.C.O.S.A.) and the British Council in Birmingham, which has provided the premises. There is a membership fee of 50p to join, which isn't too expensive when one considers that there is the opportunity of meeting so many different people of different nationalities in warm surroundings with a partly-subsidised canteen.



FIELD OFFICER EAYRS

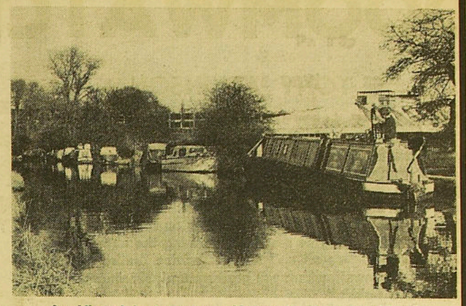
Mr. Eayrs sees his main function at the moment as running International House, but this is just a stepping-off point before engaging in all the other activities he feels he should be involved in: the organisation of hospitality facilities for overseas students and visitors; the stimulation of social and cultural contact between overseas students and visitors and the host community of Birmingham; making students aware of holiday and leisure opportunities—the English student can go home or on holiday at the end of the academic year, but the overseas student often cannot afford to go home and knows nothing of travel reductions, charter flights, etc. This is perhaps where the University could be of most help—in informing overseas students of leisure opportunities.

Mr. Eayrs also hopes to liaise closely with voluntary organisations in the Birmingham area, and to bring to more general notice the events which take place in co-operation with Birmingham's twin cities of Frankfurt, Lyons and Milan.

The Centre is open most of the day, and any student who is interested would be welcome to call in; the canteen is open from 12.30 to 2.00 and 5.30 to 7.00 p.m.

THE CANALS— their future prospects

by BILL BROOKES



Are Victoria's days over : Narrow boats moored by the Sports Centre on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

DO you know what the cut is? It is, of course, the canal system of Britain at the very centre of which Birmingham lies. Regretably, the only evidence of this fact available to a disinterested observer is a stretch of dirty water glimpsed over a bridge from the top of a bus. The purpose which I hope this article will fulfil is to give a little insight into why this stretch of dirty water is so important and interesting, why it must be preserved for the future and why it is particularly threatened at the moment.

It is important to realise the elegant simplicity of the principle upon which a canal operates. Water always finds its own level; its surface is horizontal. This means that a boat can be pulled along a canal without doing any work against gravity, and, furthermore, the water acts as a lubricant. Thus a rather small horse—as those used on the cut were—can pull a boat loaded with 30 tons of coal. It's a pretty monstrous articulated lorry that can carry that much.

The difficulty with a canal system, especially in a hilly country such as Britain, is in minimising the number of levels needed and in transferring craft from one level to another. It is the solution of these problems, however, that the canal engineers have left behind the most tangible testimony of their ingenuity and ability.

There is the famous Ponteysyllte aqueduct built by Thomas Telford and opened in 1805. Coming nearer home to the Birmingham Canal Navigations, there is the Telford aqueduct over the Wolverhampton main line at Smethwick; a masterpiece of sculpture in cast iron. Also well worth a visit are the Netherton and Dudley tunnels.

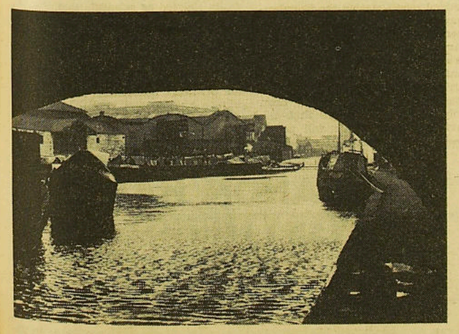
These are just three of the more obviously impressive things on the B.C.N. There are many more, but it is perhaps its inter-relation with the growth of industry in Birmingham and the Black Country that is its most interesting aspect. It is a very precious monument to the industrial revolution, and in order to retain its value in this direction it must be preserved in its entirety.

If this was the only argument for preservation it would be more than sufficient to warrant the relatively trivial sums required. The B.S.N. is arguably a more important heritage than St. Paul's Cathedral.

Implicit in this plan for preservation is the 1968 Transport Act. This divided the inland waterways into three classes: commercial, cruising and the remainder. The future of the first two classes seemed assured but the fate of the remainder was, and is, a cause for great concern. Of the 100 miles of the B.C.N. left navigable, 65 miles were designated as remainder in 1968.

That this should be so is not surprising, the system was built to serve local industry and so a relatively small proportion is "through route." The Inland Waterways Association and the B.C.N. Society have been fighting ever since to preserve these 65 miles (and most of the rest of the remainder too, of course, in the case of the I.W.A.).

Last December the Tory government produced a fresh piece of muddle-headed thinking under the unimposing title of "Circular 92/71; Reorganisation of Water and Sewage Services; Government Proposals and Arrangements for Consultation."



Gas Street Basin, Birmingham.

Briefly the circular proposes that all water—land drainage, supply, sewage, etc., should be put under one roof and be controlled by 10 regional authorities. In the main these proposals are sound, but as far as inland navigation is concerned it is obvious from reading the circular, and also from various statements by Ministers in the House, that the proposals regarding this are just tacked on as an afterthought.

They reveal a distressing lack of understanding of, and sympathy with, inland navigation. In a document of 59 paragraphs there are just three concerning inland navigation. I will quote two of these verbatim.

"31. Except for a few short lengths, the network of canals and river navigations administered by the British Waterways Board no longer fulfils a major transport function. On the other hand these waterways are extensively used for other purposes such as, increasingly, the supply and carriage of water supplies to water undertakers. They are of growing value for recreation and amenity, a function which the Government wishes to encourage. For these reasons, the inland waterways need to be more closely integrated into the system of river management and water supply. This can best be done at the regional level. The canals today are mainly of local and regional significance. It is unnecessary and inappropriate that they should continue to be administered by a nationalised transport industry."

"32 The responsibilities of the British Waterways Board for these waterways will therefore be transferred to the new Regional Water Authorities and the Board wound up. Decisions about the future of individual waterways can then be taken locally by the Regional Water Authorities in consultation with the various bodies interested in use of the waterways including the Countryside Commission, regional Sports Councils and local authorities. Where a canal crosses Regional Water Authority boundaries, arrangements will need to be made for determining responsibility as between one Regional Water Authority and another. Through navigations will be safeguarded as appropriate. The Government intend that the Regional Water Authorities should retain the British Waterways Board's existing duties as regards maintenance of the waterways with suitable statutory provision for modification of these duties if they consider it unavoidable that the costly maintenance of a waterway for navigation should be discontinued or, alternatively, if funds become available for the restoration of a waterway to navigation. Special arrangements will be made for the future control of the Board's canals in Scotland."

Paragraph 31 states that most of the system no longer fulfils a major transport function. It is illuminating to examine the reasons for this. The start of the rot goes back to the railway age. After using canal transport initially to help build the railways, the railway interests bought up the canal system and purposely ran it down, as it was too great a threat as a competitor. This was a blow from which the canals never really recovered, and later short-sightedness of politicians only hastened their demise.

It is still said, of course, that however regrettable the reasons for the collapse, the canals are no longer competitive economically, and irrelevant in this age. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is interesting to note, poised, as we are, to enter the Common Market, that Europe has a very extensive canal system which is even now undergoing another expansion. The canals of the various countries are being brought up to a common standard, and new ones are being planned. Three hundred million tons of goods a year are carried on the system of Western Europe. It is quite obvious, then, that a canal system can be economically viable. On our own wide canals the cost of transport per ton mile is about a third of that on the roads, and even the narrow canals would be competitive if they hadn't been so neglected that it is almost impossible to get a loaded boat through.

So far the argument has been in terms of traditional economics; but it should, in 1972, be quite obvious that there are much wider issues involved, namely the protection of the environment. It is in this light that present policies are seen in their true absurdity. It is clear that we cannot go on carrying heavy goods by road or even rail, and from this point of view re-expansion of the canal system is an inevitable necessity. The system must be preserved as intact as possible until even politicians realise this.

Paragraph 32 envisages the winding up of the British Waterways Board. With all its defects the B.W.B. is a national authority which is interested in commercial carrying, to dissolve it must therefore be wrong for the reasons outlined above. Of the 10 proposed regional water authorities seven have canals in their regions, so it is proposed to replace the B.W.B. by seven authorities whose primary interest is not in navigation at all. This constitutes a regression to a situation similar to the one where the canals were dominated by railway interests. It is inevitable that maintenance standards will vary from authority to authority and will be generally poor; remember an unnavigable canal can transport water just as well as a navigable one.

Before finishing with paragraph 32, I would like to draw attention to two phrases: . . . through navigations will be safeguarded as appropriate . . . , . . . with suitable statutory provision for fee modification of these duties if they consider it unavoidable that the costly maintenance of a waterway for navigation should be discontinued. . . . They speak for themselves and the message is not pleasant.

Paragraph 33 is concerned with the transfer of the present river authorities' powers to the regional water authorities. This is no good thing, but, given the present river authorities' disinterest in navigation, it is not a significant retrograde step.

If, as I hope, you are sufficiently motivated to try and do something about the present situation you will be asking, what can I do most effectively?" It seems to me that the best course of action is to lend support to the Inland Waterways Association and its campaign.

The demands that the I.W.A. is putting forward can well be summed up by the resolution of the action meeting at Digbeth Civic Hall on January 22nd when 360 delegates were present. The motion that was passed unanimously at that meeting was that:—

(1) A national waterways authority should be established controlling all inland navigation, with an adequate income to maintain properly and to modernise the system for amenity and transport use.

(2) The Government should fulfil its pre-election pledge and restore the public's right of navigation.

(3) Local authorities should be strongly encouraged to help financially in restoring derelict waterways.

Possibly the best thing you can do in the present crisis is to join the I.W.A. The society has a very good campaigning record, going back to its foundation in 1946, and a significant increase in membership at this time would give great weight to the present struggle. Membership represents good value anyway for anyone interested in the canal system.

In any case go and look at the canals of Birmingham, you should be impressed, and please come and see the exhibition in Concourse this week and sign the petition. Canals have to have a future as well as a past.

DOOMWATCH—WHOSE NEED?

by TONY ATKINSON

THE major evolutionary strength of man as a species is his adaptability. It is also his main fault. Disasters recur and we are all becoming conditioned to them ; conditioned to an intolerable environment, no longer concerned about the ugliness of life. The popularity of Ecopornography—dirty books about doom—makes matters worse. One hundred and thirty of these filthy books are to appear on the consumptive market in 1972, doing no more than making the authors rich on the message "it's all up" and the advice "retire to your litle pad in Cornwall, where you grow natural wheat, and tide-die your own T-shirt."

Could it be that these ideas are valid or are they the paranoid fantasies of a scientific layabout, ex-leader in Anatomy at London University. So asked Dr. Kit Pedlar of himself last Wednesday in front o fa largely biological audience. Kit's inspiration "Doomwatch" began as an idea, brought environmental problems into the home via TV and is now becoming a book and a film. Though the TV characters are so far from reality that they could not argue themselves out of a low powered microscope and a pair of forceps, their creator is concerned with real scientists and their future role.

Dr. Pedlar outlined his vision of Doomwatch—

Firstly it would be a cross-disciplinary group of people ; how strange it is that C. P. Snow's two-culture philosophy still persists in universities. Scientists think of the artists as woolly-minded hipsters, while artists regard scientists as stock-brokers in white coats who are basically dangerous—they sit around each other in the Union sort of looking at each other.

In this new co-relation, while the scientist gets on with his work the artist would make proper use of the media to put across the scientific data—so do not despair you unemployable arts graduates.

Those involved would be experts in the classical disciplines, chemists analysing air, ground and water pollution, pathologists studying effects on tissues skilled psychologists discovering the effects of environment on people.

These would co-ordinate with economists who would demonstrate cost benefit to industrialists, no weight in conceptual ideas here, and lawylers who would help improve the present derisory environmental laws—a Liverpool firm recently let burning creosote float on a canal, killing two people, and was fined £100—a cheap funeral. In addition political specialists would be required to influence the power structures towards decisions which insulted neither environment nor people.

Science is the most powerful reasoning and problem solving system that exists, but it is unhealthily taught in isolation. Whenever the scientist, an intellectual masturbator in an ivory tower, looks out of his lab door, he sees the world racketing away to ruin and his own work as esoteric, expensively contrived trivia.

Research is decentralised and ineffective.

But Rothchild would put all research under Government departments—terrifying; research assessed by its benefit to trade figures, expansionist technology and development of the profit motice.

The career scientist has lost the spirit of science's natural philosophy origins. But redefine the problems by reorientation of ethos and the enthusiastic joy and glee of scientific creativity is revived.

Designs for recycling materials, conserving rare resources and carrying out new endeavours without destroying natural ecospheres will be devised. Such problems require as much ingenuity as designing a bomb. The difference is that the alternative technology will have an ecological and socially responsible basis.

Doomwatch will assemble all known environmental facts and use these to operate with in place of the usual polemics.

Where will the money come from? The government has the money but will it finance projects like catalytic converters to remove lead from car exhaust?—not if they retain the same beliefs as the car manufacturers who will complain in terms of G.N.P., productivity and capital growth—lead poisons the catalyst too quickly to make it an attractive component when it does not add to market value.

Unlike the vulnerable bumper made of highly polished rare metals and rarely recovered from the junk heap. Money from the public? Here is no starting point with the present state of apathy over the environmental issue—well what proportion of your annual income are you willing to give to an effective environmental association?

Conservationists then?—on the right track but their arguments have become emotional, polemic and elitist, they want more of the country available to those people who want more of the country to live in.

Grant givers for university research seem unaware of the potential function of research in modern society, but here is the best chance for pilot schemes, whose data can be used to stimulate interest in the non-committed grant distributors.

Who would do such work? No great work force need be necessary and the motivation is surely there. Unfortunately so too is a regrettable amount of hysteria. A Government minister can visit Cornwall, looking for disaster, and find none; while a scientist can preach doom about mercury levels in the sea, world population catastrophes and warning of humans falling into mythical syndromes such as clinical shock as the pace of change accelerates. Both may be without proper factual basis; though if the MIT World Dynamics report is 10 per cent right then pollution will "solve" the problem by increasing acute respiratory disease. A choice between disaster and complete disaster.

There are plenty of problems in need of immediate solution, whether it be Rio Tinto mining or stopping personal insults such as those caused by spray drift and jet aircraft. Then there is carbon monoxide in the air—it can be shown that the levels of this toxic gas in our cities is one per cent below that at which human performance is demonstrably retarded. So too is the impact of noise measureable.

How will people be re-educated? The scientist trained in the humanities will see possibilities for overt benefit to people and society in his work, the artist similarly will see the service of science. The young generation will carry out simple tests on their own environment—it is possible to reduce complex chemical reactions to a stick which changes colour at different levels of pollutants. Gradually we will all learn to live within the ecosphere, one hopes.

How will political influence be gained? Science can link the frail polystyrene angel on top of a Christmas tree with the death of guillemots in the Irish sea. Will politicians be asking their electorate what environmental price they are willing to pay for a particular political action. Scientific evidence will convince everyone that practically everything that industry is doing is harmful to the environment. We cannot afford the price.

How about an environmental tax, give the offender a choice—be crippled or find new ways of capital-based growth, or new ways? Fine—but the politician is not listening. Pollution is Brass, the wage packet basis to life.

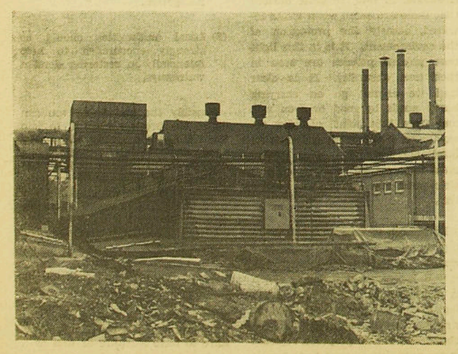
Doomwatch must learn information to confront. Seaside Town Councils know they are doing wrong spewing raw sewage into the sea. Their defence is a Medical Research Council report stating the harmlessness of bathing in sewage. Students keen to be involved could pool their learnt skills in oceanography, bacteriology and chemical analysis and confront the con men with facts referring directly to the intolerable situation specific to their area. Only when we can show that the environment is unsafe will people slowly turn away from the goal of economic progress by growth.

If present science and politics stands bereft of any significance, we urgently require new goals, in biological terms a species without one is in danger of extinction. Is environmentalism just another ideological romance, or perhaps just less romantic, after all production-line pea farming in Leicestershire destroyed the soil structure so fibrous plastic was ploughed back to restore it, so what's the fuss. Ecologists might say that this is complexity in place of simplicity, but the theory has not been substantiated. But can we take the risk? Isn't that complexity for its own sake?

The proper stewardship of the earth is a worthy goal, even if it only partially satisfies the aspirations of Man. Global problems remain—starvation, underdevelopment and cultural conflicts cannot be easily isolated as scientific fact.

Doomwatch as motivation for active participation is deserving of support—perhaps by the Student Guild, instead of supporting the IRA-constructive action on particular problems concerning particular human communities.

Doomwatch is a responsible challenge to us all.



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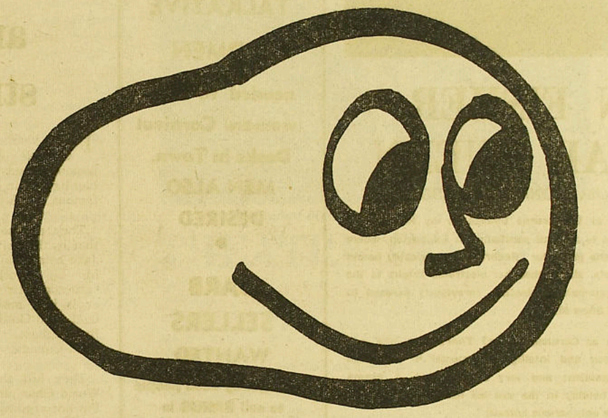
PULL OUT ***THROW AWAY***

CARNIVAL '72

COMPILED BY PHILIP WARE

but don't forget our aim is £15,000 for local charities

CARNIVAL WEEK—FEB. 26th to MARCH 4th



HI THERE ! Carnival time is here again, folks. This year we are aiming to raise £15,000 for those in the City needier than ourselves. We hope that this will not be an idle promise. A lot has already been achieved, but much still depends on the help we receive from you in the next ten days.

So far we have managed to establish good contacts with the colleges and schools in the City and have received invaluable help from both. The response to the Sponsored Walk from the latter has been particularly impressive – a truly cross-community/country venture. This leaves us with the campus itself – 7,000 of you lazy buggers. Support has been very good when it has come forward, but we feel that there are many more of you who could sacrifice a minute, an hour or even a day, maybe, to make Carnival a success. There are Barbs and Car Competition tickets to be sold; stunts to be enjoyed and sponsored ; dance, poetry, films, etc. to blow your mind ; and the Procession and the Walk. If each one of you sold (or bought) a Barb and a Car Competition ticket we would be doing very well, and there's no reason why you shouldn't sell ten of each : we have plenty of both !

Please come and help – we need you.

Anyone who wants to help with anything are asked to come to Carnival Office or the Union Information Stand.

CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CAR

SUSAN FISHER CARNIVAL QUEEN

Words and pictures: JONATHAN NASON

I PICKED up Susan Fisher at Westbourne College on my Raleigh All-Steel Bicycle, and we rode to a small penthouse in Edgbaston, where we took the photographs. As she posed for "Redbrick," inextricably bound up in knee-hugging suede boots, she flashed her electronic thighs to the delight of 77 sweating, penguin-suited scientists (previously exposed to Caroline's calves) at High Hall Snow Maul.

Why did they pick Susan as Carnival Queen? That's easy—she is a good looking girl with humour and intelligence unusual .in a woman Susan is 20, beautiful, independent and very strong-willed. A drama student, her need for a free holiday in the sun led her to the Carnival Queen Competition—"I was the only serious entrant."

As to her interests, she revealed in a Devonian accent, trousers, travel, Tom and Jerry, and a life-long ambition to be the heartthrob of only one. (Despite the fact that she received a Valentine Card from the 50 Carnival organisers). Her tastes in music cover the whole spectrum, without any preference for particular artistes.

After a glass of mulled wine, Susan left, taking with her the admiration of at least one, and we hope she enjoys her activities as Carnival Queen, without too many interruptions from bogus Carnival officials.

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

CARNIVAL starts for real with a Folk Concert featuring Steeleye Span and White on Black at Mason Hall. Make sure you buy your tickets early.

FRIDAY, FEB. 25

A day for stunts. From mid-day until midnight there will be a 12-bar blues marathon in Deb Hall exhibiting some of our best talent—see Eric Clapton jamming with Dave Kelly! In the evening the sponsored pub-crawl leaves the Union to hit the city's nightspots. Meanwhile spare a thought or a penny for those on a raft somewhere between Oxford and London.

LIVELY, VIVACIOUS, TALKATIVE WOMEN

needed to man (woman) Carnival Desks in Town.

MEN ALSO DESIRED

•

BARB SELLERS WANTED

We urgently need people to sell BARBS in Birmingham (or anywhere else).

If you can help, come to Carnival Office or Carnival Information Desk in Union Reception.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

Small Heath Park's turn to suffer us, with a raft race and side attractions in the afternoon. Saturday evening in the Union is time for the Grapple and Strip, with the Klondyke Bros., the Wild Man of Borneo and other wrestlers who will be having a tag match to round off an entertaining evening that also includes a blue comedian and a stripper who will take off her clothes, believe it or not, TWICE.

Tickets for all entertainments on sale at Carnival Information Desk and Events Office.

Grapple and strip

THIS year's gory Carnival Grapple features the infamous Klondyke Bros., recently highlighted in an even more infamous Sunday newspaper.

They are both heavyweights, that is, they are over 14st. 10lb., Jake being a mere 24st. and Bill, his big brother, 30st.; this "gruesome twosome" do battle, or is it a massacre? in a tag bout with Gordon Corbett, from Birmingham, and Billy Yukon, from Canada.

They bill themselves as the World Champion Rule Benders, I'm not arguing with that, maybe the referee will. This will be preceded by a "normal" wrestling bout between The Wild Man of Borneo—Half man-Half Animal—but all muscle, against Judo Al Hayes, who gained his Judo Black Belt at the age of 17.

Also to entertain you will be a rude, blue comedian and a Saucy Stripper!

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

After all this hectic a what better way to recove a leisurely 15-mile walk th the best countryside tha mingham has to offer, free concert, disco and afterwards? "Bullitt" w shown in the evening Union.

MONDAY, FEB. 28

An early morning fo Don't miss the start of the Dancing marathon at 8 a dinner time you will be gain your revenge on us stocks and pillory at the New Street in Victoria S Freak-out in the evening Dolce Vita Carnival Nig Sid Little and Eddie Lar

Now officia sponsored by Ministry of S Walks

WE have just heard th walker will now recei sponsorship of three Welsh for every mile walked, fo aforementioned ministry.

We think, and I am sure agree, that this unexpected of generosity is just the stimulus needed to put this walking back on its feet. Get him off!)

The benefit to our bal payments situation throu export of this particular could be immense. It i rumoured that Lord Pe Peach will start the walk w amazing variation of the M three-step shuffle includin course, the reverse ankle Peach, or Ponce to his frien not made a public appearance the Aldermaston march of 1 will be good to see him b action again.

After the walk there is pl entertainment for you. Ste Queen in "Bullitt", Steve Tom Gallon Head and will provide their own pa brands in music; there will folk music, and a disco to that the limbs don't start to up! This sketch is getting

P.S.: Don't forget to brin bowler hat with you.

TUESDAY, FEB. 29

A day alternating between culture in the form of Lightening Slim, the blues guitarist, at p.m. and free films ("Supershow," "Wavelength" and others) in the afternoon, all free; or far the more primitive there is the drink-a-pub dry in the evening.

Films

UNDERGROUND/PERSONAL/ EXPERIMENTAL/POETIC FILMS

FILM can work in a great many very different ways. Conventional feature films, even those of the avant-garde like Bunuel, are basically novelistic in concept. But other film-makers, engaged in trying to explore other avenues, are rarely seen.

The selection of films on Tuesday, 29th, hopes to change this, with films by Yoko Ono ("No. 4"), John Cole ("Police Car"), Haskell Wexter (The maker of "Medium Cool") and others.

Among the treats are "Onset" (4 minutes) which splits the screen in a variety of combinations; "Wavelength" (45 mins.), which won the Grand Prix at the Fourth International Experimental Film Festival, and has been described as "a perfect example of the cinema of stillness and poetic contemplation wearing its hypnotic charms so deviously that many who come to scoff remain to be transfixed."

"Invocation of My Demon Brother (Arrangement in Black and Gold)" (Kenneth Anger, 12 mins., 1969): . . . "a film that no number of viewings will ever exhaust, a film that will always remain a source of mysterious energy as only great works of art do" (Village voice).

Last film in the programme is "Supershow": Jack Bruce, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, Buddy Miles, Led Zeppelin, Roland Kirk, M.J.Q., Dallas Taylor, Steve Stills.

WED., MARCH 1

For us athletes there are the space-hopper races in Manzoni Gardens, the Bull Ring, at 12.30. The Carnival Dance takes place at the Mayfair Suite at 8 p.m., with Van der Graaf Generator, Medicine Head, a very entertaining band as those who were at Lake Hall will tell you, and Flash, including two former members of Yes, all for 60p. The Mayfair Suite has its own generator (not Van der G.), so don't worry about the power strike, we will cater for your every need.

Carnival Dance

CARNIVAL Dance this year is in the Mayfair Suite, in the Bullring, featuring Medicine Head and Van der Graaf Generator. Both have singles out at the moment ("Kum On" by Medecine Hat, and "Theme One" by Van der Graaf Generator), and have done incredible performances in Birmingham in the last six months. Those who remember the performance by Medicine Head, and "Theme term will be sure to make a point of seeing the band again: they've recently added Keith Relf (from Yardbirds and Renaissance) on piano, and the result is, apparently, even more stomping than before.

Van der Graaf Generator, still displaying the amazing vocal talents of Peter Hammil, with their own distinctive brand of rock music, will, I am sure, delight us all with their exciting performance.

The third band, Flash, formed by Pete Bank, the old Yes guitarist, promise to be of a very high standard. Reports of their gigs are always filled with startling superlatives, and their debut album ("Flash" — on Honest label) sounds very much in the Yes vein.

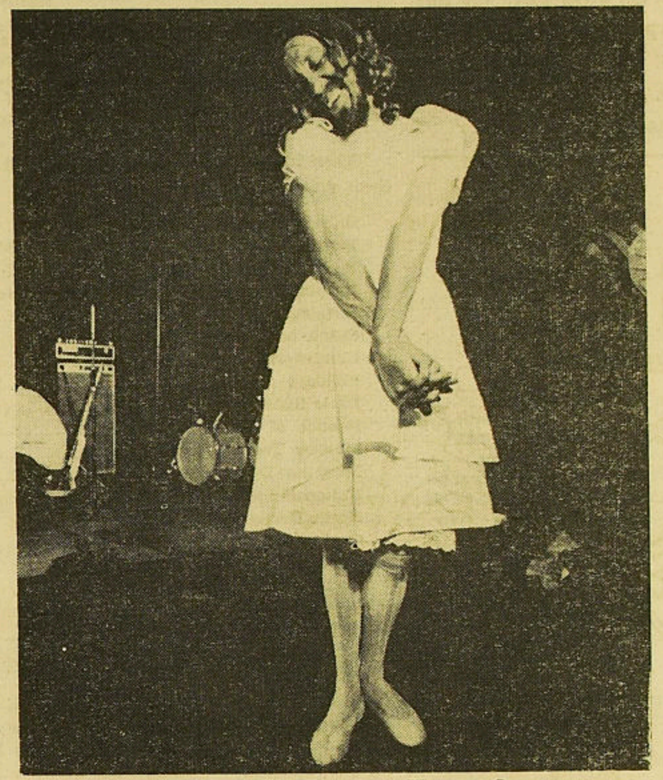
Altogether it costs 60p, and with disco by Erskine, a good lightshow, and a late bar, selling very good beer, let's hope this dance is a roaring success.

THURS., MACH 2

At noon there is a Birmingham to Aston Bus Race starting at our very own Muirhead Tower (the Arts / Commerce Tower in disguise). What more refreshing activity than riding on buses—at high speed! Yet another choice in the evening. Either relax to some Carnival Poetry with Adrian Mitchell, Jeff Nuttall and Mike Horowitz, or bop at the Pyjama Hop, again at the Mayfair Suite.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Carnival is now dragging, but never mind, only two days left. There will be a Theatre Festival with the Pip Simmons Theatre Group, the Belgrade Theatre Group, of Coventry, doing "Alice in Wonderland" and "The Knack," all free in the afternoon. The General Will Theatre Group will perform "National Interest" and the "Rupert (Oz) Show," and Ron Geesin will perform his bizarre one-man act during the evening, a little something to look forward to, all for 20p.



A member of Pip Simmons Theatre Group

THEATRE FESTIVAL

THIS year's Theatre Festival is attempting to break away from the pattern that has tended to dominate it over the last couple of years. Instead of being spread out over a week the theatre events all take place on Friday, March 3rd. The afternoon begins with free performances from the Pip Simmons Theatre Group and members of the Belgrade Theatre, from Coventry.

Pip Simmons have built up a strong reputation as a touring theatre group and will present their production entitled "Alice in Wonderland." Actors from the Belgrade Theatre have already performed in the Union at the end of last term. On that occasion they kept a lunchtime crowd happy with a collection of joke sketches. On Friday they present "The Knack"—some have it—some don't. This classic play by Ann Jellicoe, has also been filmed, and the Belgrade's treatment of it should be worth turning up for.

The General Will Theatre Group are putting on two productions during the evening: "The National Interest," by David Edgar, is a satirical blow at the Tory Government. Previously presented at the N.U.S. Drama Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the play has received fair praise from the critics. "The Rupert ('Oz') Show" is also being performed during the evening.

The whole of the evening's entertainment costs 20p—with the afternoon as well, there's a good day of theatre coming up.

SAT., MARCH 4

By now you will be really pissed-off with Carnival, but wear your happy, smiling face through the afternoon for the Procession, our public showpiece. So why not just get pissed at the Party in the Union at 8 p.m., to which you are all hereby cordially invited? There will be something for everybody, ranging from groups like "Axe," the "Memphis Band Rock 'n' Roll Band" through "Country Jug," the "Tropical Islanders," a steel band, to jazz bands; have a ball.

Carnival party

IF you fancy five hours or so shaking around then go to this year's Carnival Party. Traditionally, this truly fine event marks the end of our "Rag" and good support will mean a little bit more in the Carnival coffers. And it's all for charity, folks. Many, nay, thousands I know had a high old time last year and it was really good to see the Union alive and kicking for once.

Once again this year the people appearing aren't of the highest stature but they've been chosen so that if you're a bad/ good / average / hopeless dancer you can still leap around as much as you want.

There's the Memphis Band Rock 'n' Roll Band for all those who've still got their wedgies and bootlace ties gathering dust in the wardrobe. Paul Dodgson leads off the first dance, so look out, ladies.

Axe are 'eavy but they ain't 'umble. Pimply teenagers from Bristol way who sound pretty good if they're sober enough. (For lovers of best turnip rock).

Country Jug are a jug band, believe it or not, who tell lewd jokes and sing out of their noses like all good folk singers. Come and wiggle yer arses to the Tropical Islanders' Steel Band if you're that way inclined sweetie.

You see, there's lots of things going on at once—plus continuous disco. Tom and Jerry cartoons — and everyone has traumas about missing things BUT there's so much one need have no worries.

Come and see Carnival Committee's annual piss-up which has the traditional X certificate.

FILM FESTIVAL

on

TUESDAY, FEB. 29th : UNION

2.00 **"Newsreel," "Room," "Onset" "Fluxus Anthology"**

7.30 **"Invasion of My Demon Brutus," "Wavelength," "Totem," "Supershow," "They Done Her In."**

Evening showing : 20p
Afternoon showing free.

FOLK CONCERT

with

STEELEYE SPAN WHITE ON BLACK

on

THURSDAY FEB. 24

8.00 p.m.
Mason Hall : 40p

GRAPPLE & STRIP

with

WRESTLERS, A STRIPPER

and a

BLUE COMEDIAN 2 TAG MATCHES

on

SATURDAY FEB. 26

8.00 p.m.
Union : 50p

SPONSORED WALK & FREE CONCERT

Starting 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. from the UNION SUNDAY, FEB. 27th through Brum's green pleasant lands.

Free refreshments and entertainments for all walkers.

Prizes for the silliest, the bravest and the best sponsored.

CARNIVAL DANCE

with

VAN DER GRAFF GENERATOR

MEDICINE HEAD

FLASH

on

WEDNESDAY MARCH 1

8.00 p.m.
Mayfair Suite
60p

PYJAMA HOP

with

QUINTESSENCE

(subject to alteration)

at

ASTON UNION

THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd

8 p.m.

DRAMA FESTIVAL

on

FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd : UNION

1.00 **"Alice in Wonderland"** Pip Simmons T.G.

2.30 **"The Knack"** – Belgrade T.G.

7.30 **"National Interest"** General Will TG

9.00 **Ron Geesin**

10.30 **"Rupert Show"** – General Will T.G.

Evening performance 20p
Afternoon performances free.

CARNIVAL PARTY

Rock 'n' Roll Night

with

MEMPHIS BEND, AXE, JUG, JAZZ, STEEL BANDS

CARTOONS
LATE BAR : DISCO

on

SATURDAY MARCH 4

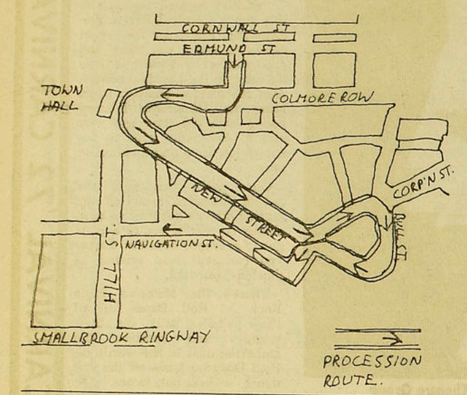
8.00 p.m.
Union : 30p

CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CARNIVAL '72 CAR

CARNIVAL PROCESSION

PROCESSION - SATURDAY, MARCH 4th

We have permission to use this for collecting money for 24 hours on the Procession Day, not just for the duration of the actual Procession, throughout the city. We are hoping that the lorries will disperse to various other centres such as Harborne, King's Heath, etc. afterwards and that we will be able to collect money in these places. On other days the tins are meant to be used for specific purposes, e.g. Barb sales, so we hope that you will make use of this chance to simply collect money in the street. The tins will be available for collection from Carnival Office on Friday, 3rd.



Where the money went last year

BELOW is a list of local charities that benefited from the money collected by last year's Carnival. Oakley School is one such example —they used the money allocated to them to take 30 children to Cloverley Hall in Shropshire, for a week's holiday. Many of them had not been out of Birmingham before, let alone been on holiday.

Lorraine McGeachey was one of the pupils who enjoyed herself very much. Here is an essay she wrote about the holiday:

"Cloverley Hall was the best estate I have ever been to and a lot of people thought the same. Cloverley Hall consisted of nice bedrooms, lovely bathrooms and a nice dining hall. The School also had a lounge where you could relax or play table games. There was a tennis court, a swimming pool and a wide range of ground to play games on. There was also a lake for canoeing and there was a wood nearby. There was a snooker room, a chapel and a table-tennis room and last but not least there was a TUCK SHOP. While we were there the washing had to be done so we formed teams and we each had a turn at washing-up. All of us that went last year would love to go again this year."

These are the charities we helped last year. Please help us to support them again and many more this year.

Balsall Heath Association	£500
Birmingham Society for Mentally Handicapped Children	£250
Birmingham and Midland Club for Deaf-Blind	£75
Birmingham Committee for Night Shelter	£400
Birmingham Family Service Unit	£250
Coach and Horses Charities Committee	£50
Handsworth Day Care Centre	£500
Holidays at Home	£300
Little Sisters of the Poor	£100
Friends of Monyhull Hospital	£100
Moseley Tenants Association	£50
Muscular Dystrophy Group	£100
National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children	£1,000
North Devon Holiday Trust for Deprived Children	£75
Oakley School	£100
Priority Area Playgroups	£150
St. Paul's Day Care Centre	£150
Senior Citizens' Movement	£25
Solihull Deaf Children's Club	£50
Sparkbrook Association	£100
Stanhope Hall Play Group	£50
Tyseley Day Nursery	£100
Guild of Students Vice-President's Fund	£200
St. Francis's Residential School, King's Norton	£50
Guild of Students Community Action	£250
Benson Street School Fund	£50

REDBRICK & CARNIVAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

RULES

(1) Photographs must be on the subject of Birmingham Universities' Carnival, taken between Thursday, February 24th, 1972 and Sunday, March 5th, 1972.

(2) Entries must be submitted in an envelope to the Editor of Redbrick, by 12 noon on Friday, March 10th, 1972, with a completed entry form (see below).

(3) Entries will be judged by the Editor of Redbrick, the Carnival Chairman, Redbrick staff photographer and an outside personality. Results will be published in the edition of Redbrick dated March 15th, 1972.

(4) Judges' decision to be final.

(5) No Redbrick or Carnival staff are permitted to enter.

(6) Redbrick reserves the right to publish any photograph submitted for the competition.

(7) Photographs must be black and white prints no larger than 8in. x 10in.

(8) Prizes: 1st £5, 2nd £3, 3rd £2.

ENTRY FORM

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

No. of photos .....

Entries addressed to:
The Editor, REDBRICK,
Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

Sponsorship forms for all stunts are available from Carnival Office—anytime!

CARNIVAL '72
RAFT RACES & other attractions

STARTING at 2·00 p.m. on SATURDAY 26th February, in

SMALL HEATH PARK

Organised by Birmingham University to help LOCAL CHARITIES.

(Small Heath Park is on Coventry Road, No. 58 & 60 Buses)

Come and Watch!

STOCKS AND PILLORY

Now is your chance to get your own back at all those long-haired students, particularly us. Throw something at a student from 12.30 to 1.30 in Victoria Square on Monday, Feb. 28th.

2p a go — money well invested.

SPACE HOPPER RACES

Races start at 12.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st. They will be held in **MANZONI GARDENS, St. Martin's Circus.**

Transport will be available from the Union — please be in the New Entrance Hall of the Union (Reception) by 11.30 a.m.

Unusual dress obligatory.

CLEAN-UP-KING'S HEATH HIGH STREET

We managed to obtain the comments of a dustbin (are there any ?) on this subject.

"These students are really something, man. I mean all this pollution and environment stuff is for REAL. Yeah, like they really intend to clean up this street and FILL ME UP. Know what I mean? FAR OUT. Hope you make the scene here on Friday afternoon, March 3rd. The BEEB will be recording the happening, as well.

BIRMINGHAM TO ASTON BUS RACE

From the top of the Muirhead Tower, to the top of the Commerce Tower at Aston University.

On Thursday, March 2nd, 11.45. Competitors should normally be in couples—Pooh and Piglet will be.

The fastest couple get free tickets to the Carnival Party.

CARNIVAL '72
40 Hours of Hora Dancing

STARTING at 8a.m. on MONDAY, 28th FEBRUARY

in **COLMORE CIRCUS.**

Finishes at MIDNIGHT on TUESDAY.

Come & Join in for a While?

Organised by Birmingham University to help LOCAL CHARITIES.

The Contraceptive Pill

AN INTERVIEW with DR. J. JORDAN, lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynæcology, University of Birmingham, and consultant to the Brook Advisory Centre, carried out by Jim Aukett and Anne Naylor.

J.A.: Could you begin please, Dr. Jordan, by telling us how the Pill works to prevent conception?

Dr. J.: The Pill is a combination of two hormones, oestrogen and progesterone, both of which occur naturally in the body. Oestrogen works by suppressing ovulation (release of the egg from the ovary) by stopping you from producing an egg each month. Progesterone works by making the cervical mucous hostile to sperm, sperm find it difficult to get into the uterus through this thick, tenacious mucus. Progesterone also works by making the endometrium (lining of the uterus) atrophic (less substantial than usual), so that if a sperm does reach the tube, and if there is an egg there to be fertilised, it would find great difficulty in implanting.

J.A.: Why were many brands of the Pill removed from the market in 1970?

Dr. J.: This was linked with the incidence of thrombosis (clotting of the blood) in patients who used the Pill. The Scowan Committee reported in December 1969 that pills which had more than 50 micrograms of oestrogen were more likely to cause fatal thrombosis than those which had less than 50 micrograms, and about half the pills in use at that time were withdrawn from the market because of this. They are still available, but you need a good reason, to tell the coroner, if you want to prescribe them.

J.A.: So the risk is now reduced?

Dr. J.: The incidence of thrombosis was very low to start with. I think that by keeping the dose of oestrogen down to a minimum, the risk is minimised.

J.A.: But there is still a risk?

Dr. J.: There is still a risk, but we must get things in perspective. True, risk of thrombosis in patients who use the Pill is, in the student age group 1.5pts. per 100,000pts. who use the Pill. One of the high risk people could be you, there is no way of telling which patient is at risk. However, we can compare this with something else. The risk of a person in the student age group being killed in a road accident is 4.5 per 100,000; in other words, any student on the campus is three times as likely to be killed in a road accident as they are to die from thrombosis if they use the Pill.

J.A.: Many women complain of increased weight when they start to take the Pill, Is this an accepted side-effect?

Dr. J.: The true weight gain from the Pill is in the order of three or four pounds. The Pill has been blamed a lot for patients putting on one or two stones. This may be because when progesterone is metabolised in the body, it produces a substance which can increase the appetite, and you often find that people on the Pill have an increased appetite. Another reason is that many women start using the Pill just after they've had a baby. They then have this baby to look after and tend to neglect their own diet, relying on pre-packed meals, and snacks, usually carbohydrate and fattening foodstuff. And they don't tend to bother with their weight. Also, a group of women who are putting on weight anyway, blame the Pill simply because they are taking it, and don't try to lose weight. In fact, they are blaming the Pill for something that is not the Pill's fault. All they have to do is diet.

J.A.: There are other side-effects to the Pill.

Dr. J.: The side-effects of using the Pill can be split into those caused by oestrogen, those caused by progesterone, and those caused by a combination of both. Each of these can aggravate a tendency twards blue, prominent veins, varicose veins. Oestrogen, by the retention of fluid, and progesterone because it relaxes the plain muscle of the vein wall, will cause the veins to become distended and prominent.

Nausea in the first few days of the first cycle and possibly of the second cycle also is reasonably common. Actual vomiting is rare, but nausea (feeling of sickness) is the most common side effect. This is due to oestrogen, and then only at the start of the therapy. Headaches and bleeding between periods can occur at any time, and are due to oestrogen. Progesterone can cause breast discomfort and, to a certain extent, depression. Reduced libido is an effect in a small number of patients. Some patients complain of reduction in libido without realising the Pill is responsible. There are many historical and hysterical stories concerning side effects of the Pill.

Many side effects are psychological, and in an experiment where a placebo was given as the contraceptive Pill, 17 per cent of the patients developed psychiatric symptoms, 14 per cent developed nausea, 11 per cent loss of libido, nine per cent headache, and seven per cent breakthrough bleeding. In fact, only one-third of those patients were completely symptom-free.

There are also beneficial side effects, such as a reduction in the menstrual flow, both in volume and in time, because the uterus lining is atrophic due to the action of progesterone. In some cases the lining is so atrophic, that no menstrual flow appears, and the period is missed completely.

A.N.: And does this matter?

Dr. J.: No, it doesn't matter at all. You would still be protected from pregnancy. The only time you need to worry about this is if you haven't been taking the Pill correctly, i.e. if you've been missing the Pill, or if you have some form of gastro-enteritis (stomach upset) and you've vomited the Pill back up, or you have diarrhoea and the Pill has passed straight through without being properly absorbed. So, in the absence of missing Pills, or physical disability, the fact of missing a period is of no consequence. Other beneficial side effects are the relief of dysmenorrhoea (painful menstruation) by the suppression of ovulation, and an improvement in skin conditions in patients who have a tendency towards acne. Patients who experience ovulation pain will find this disappears when the Pill is used, because ovulation is suppressed.

J.A.: It is now reasonably accepted that women on the Pill do not need to have a monthly menstrual loss. Why then do doctors still allow for the period to take place?

Dr. J.: This is purely psychological and there is no medical reason for this. If you take the Pill for 21 days, and then stop for seven days, during these seven days you will have a period. This will simulate the normal monthly menstruation, and the reason for this is that the woman will feel she is as normal as possible. But there are an increasing number of women who wish to take the Pill continuously, and there is no reason why they shouldn't do this. We have been using this for medical reasons for years. The patient finishes one packet of Pills and starts straight-away on another packet, and this way, you need only have a period three or four times a year.

A.N.: So this means you could have a period when you chose to.

Dr. J.: Yes, that's right.

J.A.: What are the long-term effects of the Pill on the fertility of the patient?

Dr. J.: I presume by this you mean infertility, and whether the patient is likely to be left infertile. We do know that when a patient stops using the Pill, the first normal period is delayed by a few days or up to two or three weeks, because the first ovulation is delayed. This may extend up to two or three months, and if left alone, will usually resolve itself spontaneously. If the patient has stopped taking the Pill in order to become pregnant, this can be a little worrying, as she is obviously not going to become pregnant if she is not ovulating. There are means whereby ovulation can be stimulated, by oral drugs, or by injection. To our knowledge, there is not one person in the Midlands who has been left infertile because they have been using the Pill.

J.A.: I have a quote here from the Family Planning Association that "a girl who takes the Pill continuously is taking a certain amount of risk, as the overdosage of hormones could have an adverse effect on the ovaries."

Dr. J.: Our experience is that this is just not true. I think this is probably the F.P.A. playing safe.

J.A.: To sum it up then, will a woman who has been taking the Pill continually for a number of years, and then decides to stop taking it, revert to a completely normal life?

Dr. J.: She should do.

J.A.: . . . and in the same question, is she more or less likely to become pregnant than a woman who has not been taking the Pill, if she now has regular intercourse?

Dr. J.: Anovulation (lack of ovulation) will occur if the woman has been taking the Pill for three months, for three years, or for five years, so length of therapy has no bearing on whether or not anovulation is likely to be factor.

A.N.: But at one time doctors recommended that after two years you came off the Pill.

Dr. J.: That's right. The Pill was first marketed in this country in 1960, and knowing that the Pill suppresses the ovaries, it seemed reasonable to suggest that every couple of years you should stop taking the Pill to let things get back to normal. We now feel there is nothing to be gained from this and all that happens is that people get pregnant when they don't want to. The benefits are really nil, unless the patient is worried, when it might be better psychologically for her to stop taking the Pill every so often.

J.A.: Wasn't it thought at one time that if a woman stopped taking the Pill she would be more likely to become pregnant?

Dr. J.: Yes, but this is really a myth. Once you stop using the Pill, you can't become more fertile than fertile, even though there used to be the belief that a woman who stopped taking the Pill became super fertile. However, in women who ovulate infrequently, and are sub-fertile, there is a possibility of a rebound ovulation, in which case pregnancy is more likely.

J.A.: Coming back to basics, can you give us a brief run-down on the efficiency and failure rates of the Pill as a contraceptive device?

Dr. J.: The failure rate for the combined hormone Pill is three pregnancies per 10,000 women on the Pill per year, i.e. a failure rate of 0.003 per cent per annum. Now of those three failures, two are patient failures; i.e. the patient has mis-used the Pill, and the other one is a true Pill failure.

A.N.: What happens if you miss a Pill, and that night you conceive, and then carry on taking the Pill for the rest of the month? Does this have any effect on the child?

Dr. J.: If, say, you forgot to take the Pill last night, and last night you had intercourse, sure the effects of the Pill will not have just disappeared overnight, ovulation will not have occurred, the tenacious mucous barrier will still exist, and the endometrium will still be atrophic, so it is unlikely that you will conceive just by taking one Pill late.

A.N.: . . . or even missing one completely?

Dr. J.: Yes, even missing one completely.

J.A.: Where can unmarried women obtain the Pill, or even married women for that matter?

Dr. J.: From the family doctor, or G.P., or from an organisation such as the Family Planning Association, or the Brook Advisory Centre.

A.N.: Or from the Health Centre?

Dr. J.: Or from the Health Centre. But these are the only places. It would need to be by a doctor's prescription.

J.A.: And what would it cost?

Dr. J.: Many G.P.s do not charge, the Health Centre do not charge for the prescription. Some G.P.s may charge, say, 50p for a three or six-month prescription. The annual fee at the Brook is £4, but this includes the initial examination and interview, and as many consultations as are thought necessary for the year.

The cost of the Pills varies around 30p to 40p per month.

J.A.: It has been suggested that the increased rate of venereal disease and the increased level of promiscuity is related to the widespread use of the Pill, and to the attitude of the women taking it.

Dr. J.: It has been suggested that the Pill has been responsible for the change in social attitudes towards extra-marital intercourse. It is also accepted that the Pill is an efficient method of contraception and is of great value to married couples in removing their fear of unwanted pregnancy, and as such, it is also said that people who are unmarried are more likely to have intercourse because they won't get pregnant. Personally, I don't believe this. Our work at the Brook Centre seems to deny this because 97 per cent of people who seek advice from the Brook are already sexually active by the time they seek advice, and if you refuse the Pill, they would carry on having intercourse. The Brook readily gives a contraceptive service, but it does not mean that just because such a service exists, people who otherwise would not have intercourse are having intercourse. So I don't believe the Brook or the P.P.A., or the Pill are really responsible for this increase in promiscuity.

J.A.: And V.D.?

Dr. J.: The patient who uses the Pill rather than the condom is more likely to get venereal disease, because the condom, if used correctly each time intercourse takes place, does give some form of protection. But again, our work at the Brook shows that the incidence of V.D. amongst patients who come for advice is lower than the national average, as is the rate of Brook patients contracting V.D. whilst using the Pill or the inter-uterine device (coil).

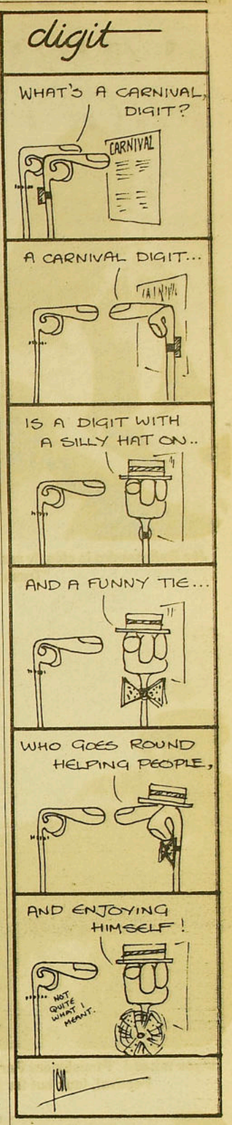
J.A.: Any further comments?

Dr. J.: Whenever assessing a drug, one has to weigh up the benefits against the risk . . . as far as the Pill is concerned, benefits include complete removal of fear of pregnancy as far as is practically possible . . . a factor which outweighs all the minimal possible risks to anyone using it . . . the question you must ask yourself time and time again is what happens if you don't use the Pill? . . . if we had only one form of Pill available, you would find that it would suit 95 per cent of the people who wanted it . . .

A.N.: Then why are there so many types available?

Dr. J.: Because different companies have to use slightly different types of progesterone . . . these can be used for specific reasons like heavy periods, or bad skin, but these are specialist uses . . . all patients using the Pill must have a pelvic examination when it is prescribed . . . so while the cervix is exposed, we might as well take the opportunity to do a cervical smear, to discover any pre-cancerous lesion, or any infection which must be cleared up.

J.A.: Thank you, Dr. Jordan.



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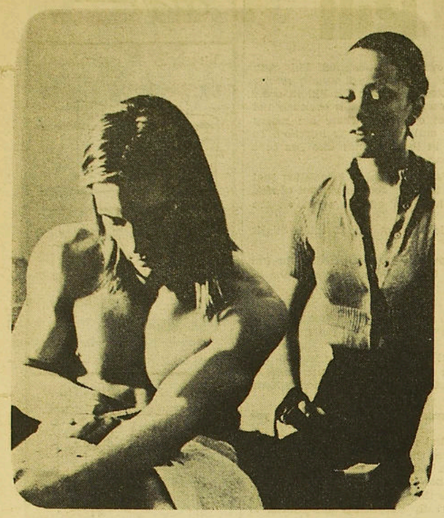
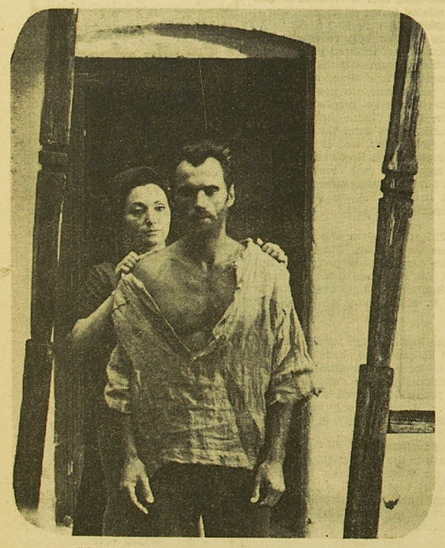


Joe Dallesandro is closely watched shooting heroin in "Trash."

If you missed "Punishment Park" at the Arts Lab Film Festival, look out for it next month.



"The Valley" — an occasionally moving film.

cinema

THE Arts Lab Film Festival finished last night after presenting nine days ful of new films. The response to the festival has proved it to be a feature of cinema in Birmingham that is well worthy of repeating and in many ways it has been very successful.

Perhaps the most successful film, of the festival, both in terms of the number of people attending,: and their reactions, was Peter Watkins' **"Punishment Park."** Watkins is renowned for his film "The War Game," which was made for the B.B.C. but refused a showing. He has now come up with a film that hits frighteningly hard because of its complete credibility. To emphasise this even more the film is shot as a documentary and the whole experience can become so real that people may, and actually do, leave with the impression that Punishment Parks physically exist.

Punishment Parks is an ordeal—a "chance" to fight the system, but only when there's no chance of winning. With some clever cutting the film jumps between a tribunal hearing at which dissidents, both pacifists and militants, are being "tried" on charges of undermining the American Government, and the defendants of the previous tribunal who have "voluntary" chosen four days in Punishment Park rather than 5-15 years in a state penitentiary. That "4 days" is opposed to so many years in detention is the first hint of what Punishment Park is like.

The aim is simple—to reach an American flag 50 odd miles from the starting point, but add the desert, no water, and pursuit by the armed and mobile police and army. . . .

The pursuit begins—the outcome becoming more and more inevitable as it proceeds, regardless of whether the pursued are militant or pacifist. The editing and soundtrack of guns, radio flashes on the war in Vietnam, together with the typical responses of tribunal members and police so build up the atmosphere that you feel you want to stand up and do something — shout, hit out — anything. Punishment Park is so lifelike that we've seen it on newsreels from Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington. But it doesn't end there—Punishment Park exists in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Belfast .. . .

If you missed this film last week don't miss it when it appears again at the Arts Lab next month.

Another of the major attractions at the festival was, obviously **"Trash."** "Trash" has received so much publicity by now that it's success will be guaranteed wherever it it shown. But this is not to detract from the film. As with "Flesh," Warhol and Morrissey have managed to tread the occasionally thin line between pure titilation and good cinema with true expertise —although the censor seems to have other views on this point.

The approach in "Trash" is in the true Warhol-Morrissey style — complete frankness. Again Joe D'Allesandro takes the leading role; this time as a heroin addict, with the resulting degeneration. Some of the character parts are exceptionally well acted—the Welfare man, the girl Joe "lives with," the others who get a kick out of watching Joe shoot heroin.

"Trash" is as sensitive and as frank as "Flesh" but technically far superior, with Warhol using the camera a lot more rather than just having it on hand as a pure image recorder.

"Bleak Moments" is a film struggling, like so many, against the problems of distribution. Directed by the young Mike Leigh, it is being shown in cinema clubs and film festivals in the hope of catching enough attention from critics to persuade the distributors to give it a general release. The reason, of course, is the doubts about its commercial prospects—will the Odeons or A.B.C.s do better with "Bleak Moments" or with "Up the Chastity Belt". The answer, sadly, may prove to go against "Bleak Moments", although, following the recent success of "Family Life", there is a chance.

"Bleak Moments" is a film on similar lines to "Family Life" in that it is an attempt to make a definite social comment on a certain situation at a surface level, but at the same time having much wider implications.

Hilda is mentally retarded. At 29 she has a mental age of about four. Sylvia, her younger sister, looks after her. Together with all the characters in the film Sylvia is trapped. Trapped in suburbia. Trapped in their surrounding situations. Trapped in the helpless pattern of events that rule life.

Peter, a school teacher, dithers in, but in most ways is even more trapped than Sylvia. Norman, renting a garage to help duplicate a magazine, offers some small ray of hope, but is so mixed-up himself that he could have himself been in the same situation.

And so the pattern continues and life goes on in its endless way, and Sylvia looks on, perhaps knowingly, but not strong enough to actually get down and do something.

The tragedy of "Bleak Momente" is that it has to fight for a general release, because only if it does get to the High Street cinemas will it stand a chance of making any impact on those who it is aimed at. Until that time it will be subject to the same problem as "Punishment Park"—preaching to the converted.

"The Valley" proved to be an occasionally moving film by the Hungarian director Tamas Renyi. It required careful scripting and some restrained directing, both of which have been achieved to produce a satisfyingly honest film.

Three deserters and a pacifist enter a village of women praying for their husbands at the front. At this point the film could easily have slipped into a cliched paradise, but, instead, worked gently through both love and hate, to its climax. Although the ending was practically inevitable, it was handled exceptionally well by the director to give it a simple but effective twist.

Jean Luc Goddard does not appeal to everyone. His use of cinema to put across Marxism results in films that are obviously not meant as entertainment. Goddard's films almost scorn entertainment, so that many people find them too heavy to sit through since they require constant participation by the audience.

"East Wind" is no exception and in fact was verging on becoming an endurance test when the power was cut and the image on the screen faded away with still 20 minutes to go. Reputedly a western, "East Wind" is an attaek on the commercial cinema and the capitalist forces prevalent there. The visual action is mostly irrelevant with only an occasional satirical depiction of the commercial western. The dialogue is an endless stream of revolutionary tactics stemming from the student uprising in France (1968).

For those intending to see "East Wind" in the revolutionary film festival at the Arts Lab next month be prepared to sit through a couple of hours of continual political bombardment—as for me, I don't think I'll get round to seeing those last 20 minutes.

In comparison with "East Wind", **"The Bookseller Who Gave Pp Bathing"** was more like relaxation. Made in Sweden, and directed by Jarle Kulle, it contained a number of sadly humorous touches. A village of old people, where a group of old men bathe nude and read to each other by the banks of the stream in the summer, is rocked by the arrival of Amelie, the village idiot's sister. At first all is well, with an air of civility, as Amelie and the timid gentleman bookseller wed. But with Amelie's past revealed, all is not well. The final touch of irony gives their long-finished relationship an added touch of tragedy.

These are just a few of the many new films brought to Birmingham by this ambitious Arts Lab Festival. Generally the two films by Goddard were disappointingly attended. Goddard appears to have discouraged a lot of people with his earlier films. Also not coming off very well were "Bombay Talkie" and "Make a Face".

The Festival organisers have realised that a few problems exist in running something of this scope. One of the difficulties lies in programming. The bad response to "Bombay Talkie" may well have been connected with the fact that both "Punishment Park" and "Trash" were also showing on the same day. Some of the films that were, perhaps surprisingly, well attended, included Rocha's "Terra em Transe", "Lion's Love" and "The Bookseller Who Gave Up Bathing".

At the moment there is every possibility of another festival next year, although the plans need only be made three months before the event. If next year's festival goes ahead it is hoped to attract more of the bigger companies—this year only Paramount of the big companies showed a film, "W.U.S.A.", and this was basically as a stand-in for "David and the Ice Age", which was withdrawn due to copyright problems.

PAUL TAYLOR.

THE corporate Jewish memory of the life in Eastern Europe has now dwindled to a fairy tale, yet the Yiddish extravagance of **Fiddler on the Roof** (Gaumont) has won the hearts of some 35,000,000 people in the theatres in more than 22 countries. The film just released is no different. It looks as if the play is a poor copy of this film.

It is based on the pen of a literary genius who wrote in Yiddish of the experiences and folk lore of European Jews—Solomon Rabinowitch.

Superb, heart-warming family entertainment plus music, filmed on location in Yugoslavia and at Pinewood Studios. Norman Jeuvison has produced and directed the film, which follows the phenomenally successful stage production.

Last year it became the longest running musical in American histroy. It is predicted, and I would imagine without exaggeration, that it will break the records set by "Gone With the Wind" and "Good Earth".

The story is set in Anatevka; it concerns a milkman, Tevye, (played by Topol), and his daughters. He has a loving but sharp-tongued wife, five lovely, but unmarried, daughters, a faithful, but lame, horse, a friendly, but poor, village.

He has no money but he is on speaking terms with God.

Though it is a musical, the songs are so beautifully synchronised with story and location that they are just like dialogues. Why can't we have more films like this, rather than producing films like "The Devils" and "Clockwork Orange".

The more praise you give this film, the more it deserves. This film is the best example of Czarist oppression of the Jews and I would certainly recommend this film for everyone in all walks of life.

S. K. JOSHI.

CATCH ME A SPY, Odeon New Street, or "Will Satierre" the football-playing schoolteacher, succeeds in catching a Russian spy for the British government to exchange for her husband, whom the Russians have paid for the privilege of being able to look after him until the British agreed to an exchange for a Russian spy . . ."

"Catch Me . . ." could have been quite a good film, its trouble is that it is an attempt to compromise between two well-established types of film—the sylised Avengers-type thriller, the Goodies v. the Russians, and the "carry-on" tradition of Baroque humour where nothing is quite as it seems.

—reviews—

Dick Clements, the director, hasn't created anything from the cliche screenplay, merely stirred the sticky porridge, and added a few disguised, nostalgic tributes to "49 Steps" and "Marien and Bad" which should delight all film buffs.

Kirk Douglas, Marlene Jobert, Trevor Howard, plus my own favourite, Angharag Rees, are in the cast. Quite amusing and pleasantly soporific.

ANDY GOLTZ.

theatre

IMMEDIATELY its Film Festival finishes, the Arts Lab launches into eight days of concentrated theatre activity. The first six performances are given by **Brighton Combination** who have played at the Lab before, although this is the first time since their move from Brighton to London, last year.

Birmingham based group **G.A.S.P.** perform three of their pieces on the Monday and Tuesday. This is the first time they have been seen publicly in their own locality, despite success elsewhere.

Pip Simmons Theatre Group provide the climax to the week with two performances of their now legendary Do It! Adapted from Jerry Rubin's book, this work is impossible to ignore for its theatrical importance. It was originally commissioned by the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, from an idea by Mike Rudman, and was first performed there in February last year.

Details of each of the three shows are set out in the Arts Lab Members' Programme.

As a special deal, the Arts Lab is offering a reduced price "season ticket" for people who want to see all three shows. (£1 for three seats against 40p for each seat separately.)

books

THE problem at the centre of teacher education is that an inadequate person is inevitably an inadequate teacher, and yet all of us are inadequate in some respect. For many students, trapped into teaching by failure to get into higher education any other way, there is inadequate motivation. Many are socially unprepared and inadequately equipped intellectually to understand or even sympathise with rough, violent, inarticulate children from less sedate backgrounds than their own.

Many are so used to their own success at school skills, that they never notice how, in their own classrooms, the average child's failure becomes institutionalised, rather than his achievements. All the time, too, there is an easy answer to one's own inadequacy. Simply sit back and do as the others do. The kids who won't listen to you are thick. Blame the parents. Society itself is inadequate. You are certainly no worse than some of your colleagues.

The training and education of teachers is concerned with the need to turn this individual inadequacy into something that can be used for the good of the kids. Exploiting your own inadequacy means many things. It means recognising it, and growing round it, for example, as David Fletcher reports a teacher called Margaret Roper did.

"Halfway through the year I sat down one night, put my head down and cried and cried. I swore I would never go back to school again. Of course I did go back and gradually achieved a relationship with the children in the class. After that I started to climb uphill, and develop as a teacher."

It also means deciding about training and education, whether they should be concurrent or consecutive, and the place of in-service training. In the classroom, the problems of control, discipline and basic subject work have to be solved. The rejects, maladjusted and E.S.N. are yet another aspect of the problem. These topics are usually the last to be mentioned in all the tedious talk about teacher education. Yet they matter more than any glib rhetoric about binary systems, and the "monotechnic" nature of colleges of education.

These are the questions discussed in **"Fit to Teach"** edited by Bruce Kemble (Hutchinson Educational, 65p). The fifteen authors of this book are all good education journalists, and most of them have been teachers. They set out from the start to infuse their work with the actuality of the classroom, the "smell of wet wellies on a Monday morning in November," and most of the time they succeed. All fifteen speak for that group of teachers who will never be satisfied with their own efforts, but who have judged their training fairly and found it wanting.

The reality of teaching as these people see it illuminates this book in a way that is rare amongst education texts. Only the complacent or the easily led should decide about the James Report without reading at least the last six essays in "Fit to Teach."

TONY LAKE

music

THE last time the **Strawbs** were in Birmingham, the performance was memorable for the keyboard work of Rick Wakeman. Wakeman has now gone his own way but Dave Cousins and the Strawbs go on unperturbed. The Strawbs' music has always been of a high quality—right from the first basically acoustic album to the more electric days of now. Last Tuesday at the Town Hall they played as well as ever to an audience that showed their appreciation from the outset.

The evening began with a mime act by someone whose name was only briefly muttered by Dave Cousins later in the evening. Perhaps, as might be expected, a couple of exhibitionists in the orchestra seats delighted in the quiet the act demanded, and took the opportunity to yell obscenities. The rest of the audience seemed only moved to polite applause but the anonymous actor returned later in the evening to a much better reception.

Jonathon Kelly filled in the rest of the time before the Strawbs—and filled it in very adequately. His vocals, surprisingly clear and refreshing, blend in well with the familiar sounding chord sequences of his guitar. Seemingly rather nervous in his introductions, he nevertheless drew a sincere response from the audience. On this performance, Jonathon Kelly may soon be joining the ranks of established folk singers.

And so finally to the Strawbs, who ran through some songs from their new album, and also well-received earlier numbers. Towards the end they moved on to a couple of heavier numbers and finished with "Sheep" as an encore.

GRAHAM MOORE

EITHER a lot of really hard graft has gone into recording **What A Bloody Long Day It's Been**, or there's a couple of genii working amidst **Ashton, Gardner, Dyke and Co.** There seems to have been a definite attempt to produce a completely balanced sound throughout the album—a sound which many bands try for, but which few succeed in achieving. The overall effect is that the music is a complex blending of instruments and vocals, rather than one overpowering the other.

By and large the result is a collection of impressive and occasionally excellent numbers. The only place where the album comes over a bit flat is on "Falling For You". With a long instrumental ending to this track there is a need for one of the instruments to break away and come to the fore, rather than sticking rigidly to a total sound. Because this does not happen, the excitement lags a bit towards the and despite the nice vocals.

However the other numbers on the album fit in perfectly with the formula used. Side one has a more gutsy feeling about it, particularly on "It's A Drag. I'm A Drag". As with most of the tracks, the opening to this number is superb, gradually building up to Tony Ashton's vocals.

Side two is gentler. The vocals are toned down, although there is still a rough edge to them. "I'm Going To A Place" turns out to be one of the best numbers on the album, with the blending of instruments and vocals working perfectly. Similarly with the title track, although this is slightly spoilt by the obvious imitation of Dylan.

"What A Bloody Long Day It's Been" could prove to be a highly successful album for Ashton, Gardner, Dyke and Co., especially if it's followed with a good tour.

PAUL TAYLOR.

ON Saturday in Great Hall, the **Incredible String Band** treated us to an evening of good music, bawdy mime and an unbelievable fairy tale.

Mike Heron, Robin Williamson, Licorice plus roadie Malcolm who played bass and the new road manageress joined in the last number. Robin Williamson sang a couple of moody solos, Mike Heron a couple of sweet ones and the whole band entertained.

The Incredibles have been in a rut for the last two or three years, but the change in line-up and Mike Heron's new hairstyle seems to have brought them out of it.

The band enjoyed themselves and so did the audience.

Thanks to Ents. Comm. from 800 satisfied customers.

JOHN REDFERN

gallery

JOHN HUTTON is well known for his work at Coventry Cathedral. From February 15th **Compendium Galleries** are exhibiting a small portion of his work. The exhibition deals mainly with his glass engravings and the original designs for the engravings of the windows at Coventry Cathedral.

John Hutton has devised a new method by which he is able to engrave with a freer hand, therefore the actual engraving resembles the original design in much greater detail than with any other method.

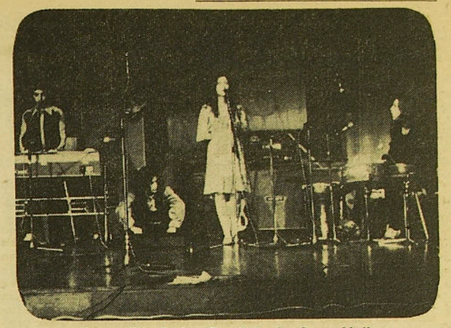
His main theme of engraving on glass is of girls in flimsy robes. He works on the glass of mirrors and bowls to give an effect that is very beautiful; making an ordinary bowl or glass into something very delicate and special.

As for the designs of the Cathedral windows, these are done in chalk on thick blackboard paper. The most striking of these I found to be "Flying Angel". This is an extremely large drawing made in two sections. John Hutton's image of an angel is rather unique, no cupid faces but still very delicate figures.

The central gallery is given over to the works of two painters, Richard Thornton and Jack Metson. Unfortunately I couldn't see anything exceptional in the work of either artist and many of the paintings brought to mind "colour by numbers".

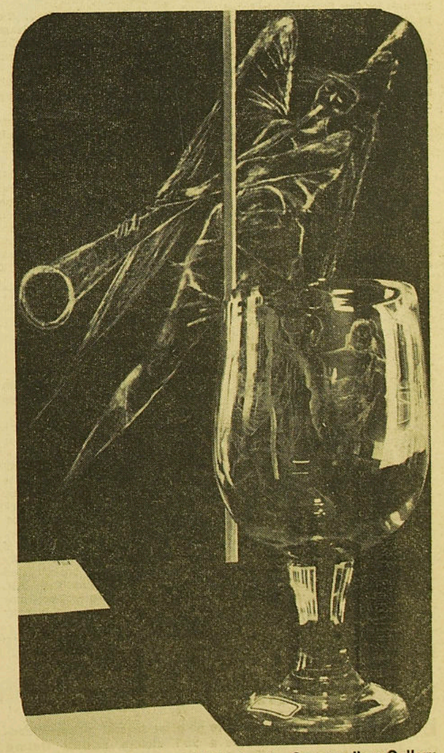
J. R. Spiers is exhibiting several pieces of sculpture in the 3D gallery. Perhaps the candle-light (there was a power cut at the time) didn't do justice to his work but again I couldn't find anything to move me to ecstasies.

GINETTE.



Incredible String Band, in the Great Hall.

An excellent new album from Ashton, Gardner, Dyke and Co.



Work by John Hutton, exhibited at the Compendium Gallery.

sport 1

RIFLE

RON AND GILL SAVE DAY

OUR home match with Leicester was notable only for the horrible cock-ups made by all the first six Brum "marksmen" and an astounding 98 from one of the better Leicester marksmen.

Ron Carter and Pete Adlington were shooting in company with two unknown Leicester shots (ONE of which was female, a rarity), and got lucky. The young lady shot a good 95, but was let down by her team-mate, who managed an 89 in his first match. The Brum pair under pressure managed 94 and 95 respectively to give Brum a win by the magnificent margin of three. Anyway, the fact that they could watch "Dr. Who" in the Union did something to quieten Leicester murmurs of "Robbery."

A couple of weeks later, we staged a triangular match with Reading and Cardiff as the opposition. Again this match was mainly notable for a superb cock-up, this time an administrative error, perpetrated by the bungling team captain, who insisted on refusing the services of three regular team shots in favour of a previously engaged(?) Ron.

As a result, in order to make up a full team, John Gill, captain of the university Squash Club and very much an amateur, was drafter in to shoot shortly before playing in a squash match. He managed 59 without knowing how to sight his rifle in, which is not the lowest team score ever.

As it happened, the rest of the team shot extremely well, with even Saynor managing something better than his customary 90 (and as a result Brum finished only 11 points behind Reading and 14 points behind Cardiff over eight cards.

With only the best seven cards counting, Brum slaughtered the opposition with an astonishing 94-plus average. Mind you, it seems that at least two Brum marksmen had taken advantage of the Union Bar pumps, which could account for the unusual flush of form....

Scores: Birmingham 742, Leicester 739; Birmingham 723, Reading 734, Cardiff 737.

TABLE TENNIS

Mostyn's boobs

THE Ping Pong Power squad last Saturday week placed Swansea, at home, in the quarter-finals of the U.A.U. What promised to be a good match turned out, from the start, to be a very one-sided affair. Ata Selouk, the P.P.P.'s No. 3, playing exceptionally well, completely demoralised the opposition's No. 1.

A little later, when seven-nothing up, Brian "Knees of the Weak" Mitchell had no trouble beating Swansea's no. 2 to clinch the match. However, with such ease had Swansea's challenge been swept aside that, towards the end of the match, certain of the P.P.P.'s began to lose concentration.

Steve O'Neil who, it is rumoured, has been at the University longer than "Joe," began in his own inimitable style against his Chinese opponent but his years soon began to tell on his performance. Usually such an expert at brinkmanship that he has the team excreting building material before he finally wins through, on this occasion he lost!

In his defence it must be said that he has still not recovered from the attack made on his integrity at the A.G.M. After he, as Treasurer, had read out his report for the 1970-71 season everyone present expressed their satisfaction with it except the then Women's Captain, Alison Barker. Well-knewn for her jurisprudence, she proceeded to closely question Mr. O'Neil with regard to what she described as "the fantastic amount spent on balls."

She demanded to know, in detail, the number, quality and supplier of the club's balls and ignored her learned colleague, Mr. O'Neil, when he offered to demonstrate the difference in bounce and velocity between a normal three-star and the special ones that he always plays with. However, Miss Barker (a forerunner of Slumnickers), was not to be so easily molified. At the show of hands, Mr. O'Neil's report was accepted by all except Miss Barker, who said that she was not sufficiently satisfied with it and wished her query on balls to stand.

P.P.P.'s Captain, Mostyn "The Mouth" Lewis, was vociferous in his abuse of Steve O'Neil's performance, even threatening to give him a dressing-gown in public. His groans were in no way assuaged when "Titus" Mitchell won the following game fairly comfortably after a few uneasy moments. However, it was then his turn to take the floor and as he nonchalantly strode towards the table we knew that we were in for an exhibition of fine table tennis. We were right, but it did not come from Mostyn!

His Japanese opponent, unsettling our hero by only being able to see three inches over the top of the table, inscrutably (as well he might with £5 belonging to Steve in his pocket), set about subduing the team's answer to Shirley Bassey. And thus it was that after numerous unforced errors and in a frenetic torrent of, "Stupid's" and "Bloody Stupid's," our former captain went out 22-20 in the third game.

It was left to a prostrate Steve O'Neil, his tear ducts dry, to offer the only explanation, namely, that Mostyn must have experienced another of his visions of the Virgin Mary (whom he hasn't met subsequent to their parting in Temple Row, after an Aston rave, although he's seen her a great many times since then).

The match ended with the P.P.P. squad having eased through to the semi-finals by 13-2. Brian Mitchell also played.

GOLF

BRING BACK BILL

WEDNESDAY was the match against Leicester University and yours truly was kept in detention (or something) and couldn't make it, and Bill Harrison for some reason was unavoidably detained; there seems to be more bad news than good. The report from Bob:

Last Wednesday proved a disastrous day for the University team, with the disappearance of a two-year unbeaten record against university opposition. Playing in the quagmire of Leicestershire G.C., Birmingham lost to Leicester 4—5. Excuses for this fiasco may be listed as follows:—

(a) Captain Bill Harrison decided the time was ripe for some project work and so stayed in Birmingham. Really, Bill! On a high risk day, too! (Late news: His apparatus didn't work anyway).

(b) Feeling complacent after a 3—0 win in the morning foursomes, the team consumed too much alcohol at lunchtime.

(c) Bob Ashton. Quote: "I can't be acting captain for the first time and be expected to win."

Credit to George Mitchell, the only Birmingham player to salvage a point in the afternoon singles. Don't worry lads. We'll bury them next time!

Ladbroke Park on Sunday and revenge sought for the battering they gave us last term.

Bob Ashton and Captain Bill (our top pair) continued their good form with a hammering of Ladbrooks' first pair.

My comment last week about Bill and Tim being a new dynamic duo is now proving to be true. A fine victory here could have established them as a permanent partnership.

Paul Stanley and Rich's opponents had a firm time, avoiding flying clubs and shanks. Paul ("I played the first hole like Tony Jacklin, the other 17 like Paul Stanley") and Richard (without Weetabix for breakfast the three-foot putts are a long way") on the last three holes scored: "tree, three, tree!"

John Wood and John Hase had a tough time against a consistent last paid and with their loss, resulted in a 2—2 draw.

Perish all ye who try to pass.

Kathy Bastram (left) who has not written a report about herself this week.

CYCLING

REVIVAL

THE B.U.C.C. has risen again from the ashes. Membership is free (subject to the all-embracing A.U. 50p subscription), and all are welcome, from riders-about-town to would-be Olympic gold medallists.

When in full swing, the club will cater for all tastes, from touring to road racing and time trialling. There is also an excellent track just a few miles away, at Haleswen.

If you are interested (even if your bike is at present rotting away back home) please contact Jon Clarke via the Cycling Club P.H. in the Sports Centre; or come along to the Club Social on Monday evenings in the Manor Bar.

NETBALL

No. 56 to victory

ON Saturday, February 12th the intrepid 1st netball team (unable to get the mini-bus again!) fought its way through the thronging masses to the Bull Ring's Saturday afternoon shoppers to get the No. 56 bus to play their league match against Metro.

As their umpire did not turn up we were left to umpire ourselves and finally won the game 22-14. The 2nd team played in a somewhat inferior match to win 22-9 against Coventry. The 3rd team (i.e. the 1st team all playing out of position) lost to Coventry 2nd 10-13.

On Saturday, February 19th the 1st team played B.A.I. 2nd in their second to last league match of the season and won 34-21.

Both 1st and 2nd teams will be going to I. M. Marsh Colliery, Liverpool to compete in the W.I.V.A.B. netball final.

LADIES' LACROSSE

RARIN' TO GO

LADIES' LACROSSE — raring to go after several weeks of cancellations, soared away to a 22-1 victory against Oxford University last Saturday. The team played brilliantly (as usual) and it was an afternoon well spent. (Was it ?—Ed.).

CROSS-COUNTRY

EDWARDS LEADS IN SECONDS, SAYS RANDY SOUTHAM, IN THE MUD AT WEST BROM.

RUNNING his best race of the season, small, gnome-like Tony Edwards led the cross country second team in last Saturday's Birmingham League. With the entire first team at Hyde Park, the seconds took on the might of the Midland Cross Country teams, and roared in fourth team.

Five runners finished in the first 33, being Edwards, Bailey, Thomson, Morley and some miserable type who did not invite me to his party.

Surprise sixth scorer was a welcome new addition to the club, Bob Kinsley, of Lake. Overall in the 1971-72 League Brum came third to the powerful Stoke and Tipton clubs.

ORIENTEERING

YES! the Orienteering Club have done it again, rising at an unearthly hour last Sunday morning to attend a small event organised by Wolton Chasers (at the German Cemetery on Cannock Chase). There was keen competition between the club members and their local rivals. Ted Finds had the honour of being the first senior man to return from the Forest, having overtaken all competitors that had started before him. However, his pleasure was short-lived when that "Striking Viking," Arild, finished in a time six minutes faster. (Ted was eventually forced back into fourth place).

Val and Wendy, arch rivals of the New Gym on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, also competed on the Senior Men's course; with B.U.S.F. approaching they are training on the "overload principle." Val was pleased with the result, as she said afterwards: "At least I finished." Wendy, who did not fare so well, excused herself afterwards by saying that as she had borrowed a pair of shoes, she avoided every damp and muddy patch.

Next Sunday, the last before B.U.S.F., the club is travelling to Yorkshire to compete in a National Standard event for the Beehive Trophy.

ATHLETICS

JIM ON THE BOARDS, BY RANDY SOUTHAM, AT COSFORD.

BEFORE the race, Jim Aukett told me he had suffered all week from a stomach ailment, but still, wisely or not, he ran. Four-hundred metres running on the boards at Cosford is not the easiest proposition at the best of times, but during an Athletics International against Spain it can be positively dangerous.

Aukett had a good, fast start, but suddenly went backwards through the field to an unaccustomed last lace. Many people hinted at a stray elbow in his ribs. Not given to losing easily, Jim came back over the last half of the race to split the leading Spaniards.

Accepting the problems of indoor running philosophically, Aukett did not comment on the race except to say he was glad to have beaten his country-man.

RESULT SHEET

BASKETBALL (7/2/72): v. Alsager. H. West Mid. 88—36.
BADMINTON (7/2/72): v. Stetchford. A. B'ham League. 8—1. Lost.
SQUASH (9/2/72): v. Edgbaston—Priory 3rd. A. Midland League. 3—2. Won.
HYBRIDS HOCKEY (9/2/72): v. Lanchester C.A.T. H. 0—0.
HYBRIDS HOCKEY (12/2/72): v. Stourport. A. 0—1. Lost.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY (9/2/72): v. Oxford. H. 1st XI, 1—2. Lost.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY (9/2/72): v. Oxford. H. 2nd XI, 7—1. Won.
NETBALL 1st (12/2/72): v. Metro. A. B'ham League. 22—14. Won.
NETBALL 2nd (12/2/72): v. Coventry 1st. H. 22—9. Won.
NETBALL 3rd (12/2/72): v. Coventry 2nd. H. 10—13. Lost.
SAILING (12/2/72): v. Imperial College. H. Won two races to nil.
BASKETBALL (8/2/72): v. Exhall Eagles. A. West Mid. 59—82. Lost.
BASKETBALL (12/2/72): v. Cardiff. A. U.A.U. Finals. 80—47. Won.
BASKETBALL (12/2/72): v. Exeter A. U.A.U. Finals. 60—52. Lost.
BASKETBALL (13/2/72): v. Aston. U.A.U. Semi-Final. 64—63. Won.
BASKETBALL (13/2/72): v. Exeter. A. U.A.U. Final. 56—79. Lost.

sport 2

ROAD RUNNING

GILMORE PREDICTION OFF THE MARK!

by Randy Southam, in the Serpentine, London

AS ever, the enigmatic Gilmore set the scene for the annual Hyde Park Relay last Saturday. His calculations predicted that the cross-country super stars would lap every team in the most important relay race of the season. As the race is six times three miles round the Serpentine it seemed a trifle optimistic, and so it was. But the victory was emphatic enough.

On the first leg Golden Wonder Holden made his debut a mere four weeks after his much-publicised operation. He started easily but worked his way up to the front by half-way. A sustained piece of speed running brought him home 15 seconds clear and the race was as good as over.

Next came the mighty Gilmore, his flowing locks restrained by a ribbon. Women swooned as he roared past and the gap widened. Mini-Golden Wonder Brown eased into the third leg, his only aim to beat Gilmore's time.

MERCILESS

Mercilessly his legs ate up the ground and the ducks scattered in his wake. To Smedley the onus passed. Not for nothing is he called "Aggro," and mindful of not being picked for the Indoor International at Cosford that day, off he ploughed. In seven-league boots it looked more as if he were catching up on all the teams as if to lap them.

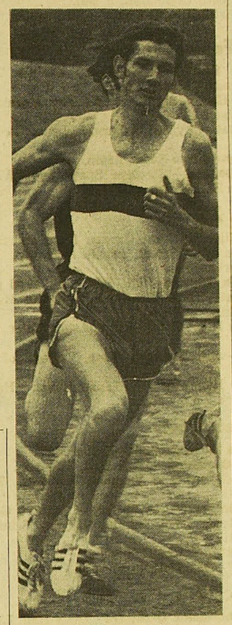
Many teams fell by the wayside, three miles in arrears before 12 had been completed. The first four runners had all beaten 14 minutes for the course. The statisticians were working out the amount the record would be beaten by.

O'Meara, mindful of his task in life, the great orator recited Kubla Khan to the crowds as he roared round, to the detriment of his performance.

CONFUSION!

On the last leg our exiled Mancurian, Pete Shaw, became confused. Never having run in such a successful team before, the concept of lapping opponents was entirely new to him. Finding himself with the bottom 20 teams he felt it was not really worth bothering. It was only when everyone clapped at the end that he realised something was amiss.

So our own record was smashed by 30 seconds, 100 teams, including 10 from the Continent, were left lying in the wake. It's a little sad that such a great team should have to go so close to the end of the season before they were all fit enough to run together. But at least the others had had their chance.



Pete Miller could upset ABC.

LACROSSE

Balls o' fire

West Midlands (13), Urmston C. (2)

SATURDAY morning found Birmingham setting off in fine spirits for Manchester with only nine players for a twelve a side match with the prospect of two more making their own way there.

On our arrival at Manchester we were able to press-gang a spectator (actually one of our player's brothers) into playing for us.

This is how Saturday's saga began and before long the scrufiest, most evil smelling lacrosse team ever to meander on to a playing field appeared and were later that day to leave smothered in mud and gory—I mean glory.

The match began well with our centreman consistently getting the ball and passing it into attack. The forward-line worked as well as it ever has before despite the rain and mud and with excellent work from Tom behind goal we stretched away to 10-1 lead by half-time.

During the second half, though it did not appear that we slackened the pace, we achieved only three more goals. The opposition became a little frayed during this time, no doubt due to the score, and some wild swinging of sticks was seen which caused one of our players to go to hospital with a split lip. One of our illustrious defence members, who shall remain nameless, creased a member of the opposition with his stick—an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth was the best description.

The attack and defence co-ordinated well and kept the ball moving well, allowing some stupendous goal shots.

A more serious note should now be struck, for we mourn the passing of Steve Tither, our goalie, who froze to death standing in front of goals—such was our defence.

JUDO

KEITH IS STRANGLED!

AT the unearthly hour of 4 a.m., on Sunday, February 13th, the Judo team set out from north car park in quest of the Inter-Universities Judo Championships which this year were held at Crystal Palace.

Because of the number of teams entered, an 8.30 start had been agreed on. So at 10.30 our team opened the championships with a fine win over the team from Swansea, who on average were two grades higher.

The opening contest was fought by Keith Wilson, a newcomer to the team. Keith fought well against a much stronger opponent and was unfortunate to lose due to strangulation. The next man on the mat was Keith Dingley who threw his opponent with an osot-gari, which he followed up with a kesa-gatame hold-down to gain victory.

Kaz Fuks, who seems to be a permanent fixture in the Judo team, fought a brilliant contest against a higher graded opponent and so gained a well-justified decision victory.

Reg Giles fought well in his contest but also succumbed to strangulation (the Brum team will have to learn to keep their necks to themselves).

The score was now two all, so with trepidation Jim Hay, the last man, walked on to the mat. His opponent must have been feeling that victory was in sight, but in five seconds, with a perfect Tsuri-komi-ashi, Jim squashed that dream flat. Birmingham were through to the next round with a very good 3-2 victory.

As the day progressed, the opposition were assessed. The strongest teams coming from Glasgow, London and Manchester, where three or four black-belts was the normal and not the exceptional.

Birmingham, fighting well, moved to the quarter finals. Here, despite a spirited performance, our team lost to the much stronger Glasgow side.

Congratulations must go to both London and Manchester for a fine final in which Manchester were victorious and so broke the Londoners' three-year stranglehold on the Yukio Tani Trophy.

Comparison of other teams at the championships show that Brum are still a side to be reckoned with and as four of the team will be with us next year, prospects look good.

The team:—
Kaz Fuks (2nd Kyu)
Keith Dingley (3rd Kyu)
Jim Hay (3rd Kyu)
Reg Giles (3rd Kyu)
Keith Wilson (4th Kyu)
Reserve:—
Denis Grey (4th Kyu)

K. DINGLEY
(Capt.)

RUGBY

Watkins awake!

BIRMINGHAM changed ends six points down, but with the wind behind them soon lessened the deficit with a John Scott try. Kenilworth then increased their lead with a soft try. With points from Butler, one penalty and the conversion of a Bruce Ward try, Brum took the lead. However, the game was thrown away when a last-minute try was scored by Kenilworth.

Last Wednesday Birmingham faced a nippy Cambridge side, without Bruce Ward and smoothy Charlie Howard. Despite missing two kickable penalties, first blood went to Cambridge with a try from a peel from the back of the line-out. (Birmingham at this time were having a lot of their ball spoiled by concerted shoving from the Cambridge eight). Birmingham immediately struck back with a well-moved try by John Scott. Butler failed with the conversion. (But, it was from the touch-line).

Just before half-time Cambridge scored again with a try by their wing-forward, from a five-yard scrum situation. A more determined effort in the second half by the Blues led to some good moves. Steve Bastable and John Dixon completely dominated the line-outs; Naylor, as always, produced some brilliant serving to Butler (who is still learning to catch a ball), and Ashby took two against the head under pressure.

An obstruction infringement gave our stand-off a chance to score from a penalty—the success of this kick brought Brum to one point in arrears. This was the signal for some determined play from the boys, spoiling the opposition's possessions and playing well in defence. Dave Watkins (who had not fallen asleep at full-back as is his custom in a well known Selly Oak Indo-Pak eating and sleeping house), caught everything in sight, making some good marks under pressure and gaining up to 50 yards with his touch-kicking.

All this storming play by the Blues finally paid off when in the closing minutes Cooper scored a drop goal.

Final score: 10—8 to Brum.

Sportscene

I WAS rather disappointed with Gerald Lobley's assertion at the A.U. dinner dance that I have been spoiling his Wednesday lunchtimes and afternoons for the last two years. In future I will just have to try harder—and see if I can stretch the misery to Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

The sportscene biscuit of the term has been awarded to flaxen-haired, absent-minded "Miles" Gilmour, hard-working secretary of the Cross-Country Club. After months of trying he finally produced a ploy stunning enough in its simplicity and stupidity to deserve this award. In entering the team for the Hyde Park relay, Gilmour forgot his own name.

The offer of the month came from Miss Jane Reynolds (B.U.S.F. long-jump champion 1971 and almost West Watford Dairy Queen 1969—two entries) to Mr. Christopher "Chopper" Harley (a man of unrestricted growth). "Why don't you come back to our flat for a nice mug of malted milk."

Dave "Biryani" Watkins, wide-awake full-back of the Rugby Club, developed engine trouble last Saturday. He crash landed at the Air Squadron and damaged his undercarriage. However in a message to all his fans he said: "I'm all right." Apparently he had got rather fed up with the view above and decided to take a look around floor level.

by Andy Holden

I was thinking of devoting my column this week to the sayings of Jane "Most people have teddy bears, I have foxes" Reynolds and Moira Nicol (star of stage, screen and the "Birmingham Post and Mail"). However my file got so thick that I have decided to hold fire pending an offer from Penguin Publications Ltd.

The return of Dave Starling the other weekend provided a stimulus for that famous son of Lake Hall Peter "teetotal" Ramsay to move that C.T. isn't the only artistic dancer this University has produced. The Ram decided that the bar of the Fighting Cocks was as good a place as any to display his credentials. Unfortunately the management thought otherwise and Peter and his merry men were duly evicted by two genial members of the local constabulary.

Jumping Jim Aukettle (the power behind the president) is disturbed by the fact that only 6,998 of the University's 7,000 students recognise him. He therefore wishes to be known in future as JAMES WILLIAM AUKETT.

Ray "I've scored again" Barlow still patrols the Air Squadron on Saturday evenings. Visitors there are welcomed by his happy smiling countenance. However the look has changed from one of optimism to resignation. As he explained—he likes the beer. After all it is Double Diamond.

"Miles" Gilmour added excitement to an otherwise dull Saturday morning by asking "Those tickets were snigle ones, weren't they?" Poet and wit Roger Brown retorted smartly "One of these days you'll learn to read. Just think what you'll be able to do then." The next ten minutes were spent watching Gilmour crawl round the forecourt of Euston—examining every nook and cranny for the discarded piece of card. He eventually found it in the pocket of his Parka (otherwise known as tent a tent) and the 3,000 spectators continued on their way.

I would like to congratulate John (Ratfink) Wilson, scrum-half of the all-star Medics Rugby Team for his resolution in face of bitter opposition. Ratfink hasn't washed his shorts since Christmas. This has the effect of disuading opposition from taking him but has recently begun to offend his own stand-off. When it was suggested that he rinsed his shorts in the bath he is reported to have said: "What! Put my kit in that dirty water?"

LAKE RACES

Engineers threaten

BY D. DUCKS IN THE LAKE, EDGBASTON

ONCE again Mitchell and Butlers are sponsoring the races this year. An even larger array of liquid prizes than last year awaits the winners.

This year's set of rules have just been published and the most important change comes in the Hall race. There is an extra way of qualifying. A team of four may also be composed of the bona fide occupants of two dwellings. The first team to take advantage of this are the "Poets," consisting of O'Mania, Therlis, Gilmore and M. G. W. Broom.

Interest mounts in the open race. The Engineers hope to have an all-star team of Robertson (G.B. 400m.), Cairnes (G.B. 400m.), Miller and Howe. When Aukett of A.B.C. heard of this he wilted visibly.

Already runners have been out in the mornings training round the Lake.

March 10th draws near. Details and entries, Mike Hayes, Lake Hall.

THIS WEEK'S CHIEF SUB EDITOR WAS C. J. K. "CHOPPER" HARLEY, SEVEN-EIGHTHS BDS AND BODY BEAUTIFUL.

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around

DAY BY DAY

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd

"Dr. Faustus" & "Lord of the Flies"—Futurist, on day only.
Organ Recital—Town Hall, 1.15 p.m. Free.
Two performances, at 2.10 and 7.10 p.m.
Film Soc.—"Les Biches," by Claude Chabrol. Haworth Lecture Theatre, 7 p.m.
Conservation Society—"Progress at a Price," by Professor G. Scott, Digbeth Civic Hall, 8 p.m.
Impact Disco—Aston Union. 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 24th

Film Soc—"La Femme Infidele", by Claude Chabrol. Haworth Lecture Theatre, 7 p.m.
C.B.S.O.—Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. Pieces from Mozart, Bizet, Britten, Messiaen.
Piano Trio Recital—City Art Gallery, 1.10 p.m. Beethoven Trio opus 97.
Tea & Symphony—Elbow Room, Aston.
Carnival Folk Concert—"Steeleye Span" and "White on Black", Mason Hall, 8 p.m. 40p.

Friday, Feb. 25th

Rick Nelson—with The Stone Canyon Band and Seals & Craft. Odeon New Street, tickets from 60p. 9 p.m.
The Drifters—Barbarella's.
Cannon Hill Film Theatre—"The Saboteur", 10.30 p.m.
ABC New Street—"Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush", 11.30 p.m.
Carnival Pyjama Hop—Quintessence, Aston Union, 8 p.m. 50p.
Carnival Disco—with Tommy Vance, College of Food, 8p.m. 25p.
India Soc—"The Runaway", by Tapan Sinha. Haworth Lecture Theatre, 7 p.m. 15p.

Saturday, Feb. 26th

Jimmy James and the Vagabonds—Barbarella's.
Midland Youth Orchestra—Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. Pieces from Weber, Mozart and Vaughan Williams. Tickets from 15p.
Birmingham Chamber Music Society—City Art Gallery, 7.15 p.m. Pieces from Bartok, Haydn, Schumann. Tickets from £1.
David Bowie—Belfry, Sutton Coldfield.
"Grapple & Strip"—Deb. Hall, 8 p.m. 50p.

Sunday, Feb. 27th

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra—Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. Pieces from Strauss, Delius and Mahler
Don Partridge—Folk Cellar, Bournbrook, 8 p.m.
Supertramp—Henry's Blueshouse, Crown Hotel.
9.30 Fly—Distractions at the Bear Hotel, Bearwood.
Peace Centre—Planning for Aldermaston march. 3 p.m.
Sunday Flic—"Bullitt", Deb. Hall, 7 p.m. 15p

Monday, Feb. 28th

Lightening Slim—with the Eddie Mathews Band. Fighting Cock, Moseley.
Carnival Night at the Dolce Vita—Sid Little and Eddie Lange, 8p.m. 75p.

Tuesday, Feb. 29th

Mungo Jerry—and Freddy King, Town Hall.
Brewers Droop—Henry's Blueshouse, Crown Hotel.
Lecture—"Economic Growth, Path to Perdition," by Dr. E. J. Mishon, Union 1.15 p.m.
Underground Films—including Jagger and "Superstar." Deb. Hall. 20p.

CINEMA

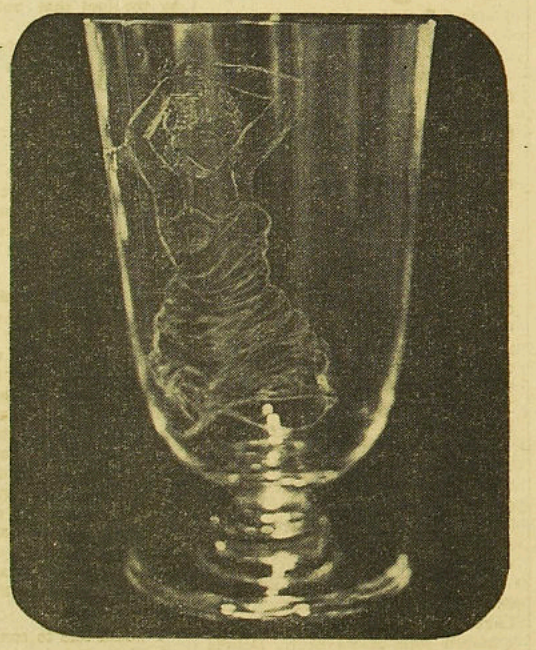
Odeon New Street—"Catch Me a Spy" and "Conquista." L.c.p. 7.40 p.m. (not showing Friday).
Next week: "I am a Nymphomaniac."
Gaumont—"Fiddler on the Roof" for a season.
Futurist—"Shaft"(not showing tonight).
Next week: "The Deserter."
Jacey—"Lust in the Swamps" and "That Woman." L.c.p. 7.15 p.m.
Next week: "Sex is not for Virgins" and "Hot Pants."
Cinephone—"Part Time Virgins" and "1,001 Ways to Love."
ABC New Street—"Love Story". L.c.p. 8.25 p.m.
Odeon Ringway—"Nicholas and Alexandra". L.c.p. 7 p.m. (for a short season).
ABS Selly Oak—"Please Sir" and "Mister Jericho".
Arts Lab—See Theatre.

GALLERY

The Birmingham Art—French tapestries until April 9th.
Compendium Galleries—John Hutton; engraving, Upper Gallery. Richard Thornton and Jack Metson. paintings, Central Gallery. J. R. Spiers, sculpture, 3D Gallery.
Ikon—Environmental art (until March 11th).

THEATRE

Alexandra Theatre—"Robinson Crusoe."
Birmingham Repertory—"Man and Superman."
Birmingham Theatre—"Jack and the Beanstalk."
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry—"Go Back for Murder."
Arts Lab—Feb. 24-27th: "Razzle Dazzle," by Brighton Combination.
Feb. 28th and 29th: "G.A.S.P."



Glasswork by John Hutton — Compendium.

"Fiddler on the Roof" — Gaumont, for a season.

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