

Redbrick

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

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(Acknowledgment: "Irish Democrat".)

The Army in Ulster: Do they need provocation?

N.U.S. supports I.R.A.

FOLLOWING the rather sweeping support given by the National Union of Students to terrorist organisations in Northern Ireland at its Emergency Conference last weekend, some division of opinion has occurred between members of the Birmingham delegation and Guild Executive.

Delegates at the Emergency Conference primarily convened to discuss Union autonomy, voted after a fairly emotive debate, to support the actions of anti-Government terrorist groups "committed in self-defence," including both wings of the I.R.A.. The Birmingham delegation of four, led by Guild President Ann Naylor, voted en bloc for the motion proposed by the N.U.S. Executive and Leeds University.

A division of opinion since the Conference became apparent at last Monday's meeting of the Guild Executive with Anne Naylor supporting the N.U.S. line and the

majority of the Executive (including two of the four Conference delegates) supporting a more liberal independent viewpoint condemning the use of violence by all sides in solving the Northern Ireland crisis.

Ann Naylor commented that she felt that a strong line was required and that students should fight for the immediate release of internees and condone the self-defence activities of the I.R.A.

N.U.S. policy is not binding on the Guild and the resolution of the Emergency Conference and a more liberal motion proposed by members of the Guild Executive will be discussed by Guild Council at its meeting on Tuesday next.

The situation in Northern Ireland has been amply illustrated by Sunday's bloodbath to be open to speculation and rumour. Supporting acts of violence in an attempt to see a solution is seen by many to be tragic.

Autonomy campaign to change

THE N.U.S. Executive received a severe censure at the Emergency Conference on Student Union Autonomy last weekend when the Conference adopted a motion tabled by Aston University Joint Guild of Students giving all future organisation of the campaign to a special action group elected by the Conference.

Some members of the N.U.S. Executive expressed the view that they, as the Executive, should be responsible for the campaign and the passing of the Aston motion was seen as a threat to their position.

There were heated exchanges and calls of "resign" when the majority of the Executive voted against the Aston motion and subsequent cheers and clapping when the result of the vote was known.

The policy on Student Union Autonomy adopted by the Emergency Conference proposes wide sweeping changes in both the campaign against the Thatcher Consultative Document and N.U.S. policy on Student Union government.

The motion calls for complete financial, constitutional and political autonomy for all Student Unions

and urges students to use the campaign in a wider context to combat "Tory educational policies at both local and national level."

The motion further calls for a Standard Union Fee for all colleges and proposes militant action by students in liaison with those sections of society which "stand in opposition to the interest of the ruling class."

The Conference went on to discuss a detailed campaign for the Student Union autonomy now under the direction of the special action group. The details of the campaign were discussed last Monday by the Guild Executive and some disagreement with N.U.S. policy was expressed. It is expected Guild Council will discuss the N.U.S. policy at its next meeting on Tuesday, February 8th.



Anne Naylor: a strong line needed

News in brief

Guild facilities

THE next meeting of Union Services Committee will be considering the establishment of a Welfare Services Centre, situated in the present Games/TV Room. This will provide more office space on the second floor whilst concentrating in one area all the Welfare Services of the Guild.

The Guild Librarian has recently purchased £50 worth of records for the Union Record Library. The catalogue of all the records is kept at Reception together with booking forms.

Other new purchases to be found and enjoyed in the Union include pinball and football machines so popular that Queues have been known to form at lunchtime and "table games" such as chess, draughts, "Monopoly" and playing cards which can be obtained on surrender of a Guild card. Pinball and football machines are expected shortly for the Main Bar.

☆☆☆

Evidence

The Guild Commission intends to devote the rest of this term to receiving evidence; all members of the University are invited to submit evidence, preferably written, but oral evidence will be accepted. Those wishing to give evidence should inform the Permanent Secretary of their intention as soon as possible, stating in general terms what matters they propose to discuss.

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Book sale

A group of people, concerned about the general lack of facilities for youth in the Handsworth area, are starting a community project with the aim of developing a centre where young people can meet to pursue educational, creative and social interests.

The main problem being the raising of cash, a book sale and (later) a sale of artistic work will be held in March. If you have any books that you no longer need, please bring them into the entrance of St. Francis' Hall between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. from Monday, February 7th for three weeks. If you cannot bring them in, we will come and collect—just leave your address at S.F.H.

If there are any budding artists around, who would like to exhibit their work at the art sale, please contact Alex Baker or Ian Kay via Union P.H.

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Rodney Watts, via The Union P.H. or
Dept. of Medical Biochemistry

Fresh proposals

SEBASTIAN GREGOR

PUBLISHED last week was the report on the Freshers' Conference, 1971, giving a breakdown of finances, numbers, etc., together with comments and some interesting proposals.

The total cost of the Conference, which is borne by the University through students' fees received from the Local Education Authorities, amounted to about £4,000, £3,000 of which accounted for by the free meals given to new undergraduates. Approximately £500 was spent on the entertainments and the same amount on publicity.

This year the number of Conference officers was reduced by about seventy; despite this rather drastic cut there were no noticeable hitches in the smooth running of the Conference.

Amongst the 283 officers who did take part were the thirty or so who were concerned with "Operation Hi-Jack," the ferrying of some students to their destinations and the directing of others to bus-stops and taxi-ranks. The whole operation, which was instrumental in assisting some 350 students to their destinations cost only £50 "and must," says the Report, "be considered a most worthwhile part of the Conference."

The Societies Afternoon on the Saturday of the Conference brought with it all the problems inherent in the size of Deb. Hall, especially noise and overcrowding. Forty-four Guild societies took part plus eight organisations from the city; the problem of finding enough room is likely to worsen with the increase of Guild Societies, and there does not seem to be any alternative venue.

There was one innovation in the entertainments offered the new students: the Arts Evening on the Friday. Due to the large attendance of about 700 freshers, seating had to be on the floor—rather uncomfortable as the performance did not end until midnight.

On the Saturday night came the Freshers' Dance, in an effort to get away from the "cattle-market" image both a dance-band ("Karakorum") and a sit-and-listen band

("Brinsley-Schwarz") were booked. The music did not suit all tastes and hardly anyone danced; "there is very little one can do about this when entry is free and the budget therefore extremely tight," says the Report.

The General Comments at the end of the Report state that the 1971 Conference "enjoyed far greater success than any previous Conference." Individual Conference officers put more effort into their work and thus the reduction in numbers had no effect.

There are many interesting recommendations including: the scope of the Conference should be widened to include such matters as the community and the role of the student in Higher Education, illustrated by discussions, tours of the city etc. An important part of University life is undoubtedly the social life, but a series of films, discos and dances does nothing to prepare a student for his first lecture or supervision.

Methods of work might be discussed—more first-year students than one might think either do too much work and are unhappy or too little and fail; the Freshers' Conference could give new students at least the benefit of second/third year students' experience.

Another recommendation is that the Vice-President of the Guild, who has a sabbatical year, should chair a Student Reception Committee; this would organise the Freshers' Conference, the Sixth Form Conference and the Inter-view Reception.

This proposal aims at making the change from a sixth former into a student much easier by giving him a chance to see all the sides of student life over a longer period than the three or four days before the start of his first University term.

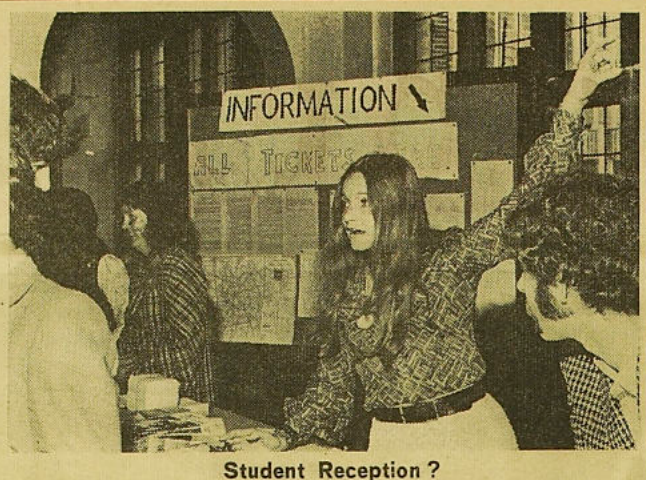
This recommendation has been passed by Guild Council.

the moment the Health Centre is only issuing them to select patients, mainly those who don't sneeze too much.

One big "Atishoo!" and bang goes £100 of experimental equipment.

PORN CALL
Finally, a plea to the person who keeps making obscene and threatening phone calls to me. I can put up with the calls any time of day, regardless of how disgusting they are, but I do object to you reversing the charges.

ADVERTS
Will the Women's Lib who liberated my wife please return her—I am waiting for my dinner—Eliot, Moseley.
Would the bore who wrote this last column please commit suicide.



Student Reception?

Letter to the Editor

MUCH as I respect Jim Aukett's motive and intention in his "Redbrick" middle-page spread on Student Health last week, I feel that he took his ideas to an unwarranted extreme. Certainly students are in a very special situation and have to bear pressures which are peculiar to the student environment and for this reason it is commendable that Mr. Aukett should express his concern.

It is also important to realise that students in general are not neurotic and must not be encouraged to be so. Mr. Aukett's article made the fallacious assumption that all students are depressed, lonely, bored with routine and yearning for the comforts of home life.

This may be true in some cases but the majority of students cope well with their academic pressures and enjoy the independence of living away from home, having established some kind of identity with other students on the campus.

For the people who fail to find this identity and are depressed and homesick and there are, as Mr. Aukett thinks the Students' Union should be able to help.

I would suggest, however, that those people will not find a remedy for loneliness by considering their own health but by concerning themselves with the conditions of people in really deprived areas of the world, where there is a desperate

and urgent need—exactly what Mr. Aukett thinks the Students' Union should be able to help.

Depression is an inevitable feeling which not only students but everyone feels at some time or other and is not a chronic illness, which warrants immediate referral to the Health Centre.

I do hope that anyone who has any kind of problem, whether it be slight or major, with work, money, accommodation or health will seek the professional assistance which the services on the campus provide.

I also hope that students do not consider themselves to be a neurotic elite, which merits preferential treatment. Surely we must take advantage of our independence here and see ourselves as a vital part of the community in which we live and in this way exhibit our strength instead of pandering to our weaknesses.

BARRIE THORNER

STUDENTS VERSUS AUTHORITY

If you are a student and wallow in the luxury of a car, getting it on to the campus during the week is rather like an elaborate initiative. You versus the vopos. The only way "legally" is to obtain a little red car-parking disc either by elevation to high office, such as Vice-President of the Guild, or force one. However, most students are forced to resort to elaborate subterfuge.

One such student bought himself a taxi and every day would pick up some unfortunate, who had to wait for a bus, as a passenger and they would happily whiz past the salutations of vopos. In the end this fellow came to grief when he neglected to pick up a passenger and was then pounced upon by a zealous University official. Whilst trying to argue his way past the offending policeman someone actually mistook him for a genuine taxi and promptly hired him for a trip to Birmingham Airport. It was at this point that he realised his true vocation, threw up his academic studies, and became a legitimate cabbie.

Other attempts to penetrate the gesticulations of the angry shouts of the guardians have been of varying success.

There was the student who painted Lloyds Bank on the side of his van. However, he was eventually stopped; at this point the student, overwhelmed by his role as a security guard, quickly donned a helmet, leaped out of the van and set about the unfortunate vopo with a banner, shouting "Robbery, Thief, etc., etc." He was never stopped again.

Ingenuous ploys have included taking cars through the gates concealed within large vans; staging a breakdown just outside the gates and procuring the assistance of several University policemen to push it on to the campus. One ultimate scheme has been that of completely dismantling the car and carrying it on to the campus over a period of weeks, and then reassembling the pieces. One student did this only to discover that term had ended by the time he had finished. The easiest way though is to come in on a Sunday.

redbrick staff

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Chunderful

G.T.V. blackout

WEDNESDAY night is Guild Television night. Like a minor form of transatlantic cable, a little inoffensive wire runs from the University Television Service in the Aston Webb complex, to the Guild of Students' Union, via the Physics Dept. This cable is charged with the heavy responsibility of weekly carrying the students' programme from studio to monitor, watched by the duly assembled student masses.

Last Wednesday the G.T.V. student editor decided to have a programme similar to that of Margeridge's Sunday bore "The Question Why." Important people including an ex-deputy President of the N.U.S., and a member of the University Court of Governors, were invited and arrived at 4.00 at the television studio beneath the Great Hall.

However, during the Christmas vacation someone in the Physics department, through which the television cable passed, had taken exception to it and called the workmen in. The offending section of cable was removed.

One can only imagine a highly embarrassed G.T.V. editor having to explain to his guests like a harassed student President or trendy educationalist, that somehow communications between the University and Guild had again broken down.

Intercourse

Inter-faculty days are here again—at least for all first year students. Like some sort of misfire joke students are summoned to attend weekly lectures and tutorials at the non-existent student time of 9 p.m. However, while the unwilling are swarming across the campus it may be fortuitous to relate a little of the history behind this educational sadism.

In 1956 it was felt courses at the University were too narrow—by both staff and students. A committee was appointed which after the unofficial statutory delay finally reported in 1963 that the 1956 feeling was correct—courses were too narrow. A committee was consequently set up to do something about it and finally, after some time, recommended inter-faculty studies.

In 1965 inter-faculty studies were launched and despite some contempt shown by both staff and students (many of whom voted with their feet) still persist. Perhaps it may be better to get departments to alter their curricula and make their courses broader than continue with the misconceived notion of tacking on to already burdened student time extra work and extra worry.

Be sure of insure

Last year the National Union of Students opened a new bureau in the Guild building of its subsidiary Endsleigh Insurance. Relatively speaking, Endsleigh have been successful, indeed, at Birmingham business has trebled in the last year; not only because they are a student organisation catering for students and offer cheap rates, but also because they have tended to combine this with a high quality of service and excellent publicity.

However, other insurance companies have noticed Endsleigh's rise and sought to cash in on it. Publicity has been made similar, other companies have sought access to the register and accordingly circulated all students. Several students have been misled into taking out, to their disadvantage, insurance policies when they could have got cheaper rates with Endsleigh.

So if you are approached by some one tall, dark, etc., check if his credentials belong to Endsleigh.

The Jewish Society is stagnant, unimaginative, apathetic. Anyone interested in giving Jewish life a new injection of spiritual and intellectual interest?
If concerned in a positive hunt to put some meaning and vibrancy into Judaism on the campus, please contact me, Jonathan Nason, via Arts Building, or Union P/Hs, or phone 454 8684 in the evening any day.

A BACKWARD LOOK

by Martin Jenkins

EVERYTHING that is now happening in the Guild has its roots in events of the past few years. Some would go so far as to explain the history of the University since 1968 in terms of the sit-in; there is a case for such an interpretation, although it is not quite so simple. What I intend to do is to look back over the four years that I have spent at Birmingham and to try to show what happened, why it happened, and what its effect has been. Inevitably, my backward look will be personal; others might give a different viewpoint—but still a subjective one.



Ray Phillips: His first priority was the implementation of "Student Role"

I came to Birmingham in October 1967. Charles Wright was President; "a failed idealist" was "Redbrick's epitaph on him, and it was justified. Little was achieved in his term of office; even "The Student Role"—a document on student representation prepared in 1967—got nowhere, being bogged down in the long and tedious process of negotiating with the University authorities. The important event of 1968-69 was the Presidential election.

There were six candidates; the front runners were Ray Phillips and Chris Tyrrell; Phillips won after an exciting campaign, and Tyrrell became Guild Secretary.

Ray Phillips was a talented man. In political, intellect and practical ability he had no peer; he was, in the fullest sense a charismatic figure. Many of his Executive reflected his talents and his charisma. As a result it was all-powerful and easily swayed both Guild Council and General Meetings.

Phillips's first priority was the implementation of "Student Role" in this he was backed by the Ad Hoc Group, a coalition of radical forces. This group and Executive inundated the campus with handouts and built up a tension which would be hard to restrain. Stubbornness in negotiation and the presence of an inexperienced Vice-Chancellor contributed to the tension, and when University Council failed to accept "The Student Role" in toto, an explosion was inevitable.

It came on November 28th 1968 a General Meeting supported by Guild Council voted in favour of direct action and the administration block was occupied.

Having occupied the Aston Webb building, we were not too sure what to do with it. There was at first much confusion; but in the evening a form of government emerged based on a General Assembly and a Com-

mittee of 10. Five of this committee were from Executive, five from the Ad Hoc Group. On Thursday we occupied, on Friday we consolidated, and over the weekend Chas Critcher's Education Committee organised a teach-in on University education.

But opposition organised itself. A meeting on Monday, organised by opponents of the sit-in, nearly became a riot. Executive was split. On Tuesday a General Meeting of 3,888 voted by a large majority to end the sit-in; that evening, after five hours' debate, Guild Council overruled that decision.

Angry murmurs from many departments raised the spectre of violent confrontation in the Aston Webb. The sit-in was fighting to save itself.

Yet it was also fighting for the four principles: acceptance of "Student Role," a review body, open committees, and no victimisation. We were decided not to end the occupation until they were accepted. At this point the University took a hand. It had already been pressuring students in Medicine and Engineering; now it issued a general threat of discipline to all the sitters-in.

At once our opponents sat down in the Great Hall with us, and the University backed down.

Phillips and Tyrrell were, meanwhile, hard at work to find a solution. Delicate negotiations, compromise, and a carefully-drafted motion, permitted a Meeting on December 5th to declare the sit-in over. It had lasted only seven days, almost to the minute; but the Guild feels its effects even now, when very few sitters-in are left at Birmingham.

What did it achieve? "Student Role" was largely accepted; there was no victimisation; a review body was eventually set up; committees are still closed. The chief effects, however, were both unintended and unwelcome.

Firstly, it made members of the Guild aware that Guild Council held absolute power and could, if it wished, overrule General Meetings—

even General Meetings of 4,000. They realised also that constituents could not control their councillors. Guild Council was responsible to no-one.

So, all confidence in Guild Council was lost; and so was confidence in members of Phillips's Executive, which was to have serious consequences later.

Socialist Union misinterpreted the lessons of the sit-in and tried to use the feelings and ideals of the sitters-in for its own ends. It failed. The activists of 1968 were radical rather than socialist, and loathed S.U.'s Marxist line. No one else thought to make constructive use of the commitment generated by the sit-in; it was left to waste itself.

Those most involved in the Guild seemed to lose their zest—even Executive. Executive's chairs were filled by burned-out volunteers when there were still two terms to run. The sit-in was, physically, intellectually and spiritually, an exhausting experience and left everyone who had taken part too tired to undertake any serious campaign.

These three factors—loss of confidence in Guild Council, the blatant abuse of the radical ideals by Socialist Union, and the exhaustion of Guild Council and Executive—gave a sudden push to a growing trend: apathy. Rather than work to democratise the Guild and to restrain S.U., most of the Guild took the easy way out: they ceased to bother. By an irony of history, apathy was the child of the sit-in; and apathetic attitudes have, in many departments, become traditional.

The sit-in also made the Guild look at itself. Chris Tyrrell instituted a major reform of the constitution, designed to make Guild Council more representative; but mandate continued to be a dirty word, and the reformers refused to take the one step that might have halted the rising, if sludge-like, tide of apathy.

Executive was not unaware of what was going on, and its hopes to reverse dangerous trends rested on one man: Chas Critcher. Backed by Executive, a figure only slightly less brilliant and less charismatic than Ray Phillips, he seemed assured of the Presidency—until Mike Terry appeared. Terry now committed himself to a meaningful policy, he set out to be moderate and inoffensive. Critcher was a radical; his comments on opponents of the sit-

in had been sharply critical, while Terry had maintained a judicious silence. Terry's publicity machine was phenomenally effective; his image was perfect, since one could read into his evenhanded platitudes whatever one wanted. Yet he was not a winning candidate; he was not a figure to attract support.

Very few voted for Mike Terry; most voted against Chas Critcher.

The danger of charisma is that it is intolerant. Critcher's supporters were largely former Phillips supporters and had the same intensive personal loyalty to both men. They saw Mike Terry as no better than a usurper, and refused to have anything to do with him.

Some, like Critcher, opted out of Guild politics; others went into opposition. Neither Maggie Ashby nor Rod Playford was ever really forgiven for serving on Terry's Executive.

Unfortunately, Critcher's supporters included most of the Guild's best minds. Only two of Terry's Executive were of real intellectual stature. Playford and Phil Jacobs; he lost Jacobs after a term, and gained Brian Morris, brilliant but devious and unscrupulous, and Roger Wisdom, an opposition member. Intellectually, his Executive were never strong.

He himself was the wrong man to head any Executive. There was continual conflict between him and Playford; and Terry was an ideological socialist. "We must smash the system" he kept saying. He had a paranoid distrust of the University authorities; he seemed to regard opposition as treason—and in this he is not without imitators. Moreover, he had the ambition to imitate Ray Phillips's activist radicalism; but he lacked Phillips's talents, support and Executive, and the Guild needed a quiet Presidency. Mike Terry set out to be a strong man, and was probably the weakest President the Guild has ever had.

The story of Mike Terry's Presidency is complicated, and cannot be told in one short article. Its chief effect was to stimulate apathy; but it also had a salutary effect in bringing out the defeat of left-wing extremist groups. Through Terry and Morris Socialist Society had achieved a dominant position: it controlled General Meetings and strongly influenced Executive; but it made itself the target of the opposition, and was divided in the general defeat.

The opposition consisted at any one time of a mixture of five groups. The Stobart and Wisdom groups were based on Guild Council; the Conservative Association and Gideon III acted outside Guild Council; the Free Union fought Mike Terry and among itself. Most of them aimed at what was dubbed "the battering ram strategy": "Hit them hard enough," one man said, "and often enough, and they'll break." So Executive had to fight on every issue.

Executive was never strong. Terry's first Executive broke up at Christmas 1969: four members resigned, disillusioned and pressed by academic work. This meant that Executive co-operation and an Executive line had to be rebuilt—a difficult task on so divided a body. Opposition pressure was maintained.

In the week of the Presidential elections a challenge was thrown down. The second sit-in, over the University's links with Rhodesia, began on Tuesday; it was essentially a Socialist Society affair, but was strongly supported by Executive members. The opposition, already working feverishly, on a losing campaign, flung itself into the fight against the sit-in. "This is the testing point," someone said.

A General Meeting was held on Thursday to ratify direct action. Executive did all that it could to stage-manage it; but a long, tense, dramatic meeting concluded with an almost perfunctory debate on direct action, and an amendment condemning the sit-in was narrowly passed. Two members of Executive resigned; Brian Morris lost the Vice-Presidential election; Socialist Society was fragmented and finished as a political force.

Although the work of the opposition had the fortunate effect of putting the future of the Guild in the hands of moderates, and although Soc. Soc. was finished, the Guild had reached a new low point. The opposition had been taken up entirely with a bitter struggle against Terry and Soc. Soc.; Guild politics as a whole had become introverted, a mutually destructive conflict of factions. It was not an attractive sight. Not surprisingly, the Guild, disliking the "vicious" spectacle turned away as a whole from Guild politics. The triumph of apathy was consummated.

Rod Playford realised fully that after two activist Presidents, the Guild needed a rest. All his work was done with quiet effectiveness; the bitterness of Guild Council meetings that Terry had known was shunned; constitutional changes in the regulations governing General Meetings prevented the sort of abuses of which Soc. Soc. had been so fond. Slowly, he helped to build up again a measure of confidence in Guild Council and to combat apathy.

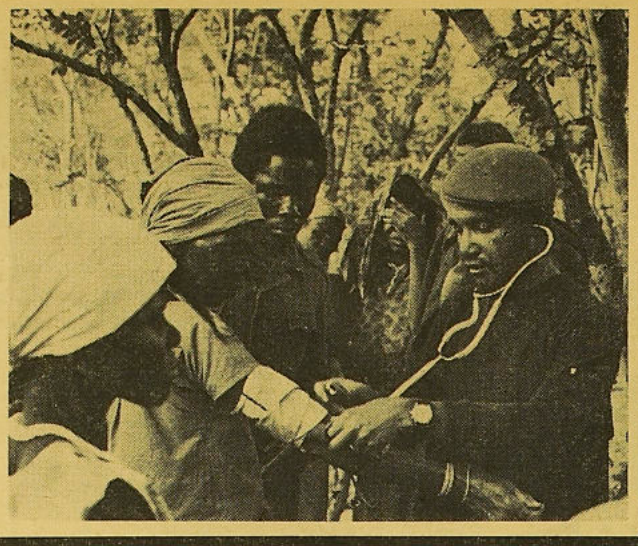
He undertook no major reforms. This was an act of wisdom; 1970-71 was a year in which drastic steps were to be avoided. Relative calm was, then, the best possible thing for the Guild. Rod Playford was a President of whom it may be said: "He did nothing—thank God!"

What is the situation today? Unpredictable, in a word. Rod Playford's policies have not been continued, because the need for them has not been understood. The historical relationships which underlie the present situation of the Guild have not been apparent to all; which is unfortunate. We are still living in the shadow of the sit-in; its effect is still felt in the striving for action which has for three years gripped all Executives, in the strength of Executive against Guild Council, and in the reign of apathy. Its ideals are still the ideals of the Guild; if we are radical, we dare to act, it is because the radicals of 1968 dared to act. We are pygmies standing on the shoulders of giants.

Should it be so? I am not sure, and I do not think that it matters. We have no choice but to work with what is to hand; our future is not based on what should be, but on understanding what is, and moulding it to our will.

ANGOLA

—a parable to Zimbabwe



FOR those of us who await anxiously the decision of the "people" of Rhodesia, to decide as to whether they accept the Home/Smith proposals, and point in anticipated horror to what could be the alternative, recollections of Sharpeville, the return of the Pearce Commission must seem as a crucial occasion in the history of Rhodesia.

However, this is the result of a tendency, which is true for most well publicised emotional issues, for these highlights to get isolated, and blown out of proportion, so as to rank particularly worthy of concern.

We must remember, that the actions of the British Foreign Dept. dominated as it is by N.A.T.O. policymakers (as is so apparent in the present Malta "crisis") with regards to Rhodesia, is strictly in line with its overall policy in Southern Africa, which has been consistently followed in the past 20 years.

That the mass of Southern Africa is far more crucial to N.A.T.O.'s strategic compulsions than Malta is only too apparent in the various government's answers to calls of racialism in their respective parliaments.

The importance of South Africa needs little emphasis here, for the recent sales of arms to this region to "honour" the Simonstown agreement, and the capitulation of the British Government in the face of overt South African aggression in her colony, Bhesia, against "ter-

rorists," bring out too well the extent to which N.A.T.O. is prepared to drop principles, for strategic priorities.

This attitude is very much in line with the conclusion that French experts draw in their appraisal of African Defence possibilities in Southern Africa:

"As long as the Portuguese remain there, the Portuguese positions are safer, and as such they are of great significance by the West. It is therefore obvious that the West serves its own cause if it supports Portuguese efforts in Africa."

—Revue Militaire Generale, France, Nov. 1963.

That N.A.T.O. economic and military aid is a crucial factor in Portugal's ability to "defend" these areas is an open secret. It is incredible therefore, that despite repeated concrete evidence of N.A.T.O. weapons captured by liberation fighters, that the former continues to decry their use in the area.

Also, Portugal gets considerable aid from private sources. For the very valuable services of N.A.T.O., the large firms that have interests in Southern Africa are more than prepared to put massive amounts of vital foreign capital at the hands of the Portuguese government. A case in point is the huge advance payments, made to Portugal, by the American giant, Gulf Oil (which is the sole concessionaire for drilling for oil in the Calindéi enclave in Angola).

It is sad therefore that in spite of this, parties such as ZAPU and

ZANU in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia, to some) rely on appeals to Ian Smith, to Britain, to N.A.T.O., even to the United States.

In contrast, the parties of the liberated regions of the Colonies of Portugal, have a clear awareness of their real enemy—for as Amulcar Calral, the leader of the movement in Guinea Bissau, said in London in 1971, "Portugal is not an independent country—she is too small, and too weak—she is merely a tool of the imperialists."—Portugal could not bear its "burden" without massive assistance from N.A.T.O. governments—already it pays out more than 50 per cent of its annual budget for its defence of Africa.

It is a relevant lesson to ZAPU, ZANU and more recently the ANC, that the Angolan people went through a stage of appeals and non-violent demonstration. Such a programme, carried out by the UPA in Angola, met with drastic reprisals from the Portuguese that left in August, 1961, 50,000 dead and 30,000 who fled into neighbouring Congo, Kinshasa.

It was in this atmosphere that another party, MPLA (the Peoples' Movement for the Liberation of Angola) whose political strategy was based on a clear ideology, and awareness of reality, that the first shots were fired for the liberation on the 4th February, 1961. Here, the people were mobilised on a different basis from those sentiments on which the UPA evolved—tribalism, racialism and popular nationalism, which was doomed to failure in the long term.

These first few shots outside

Lucinda Prison, where MPLA President Augustino Weto was jailed, were met with vicious retaliation from the Portuguese. On the 5th & 6th February, 3,000 workers were gunned down in the streets of Lucinda, and more than 5,000 massacred in Baixa de Cassange.

However, in spite of this serious weakening, the morale of the MPLA remained high, and by 1971, one-third of Angola had been liberated sufficiently securely for civilians to build social life with new, ultra-ideological fervour. This has only emphasised the basis of the success which MPLA has had—that is its clear ideology and sense of direction, right from the beginning of its activities.

In the liberated regions, MPLA has achieved a lot. Social services under Portuguese rule were virtually non-existent. In Education, teaching was provided by missionary schools, which taught mainly the catechism and some literacy. Angola, at the beginning of the war had an illiteracy rate of 97 per cent. Since 40 primary schools have been built in the liberated regions, and some lower secondary education is available in the Eastern areas.

Similarly, medical services were reduced to the main towns, and even then, mainly for the white minority. In the rural areas, endemic diseases such as Bilherzia, Molana and various forms of dermatitis, deficiency diseases, tuberculosis and tropical parasitic diseases, raged untreated.

MPLA has thus inherited the problem of years of neglect. This poses for MPLA its gravest problem. An organisation has been started by the former Servico d'Assistencia Medica (SAM) and medical aid is being provided in regions to which it never had before.

Of course, SAM's resources are reluctantly minute. In 1970, its entire staff consisted of six doctors and 35 other more or less qualified assistants—nevertheless, in 1970, 65,000 cases were attended to, out of which 52,000 received some treatment.

However, in addition this, MPLA is faced with newer problems—16 per cent of SAM's patients are war casualties—victims of napalm, bullet wounds and explosives.

Since 1970, Portugal has created an entirely new dimension. Following American practice in Vietnam, Portugal has made increasing use of herbicides and defoliants against the crops of the liberated regions. Thus, besides the very real threat of famine, SAM is faced with casualties that arise from consumption of contaminated food—these ranging from macosis and skin haemorrhages to miscarriages and malformed births in the case of pregnant women.

MPLA has therefore to face a war on two fronts. It is slowly overcoming the military defence of the Portuguese, although the new chemical warfare poses new problems. However, socially, it faces the realities of the aftermath of exploitation—a severe shortage of social services, particularly in the medical sphere.

GAVIN TWEEDSMUIR COLUMN

ONE award not to be given under the auspices of the Tweedsmuir Trust is the award for the most troublesome - Chairman of the Union - Services - who - happens to be - in - office - at - the - time. This year the award would go (with honours) to somebody called Eric Galvin, who also sits on Executive (a body of people not known for its competence).

Mr. Galvin's most recent innovation within the Union has been complete investigation into official facilities. The result of this time-wasting and spurious exercise was that Deb.Soc. (see further) was moved into a new office adjoining the gentlemen's convenience.

Further "innovations" would have taken place but for some people having more sense than Galvin. Big G's plan was to put G.T.V., "Redbrick," "Mermade," "Wall" and B.B.C. Radio Birmingham all into one office "to avoid confusion in communications." The plan was thwarted by the gallant media-men of G.T.V., who rightly wanted nothing to do with a plan which put them dangerously near the "smelly, weevil-brained idiots who produce the rest of the campus news."

The only way Galvin looks at the moment from retrieving himself from the state of universal distrust and despair into which he has fallen is an excellent plan to kick a speedy and priggish Wybranie of Guild Council for being such a nuisance at its meetings. If Galvin continues on this promising venture he will quite rightly incur the hatred of all right thinking people in the land.

A cursory glance at the boring current Guild Handbook informs me that there has been for some time a Review Body examining the University. Miss Anne Naylor (or some one very much like her) dreads the handbook that the Guild has submitted information to the body "which we regard as necessary for the democratisation of the university."

Last week, at the longest, and most gruesome Guild Council meeting ever, attempts to make comments on the Review Body's latest report were summarily deferred. Any suggestions that the five minute brawl which occurred there was all that Guild Council will have to see on the report, are of course, completely without foundation.

I learn that the next Chairman of Deb.Soc. (telegrams: Annexia, Birm.) could well be Miss Barbara Barechest, first Duchess of Tooting. It appears that Miss Barechest is the only serious candidate for the job, which carries an annual allowance of £5,000. If she is the serious candidate, I for one would like to be spared the imposition of meeting the joke ones.

Miss Redgrasp has at least one thing in her favour. She can at least see better than short-sighted grizzled Mr. Justice Ringmuth (14). If the Justice is not to lose all his credibility he must get to know his own workers. Only last week, while preparing the posters for the latest debate (oops!) debate, he was to be seen wandering around the top floor of the Union asking people how to spell "Slomnicka."

In the middle of March there will be an important and ill-supported election for the Presidency of the Guild. At about that time Mr. Gavin Tweedsmuir will go on holiday to avoid the rumblings and belchings of those loons willing to stand. Readers may be sure, however, of a complete news service prior to the elections.

For those of you who care about these things, the list of candidates (at time of going to press) comprises the following, including the vice-presidents elect (Short):
Mr. Kingley Manning, an unemployed artisan, c/o Athletic Union;
Mr. Michael Gordon, a non-entity;
Mr. James Tyzack, a harmless goon;
Mr. Martin O'Sheer Nonsense, a University Challenge dropout;
Mr. John Tustin, a dwarf;
Miss Ann Davies, a woman.

Redbreast by Barbara Slomnicka



Acknowledgment: "Which" Magazine.

"AS the law stands, people cannot be required to pay for unsolicited goods which they do not choose to accept, and this should be clearly understood." — Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade.

"I am very worried: I really don't know whether to go to the expense of seeking legal advice or capitulate." — A student.

The problem of unsolicited goods is one which despite relatively extensive publicity still causes much worry and harassment — worry which might easily be alleviated if everyone was clear as to their exact rights.

The legal position is basically simple—if you are sent goods you have not ordered you do not have to pay for them. But you should not use those goods and you should take reasonable care of them until the firm concerned arranges for their collection.

Thus if an enterprising salesman sends goods to your address without previous authority and in the mere hope of a sale, he cannot force a contract on an unwilling recipient even if he declares, that unless a contrary intimation is received by a certain date, the goods will be assumed to have been bought.

Of course, there are many occasions when the precise legal position does not appear to apply and it would be as well perhaps to deal with some of the more typical of these:—

● Where a bill is sent with instructions that if the goods are unwanted they are to be returned, you are under no obligation to do so, indeed there is no legal duty to make any response, although writing immediately may be simplest in practical terms. You may of course claim for any expenses incurred, postage etc, in so doing.

● If you decide not to return the unordered goods, ignore all communication that will probably be sent, no matter how persuasive or threatening. If your nerves can stand it a policy of total silence is undoubtedly the most effective.

● There is no obligation to ac-

cept delivery of unordered goods from the postman. If by any chance the latter leaves a parcel on the doorstep (he is not supposed to) you have NOT accepted it. Once you have accepted a parcel however, he is not permitted officially to take it back again. In addition a Post Office cannot accept a parcel for posting back without stamps (although they can do nothing if you put it through a letter box).

● To the question "How long must I keep the goods," the answer must be that to be absolutely safe, six months, but a court may well rule that your obligation to take reasonable care would depend on the value of the goods—three months might be a reasonable time for a cheap book for example. Goods should never be destroyed, however, for if this is done, the firm could legally require you to pay them the value of the goods (not necessarily the price they ask).

● A free gift or prize is yours to do with as you like but if you apply for a free offer read the small print carefully to ensure that you are not accepting an obligation to buy other goods or to have them on a trial and return basis. Additional goods sent with such an unconditionally free gift should be treated in the same way as other unsolicited goods.

The law as it stands at present is highly unsatisfactory. On this point, so it is up to each individual to know his rights, and thus enable him to protect himself. The choice is yours.

STATESMEN AT DEB. SOC.

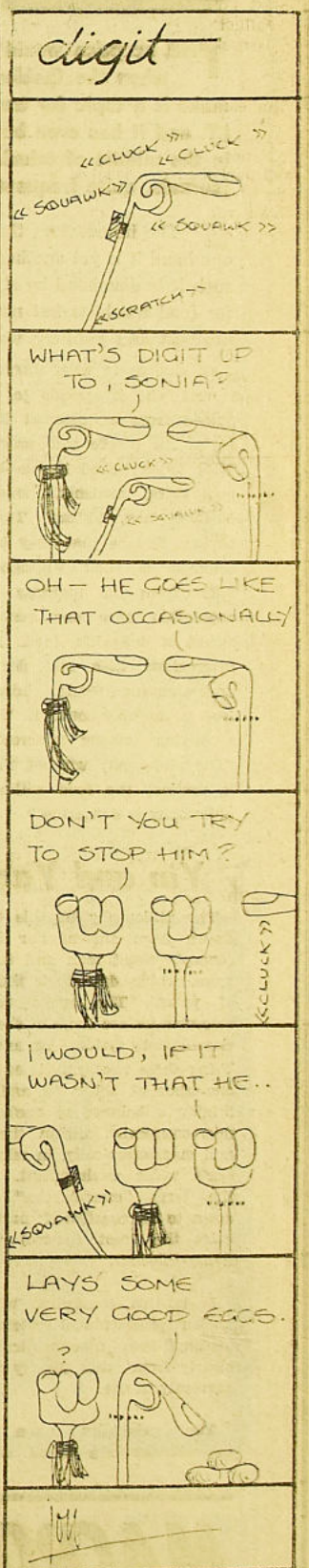
AT 7.30 p.m. in Council Chamber on Wednesday, January 26th, the curtain metaphorically rose on the first scheduled debate of the term. The chairman's customary aplomb had not deserted him, it seems, during weeks of enforced alienation from his rightful seat over the Christmas vac.

He announced that Birmingham's efforts in the "Observer" Mace Trophy Tournament had resulted in Bob Vella and Rod Playford going through to the final rounds, and that nominations for next session's Chairman of Debates were now open. The election will take place on February 16th. Mr. Bates tabled his eternal motion that the minutes be taken as read, which was defeated and Miss Jean Lees accordingly read them.

The motion for that evening "This House believes Jesus Christ was the Superstar of Public Relations men" was proposed by the first of our two visiting American debaters, Mr. Paul Callan's striking physical resemblance to a slightly tarted-up Robert Redford helped him command the wrapt attention of every female present. He pointed out that what biographical information we possess about J.C. implies that he was an inadequate and psychologically disturbed individual, with Freudian complexes about his parentage, or lack of it, and a chronic drinking problem.

It is evident, said Mr. Callan, that although he was a carpenter, he never actually made anything and was indeed so unpopular during his lifetime that he had to hand out food to make friends. In face of all this, to have commanded such a following as he did and does (here Mr. Callan anticipated and questioned the veracity of Mr. Beck's statistics), proves Jesus's immense skill as a P.R. man.

Mr. Dan Beck rose to oppose the motion and commanded the attention of the House not so much by



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UNIVERSITY OF SURREY Institute for Educational Technology

Applications are invited for a Research Studentship in connection with a programme of research in teaching and learning in university science courses. Candidates should have good honours degree in a science subject, and some experience in education is desirable, although not essential.

The studentship is of value £650 p.a., initially for two years and may be increased through dependants' allowances, post-graduate experience allowance or older students' allowance. Students are permitted to earn an additional £123. The successful candidate will be expected to register for M.Phil. or Ph.D.

Applications by February 22nd to Professor L. R. B. Elton, I.E.T., University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, from whom further particulars and application forms can be obtained.

FOR BEER, CIDER, WINES & SPIRITS CALL AT

Morris's Wine Stores

TEMPLEFIELD SQUARE, WHEELAYS ROAD, EDGBASTON 440 2291 512 BRISTOL ROAD, BOURNBROOK SEL 0195 775 BRISTOL ROAD, SELLY OAK SEL 0173 (Next to Oak Cinema)

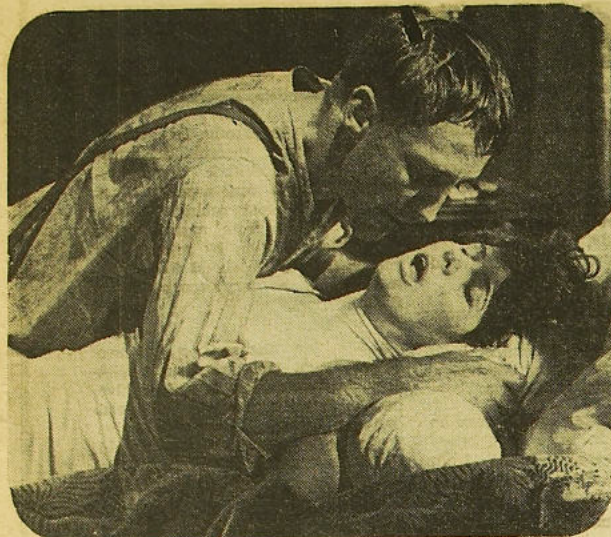
A black and white photograph of a bowl of food, likely a traditional Japanese dish. The bowl is filled with rice, dark seaweed (nori), and several round, textured items, possibly dumplings or meatballs. Two wooden chopsticks are placed across the bowl. The bowl sits on a woven mat. The photograph is mounted on a light-colored card with a dark border.

***The sane way to
eat if you want
to survive***

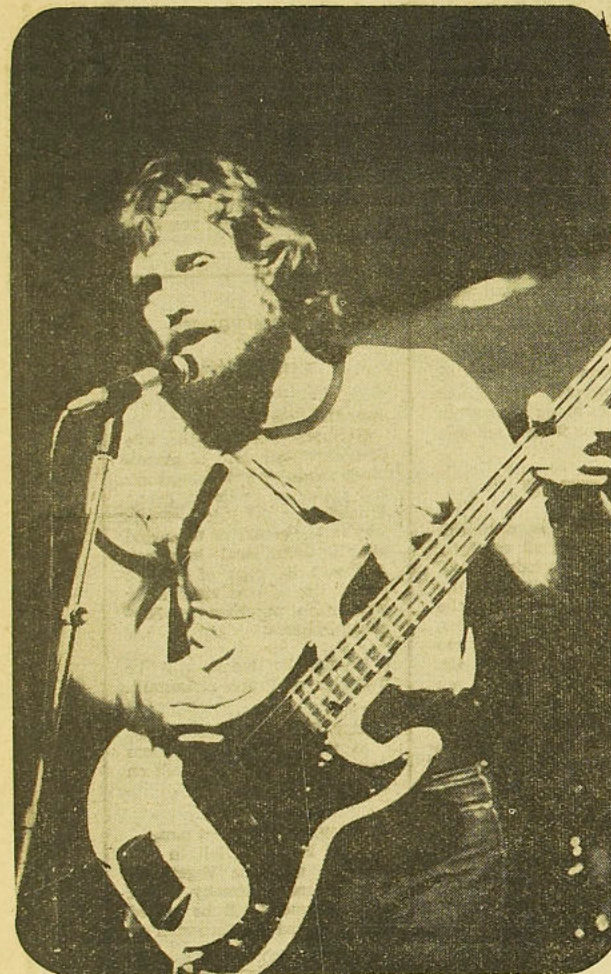
So our bodies are kept in tune with the changing climate and



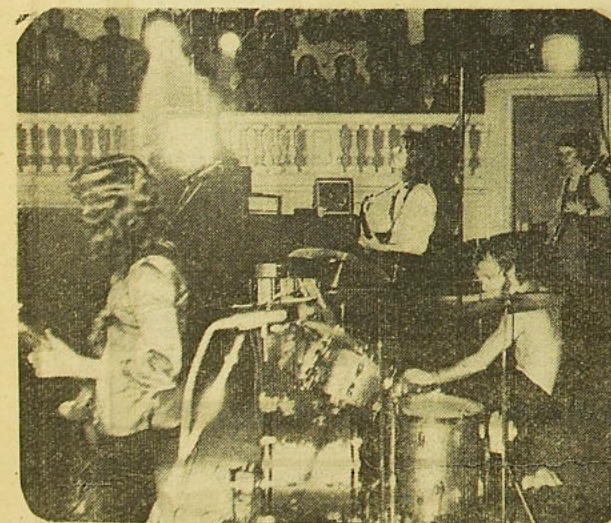
MACROBIOTICS MACROBIOTICS MACROBIOTICS MACROBIOTICS MACROBIOTICS MACROBIOTICS MACROBIOTICS



Kim Darby and Scot Wilson in "The Grissom Gang," at the Futurist.



Andy Lee, of Southern Comfort, one of the groups at High Hall last week.



Wishbone Ash shook the Town Hall last Friday evening.

cinema

"THE GRISSOM GANG" (Futurist) is the essential gangland movie, a drama of murder and kidnapping set in the Kansas City of 1931, as arresting as a banner headline, charting the ascent and bloody demise of an Al Capone-style tsar, with only one difference—it is a love story, too.

It is Robert Aldrich's fourth film after "Sister George," and by any standard it is a first class thriller. It is a story of the double kidnapping of the daughter (Kim Darby) of a millionaire industrialist (Wesley Addy) first by a trio of small-time crooks and then by the notorious Grissom Gang, led by a tough matriarch.

The kidnapped victim, Barbara Blandish, resents all advances by the psychotic son, Slim Grissom (Scott Wilson) at first, but to survive she gives way.

Though the ending is typical of all gangster thrillers, that is, they all died happily ever after, this film is, as someone said, "a cross between 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' and 'Bonnie and Clyde'."

After seeing this film, "In Cold Blood" does not do justice to Scott Wilson, who was acclaimed for his role of the psychopathic killer, but in this film he is really at his best. Another film from him of this standard and he is certainly on his way to an Oscar.

I would have preferred someone else for the role of Kim Darby—if there were any weak link in this film it would be her. Her acting is in no way near her film debut in "True Grit," which brought her international acclaim.

The good thing about this film is that photography to direction, its treatment is very simple, perhaps that is what is great about it. Filmed in the Mother Lode Gold Rush country of Northern California and in the hilly terrain of Los Angeles, it is well worth seeing.

S. K. JOSHI.

BREAKING away from the family home and background is rarely an easy experience. The psychological and emotional ties are complex and pulling on all sides. Ken Loach and Tony Garnett, who individually have made a number of greatly admired films and together made "Kes," have teamed up again to explore this subject. The result is "Family Life" (ABC New Street, retained for a second week).

"Family Life" is the story of Janice Baildon. An ordinary girl living in a "good" home with "nice" parents, Janice has reached a stage where she is searching for her own identity.

While some people this is eventually found to give true independence, while many give up the search and drop into the obscurity of "life," Janice falls between the two. At the same time as she tries to break away she refuses to admit that she can actually make the decision. The result is catastrophic. Depression. Mental illness. And eventually schizophrenia and its visually terrifying treatment.

Loach and Garnett have laid down the case as they see it, with the same brilliant social observation apparent in "Kes." As with "Kes," most of the actors are virtually unknown. Sandy Ratcliffe, whose only previous experience were a few small walk-on parts, plays Janice exceptionally convincingly.

Much of the dialogue in the film is spontaneous. Although a detailed script was prepared, the actors were encouraged to build up their own parts as the scenes developed, with as little rehearsal as possible. At

times this does not work out too well. Occasionally the unhearsed parts tend to stick out from the rest. Grace Cave, as Mrs. Baildon, is perhaps the most at fault in this at the beginning of the film, but eventually she picks her part up and by the end of the film has a more confident hold on it.

But with such an engrossing film, maybe it is a little unfair to pick on individual faults.

There has been mention by some critics, as to whether a film like "Family Life" can be called entertainment. The answer is obviously "no," but so what? As with "Poor Cow," "Cathy Come Home" and "Up the Junction," Loach is intent on focusing attention on social injustice and trying to spur a drive against, what is basically, excessive officialdom. "Family Life" is a depressingly sensitive portrayal of an ordinary girl driven to breakdown and its excellence is enough to carry it beyond the realms of entertainment.

PAUL TAYLOR

"AN unforgettable experience" is one of the many phrases used by one of the many critics in one of the many reviews of Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" (now showing at Warner, Leicester Square) happens to be true.

The story revolves around the changing of Alex from a young thug, turned on by Beethoven and ultra-violence into a well behaved member of society for which one can feel no sympathy) by means of aversion therapy. When the treatment is complete Alex becomes physically sick and mentally depressed at any violence and (incidentally) Beethoven's 9th Symphony. This leads to him attempting suicide, followed by the change back to his original character.

The film is full of violent incidents which do not, however, shock or excite—for the most part, they entertain. If you never thought that a scene in which a woman is raped whilst her husband is beaten up could be entertaining, watch it to the tune of "Singing in the Rain." Which brings me to the music.

The music is as essential to the film as are the words and actions, and it is brilliantly arranged and directed by Walter Carlos to lend a feeling of "one step removedness" to the proceedings. Certainly a film one should not miss when (if) it comes to Birmingham.

JOHN GROAKE.

music

A RECEPTIVE, if somewhat sparse, audience received Gallagher and Lyle. They are a new group composed of their namesakes, were the song writers for the late lamented McGuinness Flint ("what a real cock-up that was"—Gallagher, or was it Lyle?). Their folksy style fought hard against the late start and the lack of atmosphere. Both played competently on lute, classical guitar, and piano.

Their repertoire was, on the whole, quite original (being songs they had themselves composed) but their rendering of "When I'm Dead and Gone" lacked the full group sound which put it in the charts. However, it was an enjoyable performance—which was appreciated sufficiently to warrant their encore.

After a brief interval, during which the High Hall (Sunday) Disco thrived against an ultra violet background, and the M & B bar was gushing out Tartan (itself an achievement), Continuum gradually joined their organist. The organ at the beginning was rather loud and

far too dramatic, not lightened at all by the flautist playing a gay counterpart. A five-minute drum solo was interesting, and gave the rest of the group a pause.

The flautist by this time had changed instruments to a sax, and the guitarist disappeared into his perspex box to play his classical guitar.

They finished with a variation on "God save the Queen," and answered the audiences' demands for an encore by explaining that anything further would be inappropriate. To quote, "They were good musically but not good entertainment value."

Completing this evening of contrasts, Southern Comfort came on, and despite the lack of Ian Matthew produced an acceptable performance, if a little uninspired. We were given one or two numbers from their new album (just to give it a plug) and apart from one notable exception, "Woodstock," the impression of their performance was rather memorable.

All in all, considering that no-one knew if Southern Comfort (the bill-toppers) were arriving until they did so at 8.30 (!) and the diversity of tastes catered for, it was a good 50p worth of entertainment. It struck us as rather ironical that when the jinx on the Halls appeared to have lifted and all the scheduled groups appeared, so few people did likewise!

DAVID DERBYSHIRE,
PAULINE MUNDY.

ARRIVING a few minutes late at the Town Hall on Friday, I thought that Wishbone Ash had already started their set. However, the music turned out to be that of Glencoe, who produced a good clean sound and were balanced a lot better than some of the bigger bands that have visited the city lately.

Glencoe's only real come-down was the lack of their own material, using numbers ranging from John Martyn to early Presley and giving them their own interpretation. If Glencoe get down to some more writing they may find themselves getting top billing in the near future.

With the sell-out audience nicely warmed up, Wishbone Ash took to the stage. After a few numbers everyone was well into their music, clapping, stamping and generally having a good time. By the end of the set, the Town Hall had erupted and Wishbone were playing in one of the best atmospheres I've seen there since a memorable Nice concert a couple of years ago.

What makes Wishbone so interesting is their use of the two lead guitars of Andy Powell and Ted Turner; one moment playing together and the next virtually against each other.

Add to this some driving drumming from Steve Upton, Martin Turner on bass and a couple of thousand people almost begging for a good time and . . . ! The first encore was inevitable. Few bands play a concert without at least one encore, but Wishbone had the audience on their feet demanding more.

By the second encore, nearly everyone downstairs was crowded at the front of the stage, arms waving. Wishbone looked a bit stunned at the tremendous response and played on. Even the Town Hall officials had to give in to the third calls for more and Wishbone were back on stage, completely amazed at the reception, and showed their appreciation by answering the call for "Whisky Lady."

With a following like this Wishbone Ash are well on the way to developing what was promised last year.

ALEXIS

—reviews—

IF you're looking round for some heavy type sounds for a bit of background music, have a listen to "James Gang Live in Concert," on the Probe label. Recorded live at the Carnegie Hall, it's a reasonable album to have when you don't want to get too involved with the music.

Excellent recorded and competently played, this album lacks only the occasional dash of ingenuity that makes a good band great. Which is a shame because the James Gang obviously know their instruments.

Only one track stands out, "Take A Look Around," and that is because of the pleasant vocals. "Walk Away" nearly makes it, but the rest of the tracks come over as fairly ordinary numbers that could have been played by virtually any mediocre band on a good night.

PAUL TAYLOR.

Apologies to Bridget St. John. Contrary to the caption with her picture in last week's "Redbrick," she has not changed her name to Buffy St. Marie.

books

THE last few years have seen a growing awareness of the impact that both our technology and our sheer numbers are having on the earth. The principles of ecology, once confined to small communities such as a wood, a stream, or a tree stump, have been applied to our home, the earth, as a closed community. The results from this new work have led scientists like Ehrlich and Commons to predict destruction of the life support systems on earth unless we stop our environmental aggression.

At best, man will be swept by pestilence and starvation, with minerals essential to our "superior" type of civilisation exhausted. At worst, man will become no more.

The role of the consumer (us, amongst others) in this inglorious downfall is clear. It is us who use up the minerals, eat, pollute and reproduce. The aim of these two books is to give us a guide to minimise our effect on the environment.

"The Consumer's Guide" (J. Holliman, Pan, 40p) is a British publication, and is aimed largely but not entirely at the housewife. It is a re-write of the American "User's Guide," by Paul Swatek. It covers most things that consumers do, from buying houses to buying beer. Holliman gives an introduction which outlines ecological principles pretty well. Most of the sections are very good, although the section on energy is optimistically naive when it considers new sources of energy.

The book would be better with cross references. On ecology everything is connected with everything else, e.g. dishwashers use detergents, energy, and water; detergents, energy, and water are dealt with in different parts of the book).

"Everyman's Guide to Ecological Living" (Culliet, Setzer & Love, Macmillan, 45p) is an American book. It's very starchy about company P.R. men and their whitewash. An interesting reflection of the more serious state of environmental deterioration in America is that the book requires us to be far more austere in our life styles than does the Consumer's Guide. Make your own soap from fat scrap, they tell us. The style is more concise than Holliman's but it is also less witty and lively.

What the two books have in common is their neglect of political aspects of ecological living. The consumer has the chance to buy

a new government every five years (hurry, while stocks last!) and the people we get depend to some extent on how we vote. In trying to live cleanly the consumer may be diverted from being politically active, which he must be if we are going to get any change at all.

MARK BURTON

TO add to the tremendous interest which has arisen lately, of the last Romanov family, Pan have published in their Panorama of History series, Richard Tames view of the life and death of Nicholas and Alexandra (40p).

"The Last of the Tsars" is an account of Nicholas Romanov's life from the death of his father in 1894 to his own murder in 1918. There is a lot of surface detail but very little detailed analysis of the situation. I should imagine the author based most of the book purely on supposition, and although this does add to the interest, it's very hard to believe in factually.

An ideal novel for the romanticist, for the text even includes how many shots it took to kill each member of the family, even though the bodies were hacked to pieces and burned long before any medical examination could possibly have taken place. As with the film version the book makes no allowance for any of the family to escape their fate.

The "Last of the Tsars" must be complimented for the many photographs and cartoons it contains which the author has acquired from various sources.

GINETTE TAYLOR

SET in the Essex mudflats oozing their mist-shrouded desolation in the years up to and including Dunkirk, Paul Gallico's "Snow Goose" is a beautiful, perfect tale—a tale of Rhyader, a crippled recluse who befriends a pure white snow goose, and is in turn befriended by a young girl of equal fey elusiveness. Culminating in a final tragic triumph at Dunkirk, where Rhyader is at last given his chance to act as a whole man, the synopsis reads like a woman's magazine spectacular. But this is whimsy with a saving base of reality, romantic imagination beautifully conceived and expressed.

Due to steadfast opposition on the part of Paul Gallico, the book had never been filmed for 20 years until it was screened this Christmas with Richard Harris and Jenny Agutter. "I felt I owed something to the British people because the story had become so very British. I thought I might never be forgiven if I let them make a Hollywood-type picture." His perspicacity paid off—it was an excellent interpretation.

Buy it for a niece or nephew in its new Penguin form (20p, including "The Small Miracle") but first read it yourself . . . with innocence.

ALI NEVILLE.

gallery

COMPENDIUM Galleries are exhibiting the work of Gilbert Mason in both Middle and Upper Galleries until February 12th.

There were two paintings which were, to me, particularly attractive. These were both of Welsh border country and in a style which he had followed through in several other paintings. They consisted of an

orange background, impressed with brown lines. At first sight there is nothing very distinctive about these particular paintings but once viewed from a distance they seemed to have been painted in minute detail.

Apart from these his other landscapes are very sparse. Especially one titled simply "Sea Shore." This, like many of the works by Gilbert Mason, was very dark and bleak but his shading is extremely good.

"Shirenewtown" is a subject which the artist has concentrated his interest in widely. Contrary to what one would suppose, "Shirenewtown" appears to be an old village. Also the artist has worked on two contrasting paintings of his imaginary village: one large brown painting and one small light-grey.

Maybe because the large brown painting had been badly positioned, directly behind a light, it appears very dull but also the colour seemed much too heavy throughout. Whereas the smaller painting in light-grey, "Cross roads Shirenewtown" was greatly defined and less harsh on the eyes of the beholder.

Apart from landscapes, dotted around the gallery were several portraits. Two of these were of a girl, "Louise" and, of a boy, "Finlay," both miniatures.

In the lower gallery there were several pieces of pottery plus some items which have been exhibited previously.

theatre

A LOT of people missed out on a good evening's entertainment at the Arts Lab Theatre. Perhaps everyone went to the Midlands Arts Centre for the new Livings play or found something at the cinema? What ever they did, they missed a couple of hours of laughs with the Incubus Theatre Company.

Incubus have been around for three years now, originally forming from two productions at the 1969 N.U.S. Drama Festival. At the Arts Lab, they presented "Sonny Boy," with "Koax" as a late-night production.

"Sonny Boy," by Paddy Fletcher, sounds a bit of a non-event on paper. Groat, a public schoolboy, lays an egg, which brings fame and problems. But Incubus, with quick transitions of scene merely by the movement of the actors, and semi-audience participation, delved humourously into the situation. The number of characters portrayed seemed to be never ending, considering that Incubus is a company of ten.

Particularly good were the scenes of the dormitory at the public school where Groat, suffering with mediocrity fails to make it with the rest after lights out, but lays an egg instead. Like most people, Groat failed to recognise his one chance to fame and it slipped away.

"Koax" was fairyland with a twist. The Prince, turned into a frog, finds it needs more than a kiss in these permissive days to return him to his former self. Snow White is a hip chick who collects intimate plaster casts.

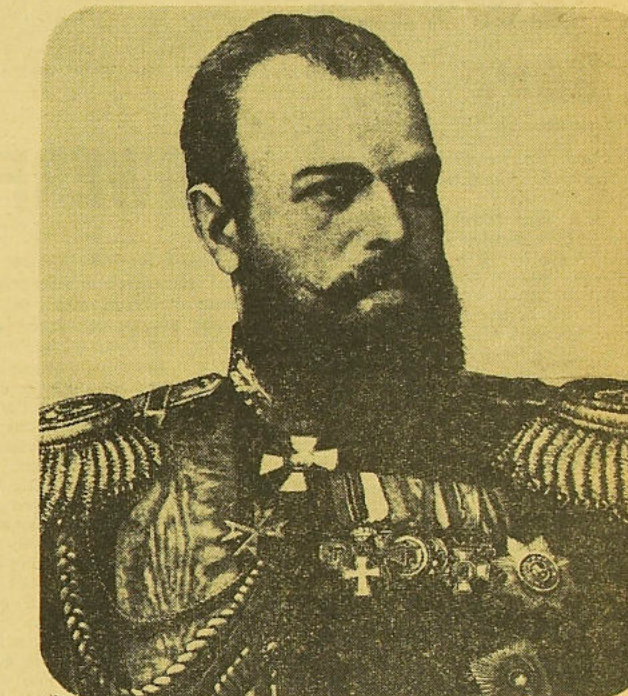
Again Incubus developed the humour to the full and the only fault with "Koax" is that there wasn't more of it.

Look out for Incubus next time round.

PAUL TAYLOR



Scene from Incubus's "Koax," at the Arts Lab Theatre last week.



One of the illustrations from "The Last of the Tsars."



Paul Gallico's "Snow Goose," now in Penguin.

sport 1

KAYAK

LLANGOLLEN TRIUMPH

WHEN most people were wrapping presents and sending Christmas cards, probably in the nauseating warmth of oil-fired central heating, the dedicated guys and geese of the Kayak Club were cutting their way up the A5 towards Llangollen and the B.U.S.F. white-water race championships on the last weekend of term.

RANDY SOUTHAM'S A.U. NOTES

AT the time of going to press the minutes of the Athletic Union meeting of Friday, January 28th were not available. As if in response to last week's pleas for more correspondents several people were kind enough to file reports. A resume is included:—

The agenda was short and as the low attendance did not provoke any debate or controversy an apparently businesslike meeting reached A.O.B. in under half an hour.

At this stage Mike Hayes asked A.U. to consider ways to help the Rugby Club to emerge from its undistinguished U.A.U. rating over the past twelve years. He suggested that the performance in U.A.U. championships is the best yardstick for measuring any university team performance, and our University rugby team has failed dismally in this sector of competition. "Not once in a dozen years," he said, "has our rugby team progressed from the Midland Section".

Hayes then went on to emphasise that, in his opinion, the successive captains and committees are not to blame and that only inspiration has been lacking. It would appear too that Keith Bonser has given considerable coaching assistance to the team during several years. Now that Bonser had retired as University coach, every effort should be made to find a person with qualities similar to those of soccer's Mike Speake.

The football club had found in Speake a man of outstanding coaching, organisational and inspirational qualities and, as a result, they have had three outstanding seasons.

Somewhat significantly there was no Rugby Club representative at the meeting. However, Mr. Jones (A.U. Secretary) was able to outline many of the difficulties which face our rugby side—youth, non-participation of Medics and some outstanding players who prefer to play with outside clubs.

Bob Gibson (A.U. and Rugby Club vice-president) was aware of these difficulties, and pointed out that Newcastle select their best possible team for U.A.U. competition even though all players do not perform regularly with the University side.

As indicated by the above remarks there are two sides to every coin.

Hayes obviously thinks that the team should do better. With the U.A.U. final held annually at Twickenham there is certainly a lot of prestige going. Note that Loughborough Colts have built a tremendous reputation over the years, yet they are not invincible to mere university teams as Durham knocked them out of the U.A.U. last week. But things are not that easy. Why do the Medics choose to play their own team and thus weaken the University? One can understand outstanding players being reluctant to play with a team of no reputation. But until they do, how can the team be successful? Eventually a good team will attract good players.

Considering all the money which gets poured into the rugby teams each year, A.U. would be well within their rights to request a rationalisation.

Also attempts should be made to find a new coach to provide the encouragement and support they need. Such people do exist within this University. If they are too shy to propose themselves "Redbrick" will pass on the information to the Rugby Club offices.

B.U.K.C. were the event organisers this year, which meant a busy weekend for all club members whether competing or not. The team event took the form of a time trial over the Llangollen River Dee course, one of the toughest in the country.

The team of three paddlers start at three-minute intervals and with only one trial allowed no mistakes can be afforded. Even with such experienced paddlers in the form of Mike Jones, Neil Spinks and Glen Greer, the Dee is always capable of coming up with something unexpected.

After getting a feel of the water the team lined up waiting for off. The tense moments of waiting are followed by an explosion of power as the paddlers accelerate to their racing speed.

Down through the succession of falls the team sped, balancing the problem of personal survival through the falls and keeping the team together. Before the last fall the Manchester team, who started three minutes ahead, were passed.

At the finish the time of the

slowest member was 15min. 31sec. Being one of the first in the draw, Birmingham were left in the unenviable position of watching the rest of the 40-odd teams finish. As time went by the fancied teams, Aberdeen 'A', Newcastle 'A', Sheffield and Lancaster finished some one or two minutes slower.

The brilliance of the Birmingham effort was highlighted in the individual event on Sunday, only two international canoeists managed to better the 15.31.

Birmingham thus collected the gold medals with Lancaster 46 secs. back second, and Manchester 'B' in third. Birmingham 'B' finished 6th and of the 37 starters, 23 teams finished.

The guest of honour, Max Madder, well-known celebrity in the A.U., had the embarrassing task of presenting prizes to the 'A' team and also to another Birmingham team, Barbara Mullen, Richard Sims and Gary Tingate. They were the winners of the secondary British Universities Canoe Association event open to college and university teams held on a shortened course.

TABLE TENNIS

POWERFUL PAIR

by CTHULHU

SINCE the winter hibernation of the venerable news-sheet "Redbrick," to which I subscribe, a number of events of great import have occurred, and I feel that it would be injustice indeed if I did not hereby set down a chronicle of the aforementioned events.

U.A.U. Individuals Championships, Hull, December, 1971

This tournament was a great success for Birmingham, who provided the men's doubles winners and the runner-up in the men's singles final. The singles was won by Jean Krier of Hull, who is the champion of his native Luxembourg; he beat Brian Mitchell in the final after Mitchell had led 9-5 in the third game. In the doubles, Mitchell teamed up with Mostyn Lewis and this pair won the title, to add to the B.U.S.F. title which they had won at Salford early in 1971.

B.U.S.F. Individual Championships, Kent, January, 1972

The B.U.S.F. was unfortunately less of a success story for Birmingham players. High hopes of retaining the doubles title were dashed when, after leading by a game and 18-12, Lewis and Mitchell fell to Krier and Vaughan of Hull in the quarters. Anyone conversing with either Mitchell or Lewis should steer well away from this subject, Mitchell again lost to Krier in the singles, this time in the semi-final, and by 21-19 in the third game. Lewis reached the quarters, losing to Liverpool's English international Tony Clayton, who won the tournament eventually.

Birmingham's other male representatives, Steve O'Neale, John Groarke, Malcolm Macfarlane and Chris Beasley, fell early in the singles, which was not surprising considering the strength of the entry. The most successful of the four was undoubtedly Beasley, who filled in for three different people in the draw, and eventually lost to himself in the second round.

In the ladies' singles Susan Ennew reached the third round, with Jean Helme and Susan Rowley losing in the first. After the tournament, the three Birmingham girls played Hull in the W.I.V.A.B. quarter-finals and went down 6-3 to a strong side who are favourites to win the competition.

So ends the report of the competitions. In Mitchell's diary of the event he describes "Greate reverlie" on the night of the B.U.S.F., but his references to "most abominable honking" and "drunken debaucherie" must be regarded as exaggerations.

LACROSSE

UNIVERSITIES CUP

OXFORD UNIVERSITY 17, WEST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES 6

WEST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES made a rather disappointing exit from the Universities' Cup competition at Oxford last Wednesday. They have still not fathomed the intricacies of the ten-a-side game, and the tactical approaches of both sides in this game were noticeably different. Oxford followed the policy of laying a noose around the visitors' goal, waiting until a defence-man was tempted too far from his charge and applying the coup-de-grace. They were, in this, considerably assisted by having on the right wing the fastest man on the pitch. West Midlands' play in attack was, however, far too hurried and their goals came mainly from individual efforts.

Team: Warrington; Goodall, Sharp, Hopton; Wong, Wilde, Tither (1), Bennett (3), Higgs (2), Cook.

SALE 5, WEST MIDLANDS UNIVERSITIES 9

Free to concentrate on the League, West Midlands disposed of Sale's defence efficiently if not impressively. Sale have a very competent defence which marks very tightly and which bears a remarkable resemblance to a Panzer corps. Robin Bennett came in for particularly harsh treatment, but Birmingham's own goal-machine still scored eight goals, in a brave performance. Birmingham's other super star, Colin Goodall, had a very quiet game, perhaps in anticipation of the disciplinary action new manager Wong may be forced to take as a result of his consistently bad time-keeping.

Team: Warrington; Goodall, Sharp, Jarvis; Wong, Stott, Ashcroft; Tither, Bennett (8), Bullough, Campbell, Wilde (1).



Neil Spinks, Rupert Jones and Glen Greer: The victorious Birmingham 'A' team.

FENCING

Norman nails 'em!

THIS season the Fencing Club has been relying not so much on team matches as on individual competitions, which usually provide more good fencing. Our entry for the West Midlands Championships had a high standard to maintain, for in the previous year University fencers were placed second in the foil, first in the epee and second in the sabre, besides having been second in the Warwickshire epee and sabre.

This year Bob Vella emerged from semi-retirement and fenced with great style to reach the semi-finals of the foil. In the foil final of six, Ralph Evans was placed 5th

while Norman Milligan took the bronze medal—and, far more remarkable, did not once argue with the president!

In the final of the epee, Ralph Evans, the holder, lost a crucial fight (muttering darkly about "illegal weapons") and had to be content with second place. In the sabre final Norman Milligan lost one fight 5-4 (passing uncomplimentary remarks about the judging) and also had to be content with second place. The winner it should be pointed out, is the current national sabre champion.

Birmingham sent three entries to the U.A.U. individual championships held at Guildford on January 7th-9th. Frank "Nikanchikov" Hardwick, fencing in his first competition, did well to win several fights in the first rounds of the Epee and Sabre before being eliminated in the Epee. Ralph suffered a loss of form so common amongst Epéists, and was surprisingly eliminated in the semi-final.

In the foil event on the following day he suddenly regained his form and achieved the most unexpected result of the weekend. In the first round he beat the previous year's winner and in the semi-final he beat Hughes of Manchester, the 1968-9 and 1969-70 winner and this year's strong favourite. In the final he lost only to Richardson of Manchester, the ultimate winner, but again beat Hughes to make sure of 2nd place.

The best, however, was saved till last. In the early rounds of the sabre, his opponents hardly laid a sabre on Norman and first place in the final would obviously go either to Norman or to Bill Richardson (of Manchester and Northern Ireland). Norman lost one fight partly due to bad judging, but by beating Richardson in his last fight he ensured a barrage for first place. The Manchester team did not arrive for the triangular match with Birmingham and Cambridge planned for January 22nd. Cambridge, however, although not bringing all their top fencers, did produce a very strong team to fence a combined Birmingham University / Birmingham Fencing Club team which included Norman, Ralph and Frank. A very good match, despite innumerable electrical failures, resulted in a win for Birmingham by 5-4 (Foil), 8-1 (Sabre), 6-3 (Epee) and 19-8 Total.

In the barrage Norman fenced with great confidence, took complete control of the fight and won comfortably 5-2 to take Birmingham's first U.A.U. title for many years.

RESULT: WIVAB REPLAY Birmingham Univ. 2nd XI 1, Leeds Univ. 2nd XI 0

sport 2

Riflemen rampant!

AFTER many long years of impenetrable silence, the shattering news that emerges from a small, pre-Roman, incredibly expensive (wait for the bill, A.U.) brick prefab camouflaged as the King Edward VII school, is that George Mitchell and his collection of lunatic riflemen are planning world domination following the assassination of G.W.H. and Randy and the takeover of the "Redbrick" sports pages. Mind you, their accuracy has to improve a bit first.

Anyway, now to more serious and weighty matters, namely hot-foot news of our last match which was versus the University of Wales (Cardiff) sometime around the end of November. O.K., so you try being hot-foot on three legs and some one-finger typing).

Half our heroic team ventured forth at the crack of dawn, dreading that the sky might fall on the heads at such temerity, to accom-

pany the Sailing Club, complete with myopic driver (there goes another capital asset) to a Welsh railway siding. The remaining four set off two hours later than planned in G.M.'s Hornet, and would not have been 30 minutes late but for a pleasant pint and ploughman's lunch just before Tintagel.

Once arrived we found that the firing points gave a fair impression of the motion of a cross-Channel

ferry caught in a North Atlantic hurricane 3,000 miles due North from Tristan Da Cunha. At this point of time John (The Hat) Saynor behaved more and more like a dormouse with a hyper-active pituitary and had to be put down, frequently.

Furthermore the Cardiff union ale and bar-footle tables are not to be recommended, so G.M. did the famous imitation of Timo Maakinen all the way up the Wye Valley to the aforementioned hostility, much to the consternation of Messrs. Price and Taylor, who pretended to sleep in the back, but were really watching the rapidly descending sky.

Much later, we somehow managed to avoid a multiple pile-up in the fog with the three other vehicles also heading up the M5.

For those of you who are either drunk, high, confused or just randy, this has been a Rifle Club expedition.

Final Scores:— Cardiff 1,425, Brum 1,447 Ron £4.38, 1 pint of oil, and four pints of Guinness. Birmingham won by 22.

ATHLETICS

AUKETTLE AGAIN

THE heats for the A.A.A. indoor championships were held at R.A.F. Cosford last Friday. Four of our lads broke winter training to compete. First on the boards were our two sprint stars, Crone and Aukettle, in the 400 metres. Crone reached the semi-final but a personal best time of 51.1 secs. was not good enough to reach the final. Aukettle scraped into the final by being the fastest loser, not the way you would expect the defending champion to perform.

Late on Saturday afternoon Aukettle stepped on to the track to defend his title, the least fancied of the four runners. But, as events were to show, able to stay with the best of them, as long as he has only one race a day.

A steady start, and smooth running through the first bend saw our lad in the lead. On he swept to the third bend, about 150 metres to go. The opposition already having written him off, were playing cat-and-mouse with each other. Through this bend Aukettle piled on the pressure and came out with a three-yard lead. The race effectively over, everyone went home, to leave the re-born super-star to complete the formality of the last 100 metres.

Whatever the secret of Aukettle's success, his winning margin could not be ascribed to luck.

Aggro Smedley ran a similar sort of race. Three yards up with 150 metres to go. But he was again caught and passed by three runners. Granted that he was only 0.6 secs. behind the winner, and he beat the European Championships qualifying time, he cannot be entirely happy. His lack of finishing speed must cause him to reflect long and hard on his training schedules.

SOCCER

TAFF EXCELS

Birmingham (spelt B-I-R-M-I-N-G-H-A-M) 1 Newcastle (spelt U-N-L-U-C-K-Y) 0

THANKS to a 13-26 goal by Iain Moir (the little darling) and courageous, desperate, if not brilliant goalkeeper and defending, Birmingham are in the semi-final of U.A.U. for the third year running.

Newcastle, with the appearance of a team spending only one night at home in the past week, turned out against the "Boys in blue", on a pitch reminiscent of Scott's stroll to the South Pole (or was it the North?). (I wasn't there, mind you, but I read about it.) The standard of football was literally scrappy—Newcastle were so confident that one of their players wanted to take us all on at once—not at football mind you. He was duly kicked a few times by the redoubtable Iain.

The weather and temperature were suited to the polar regions, and our magnificent supporters were justifiably frozen. We are eternally grateful to them, for their support was most needed in a tense second half when the Newcastle forwards took pity on the netting and refused to hit with the ball.

The high wind was the dominating factor in this game, for in the first half Birmingham mounted numerous attacks, but chances were few. The more clear-cut chances for Birmingham came in the second



Jim Aukettle winning last year's A.A.A. indoor 400 title. He retained it last Saturday.

Sportscene

I'LL start by thanking Randy Southam for taking over last week's page in my hour of need. I shouldn't really mention the fact that the early hours of the morning he referred to last week were not many minutes unadjacent to 2 p.m.

The confusion we were thrown into last week illustrates the current poor state of "Redbrick" Sports. When I first started we had three regular members of staff all capable of producing the page. That was over four years ago and since then Mr. Southam has been the only newcomer, albeit in a temporary capacity. It is imperative that replacements are found before the end of this term.

I can assure all the solicitous people who have wished me well (and the not so solicitous who were hoping I might develop fatal complications) that Andrew is now well on the road to recovery, minus one appendix. The only problem is, I am likely to be about two-stone overweight, after firmly establishing myself as West Ground Ward pudding eating champion.

I would like to thank the young lady who showed her solicitude in a rather unusual fashion. Having been misinformed by an extremely scurrilous source that I had had a testectomy, the kind-hearted vench sent me a curried egg. Very touching.

My recovery was greatly accelerated by an unillustrated current bonus from James Cooke, who awarded me a B.D.S. "Holden a dentistry graduate of Birmingham University..." ran his report in the "Telegraph" on January 25th. It was worth all the pain!

I was rather disturbed to receive reports from various sources, of certain members of the Cross Country Club giving up hope of successfully defending the B.U.S.F. cross-country title this Saturday. With that attitude they'll be lucky to even win the U.A.U. title.

Let's have some positive thinking, lads. You've won everything in your path so far this winter, so why the depression? Take a lesson from the Lancashire Cross Country team.

by Andy Holden

(On location in the Health Centre)

Crippled by the loss of six leading runners, they were considered to have better than an even chance of getting third place. Facts show that they came precious close to upsetting Yorkshire and were well in front of strongly-fancied Surrey.

CROWDS

Crowds of angry supporters followed the A.U. offices on Saturday storming the late postponement of the replay of the last round I.D.S. soccer tournament match between Chem. Eng. and Theology. Ashen-faced Tony Rankmore, his beard turning visibly greyer, croaked: "What could we do? We wanted to play the tie, but postponement was inevitable when the match referee drowned in the mud at the Redditch Road End."

Angry Chem. Eng. fan, Ivor Rattle, retorted: "The decision should have been taken earlier so that needless journeys could have been avoided. It has cost me 16p on the No. 45—and I could have stayed in and watched Rugby League on telly."

THEATRE

The athletics world was shocked last Thursday by the news of an injury to flaxen-haired Ian Aldridge, the favourite for the Olympic four-miles - at - midnight - under - the - influence - of - a - gallon - title. Medical experts told us that if a tendon is torn it could be the end of Aldridge's career, never mind his Olympic hopes. Latest reports are more optimistic and indicate that, in fact, Ian only stubbed his toe on the bar, causing him to momentarily lose his grip on his glass.

RAS & TOM

around

DAY BY DAY

Wednesday, 2nd

Free—Town Hall. Tickets from 50p-85p. 7.30 p.m.
Curtis Mayfield—Barbarella's. All week.

Thursday, 3rd

Jug of Punch, Digbeth—Folk Club. Malcolm Price. 8 p.m.
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra—Town Hall.
Pieces from Haydn, Delius and Elgar. 7.30 p.m. 30p-£1.
Humble Pie—Aston University. 8 p.m.
John Ford's Cuban Missile Crisis—Bradford Art College
Theatre Group. 7.30 p.m. Muirhead Tower. 25p.

Friday, 4th

ABC New Street—Late Night Cinema. 11.30 p.m. El Condor.
Quiver—plus Mr. Fox and Keith Christmas. Folk Club/
Events. Deb. Hall.
Anubis, plus White Rabbit.—Distractions, Bear Hotel, Bear-
wood.
"How I Won The War"—Late Night Cinema. Canon Hill
Film Theatre. 11.30 p.m. 30p.
Arts Lab—Open Workshop. 11.00 a.m.
"Anti-Symphony Show." 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 5th

C.B.S.O.—Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. A Concert in Spanish style.
Tickets from 30p.
Lindisfarne plus Khan. Belfry, Sutton Coldfield.
Arts Lab—As Friday.

Sunday, 6th

Sunday Flic—Lucky Jim. Deb. Hall. 7 p.m.
Arts Lab—As Friday.

Monday, 7th

Mountain—Kinetic Circus, Bull Ring.
Eddie Burns—plus The Shuffling Hungarians, Henry's
Crown Hill.
Poliphony—Elbow Room, Aston.
Flirtations—Barbarella's. All week.
Film Soc—L'Année Dernière a Marienbad, 1961. Mech. Eng.
7 p.m. 15p.

Tuesday, 8th

Open Forum—Rhodesia. 8 p.m. Peace Centre, Moor Street
Ringway.

CINEMA

ABC Cinerama—"Love Story." L.C.P. 8 p.m.
Closing for conversion, February 6th.

ABC Selly Oak—"Up the Chastity Belt" & "Powder Keg."
L.C.P. 7.10 p.m.

Cinephone—Retained 2nd week: "School for Virgins" and
"Girl/Boy."

Jacey—"My Love and I" and "Love is a Splendid Illusion."
Next week: "Sunday, Bloody Sunday."

Arts Lab—Tonight: Pop Art Films. 7.30 p.m.
From Monday for six days: "Borsalino" & "Perform-
ance."

Odeon New Street—"Please Sir" and "The Intelligence
Men." L.C.P. 6.40 p.m.
Next week: "The Anderson Tapes."

Odeon Ringway—"Women In Love" and "Midnight Cow-
boy." L.C.P. 6.10 p.m.
Next week: "Death in Venice."

Gaumont—"Nicholas and Alexandra." L.C.P. 7 p.m.

Futurist—"The Grissom Gang" and "The Statue."
Next week: "Shaft."

ABC New Street—Retained for second week: "Family
Life." L.C.P. 8.10 p.m. Next week: "Love Story."

THEATRE

Birmingham Theatre—"Jack and the Beanstalk."

Alexandra Theatre—"Robinson Crusoe."

Midlands Arts Centre—"This Jokey Drives Late Nights,"
by Henry Livings. 7.30 p.m.

Birmingham Theatre—Jack and the Beanstalk.

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford—"The Marquise,"
by Noel Coward. Up to Saturday, February 5th.
"My Fair Lady." Feb. 7th for one week.

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry—"The Rivals," by Sheridan.

GALLERY

Compendium—Gilbert Mason, paintings Middle & Upper
Galleries. Until February 12th.

Birmingham Art Gallery—Feb. 4th until April 9th. Modern
French Tapestries.

Ikon—Exhibition of Environmental Art between February
1st and March 11th.



"Women in Love," Odeon Ringway.



Scott Wilson and Irene Dailey in "The Crimson Gang," Futurist.