

GUILD NEWS

No. 576 Thursday, Oct. 6, 1960 Threepence
The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

GRIN AND BEAR IT!

An acute shortage of labour in the Birmingham district is the main reason why the Union extensions were not ready for the beginning of this term, as hoped. At the present rate of progress, the new wing, which will provide two-thirds as much accommodation again as the old block, is unlikely to be finished before Christmas and it is hoped that the Guild will move in for the beginning of the Spring term.

As the Arts and Law Faculties have now moved to Edgbaston, there will be inevitably crowding in the present Union building, but it is hoped that all members will be tolerant for the short time that they will have to suffer from over-crowded conditions.

BASEMENT BAR

The new Bar, in the basement of the new wing, is open, but it will not be available on Saturday nights until the rest of the wing is completed. This term there will be no facilities for billiards and snooker as the old Billiard Room has been converted into a Men's Lounge. Table tennis facilities will also be restricted to members of the University teams this term.

It is hoped that queues for meals in the Union will diminish as members realise that there are other places

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

Students will find all the
Recommended Text Books

AT

HUDSON'S

"The Book Centre for the Midlands"

IN

NEW STREET

AND

STEPHENSON STREET

(OPPOSITE THE QUEEN'S HOTEL)

Open until 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed at 1 p.m. on
Wednesdays. Tel. MID. 7701-2-3

STANFORD & MANN LTD.

UNIVERSITY SHOP
EDGBASTON

72 NEW STREET
BIRMINGHAM, 2

for all your Stationery requirements

In the Lower Corridor, Main Building, at Edgbaston, we stock all the approved Exercise and Loose Leaf Books, together with a comprehensive range of stationery lines.

For Gt. Charles Street students, our New Street Shop (opposite the G.P.O.) is open daily from 8.45 a.m.—5.30 p.m.

DIGS—WORST EVER

This year the perennial problem of housing students who come to the University from outside Birmingham, has taken on dimensions greater than ever before. The problem is so acute that some students may have to return home as there is nowhere for them to live.

Requests for volunteer landladies have been made in the local Press, but the Lodgings Warden's Office is still in a state of turmoil with long queues of students seeking digs or flats. At the time of going to press, no figures are available regarding the number of digs still required—as requests from students are pouring in with every post.

Why should the problem be more acute this year? In the first place the University is expanding rapidly (the slogan is 7,000 by 1970). This year the problem is also aggravated by the fact that the Arts and Law Faculties have moved out to Edgbaston.

Accommodation which would have been suitable for students working at Edmund Street, is so far from Edgbaston that daily travelling is both arduous and expensive. Erdington and Sutton Coldfield are examples of places too far away from Edgbaston, especially when travelling is done on public transport during the rush hours.

Financial problem

The problem is not merely that of a growing student population looking for digs within a convenient radius of the University.

There is also a serious shortage of digs that are suitable for students—suitable particularly in the financial sense. One German fresher, for example, said that he is paying four guineas a week for bed and breakfast!

This is a reflection on the general prosperity of Birmingham at the present time. The city attracts numerous people into its factories, commerce and public services from other parts of the country. These people, and the men working on redevelopment in the city, all swell the numbers looking for accommodation.

What is more, these people are considerably more attractive to

a prospective landlady than a university student. They keep more regular hours; they do not leave their digs for long vacation periods and they have a good regular wage coming in each week.

Gallant efforts

The University is doing all it can to accommodate as many students as possible. Apart from the gallant efforts of Miss Teverson, the Lodgings Warden, and her hard-working staff, the Halls of Residence are squeezing in as many as possible. Manor House has converted a cottage into additional rooms for students and University House and Chancellor's Hall are taking in more residents than usual. A magnanimous offer has been received from Queen's College, Somerset Road, who have offered accommodation for two or three dozen students to relieve the strain until their own students come back into residence in two weeks' time.

These efforts may solve the problem temporarily—but what of next year? And the year after? The proposed new Halls of Residence will help to relieve the strain to some extent, but the 1,000 places that are planned for 1968-69 will still house only about 15 per cent of the students in the enlarged University (of the present total 11% are in Halls). The number of digs required each year is obviously going to rise, and rise rapidly.

This is one of the most pressing problems facing both the University and the Guild at the present time. Someone has obviously to do some hard thinking—and soon!

by the Lord
Mayor of
Birmingham

attracts visitors, private individuals and official delegations, anxious to see a great city actually being rebuilt.

Progress

Marching with this progress your own university is raising up its new building at Edgbaston. Throughout this century we, "the town", have basked in the reflected glory of the increasing regard with which the University of Birmingham is held in the academic world.

I welcome you as a member of an honoured institution and hope that you will be successful in your labours and happy in your residence amongst us.

END OF GRIME

It is my privilege to welcome you to the city where you will live for the next few years. Many of you will be visiting Birmingham for the first time. A city which is not quite as white as we would wish it to be, and certainly not as black as it is sometimes painted. The days of smoke and grime are fast disappearing.

About a century ago Birmingham developed into one of the greatest industrial centres. It would be difficult to find a community in the world which possesses nothing manufactured here — if indeed such a place exists.

The civic authorities and private enterprise are facing the prob-

lems caused by confused town planning during the last century. The city is now passing through one of the most courageous and progressive periods in its history. Throughout our 80 square miles immense building projects are creating a new Birmingham. It

University Chapel Services

Sunday, Oct. 9th—

Holy Communion 8.30 a.m.
Freshmen's Service 6.15 p.m.
(Debating Hall).

Daily Services—

9.30 - 9.50 a.m.
5.10 - 5.30 p.m.

Holy Communion—

Tuesday, 12.15 p.m.
Friday, 7.30 a.m.



GUILD NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER
THE UNION, EDGBASTON

Tel. Selly Oak 1841

EDITORIAL STAFF

ACTING EDITOR: Maureen Jones

From the president —Tony Goss

THE first week of the Session is always a hectic week, and inevitably unsettled. The freshmen, following their introduction are finding their feet, and having their first taste of a University with its full complement of students. This year we have 4,400 people at Edgbaston, a lot more than ever before; a situation which is providing several problems of overcrowding, in and around the Union.

In welcoming you all, the freshmen, the many of you who had to leave your home at Ed. Street, and those of you returning for another year, I must appeal to you to bear with us, and help overcome the difficulties we face arising from this increase in numbers. I am sure that if everybody realises the situation and seeing the problems, helps to alleviate them, we will find that there are few inconveniences.

We had hoped to be using some of the facilities of the new extension, but regrettably we have to wait for a little longer. When we do move in, we will have many more rooms to live in and can all look forward to this time.

The building is in the last stages of completion, and I shall see that you are kept informed of its progress. One room that is open is the new bar, which was, as somebody said "a matter of first things first." This has also meant that we are continuing the tradition of a Founders' Room in the Guild, and I hope that this room will be as much liked as its predecessor.

Perhaps our greatest problem and the one which affects us all, is eating. Queues at meal-times are inevitable, but they need never be too long, if everybody makes full use of all the facilities. I urge as many of you who can, especially those of you working in the Main Building, to eat in the University refectory, which has been enlarged and can offer you better service than in previous years.

Following up the aftermath of the Freshman's conference, we hope that it has been a satisfactory introduction to those of you who have just joined us, and as we are constantly trying to improve the formation of the Conference we will gladly review any comments or criticisms you may have.

In the past, there have been many misunderstandings about the functions of the Executive Committee, and it is my hope

that this year you will consider that we have not only to run the Union on your behalf, but also to consider your opinions and wishes on any matter concerning our life within the Guild.

As Guild Council is the body which is responsible for all decisions on Guild policies, we hope that you will keep in close contact with your Guild Council Representative, who will then be able to see that you are kept well informed of all that is happening. We hope that many of the freshmen will stand in the forthcoming elections for Guild Council, for it is to you we look to help us in the organisation of Guild Committees and affairs.

We wish you all well during the coming year, may it be a happy and successful one and, by efforts in work, sports and societies may the reputation of Birmingham University be kept as high as it is at present.

POLITICAL FORUM SOCIALISTS SAY . . .

DURING recent years there has been a growing political consciousness in universities. Tremendous indignation over the Suez fiasco, radical opposition to Apartheid, support for the movement towards colonial freedom, and the great H-bomb debate—these are the main issues around which this political energy has been generated.

It is said that political trends in universities are an accurate indication of future political trends in the whole country. At the moment, all the important political issues are being debated solely within the British Labour Movement.

The controversies over Clause IV and Britain's future defence policy are threatening to rend the beams of the Labour Party. As Liberals woo seductively from the right, as the Communist party holds out its arms on the left, the whole future direction of the Socialist movement is in a state of flux.

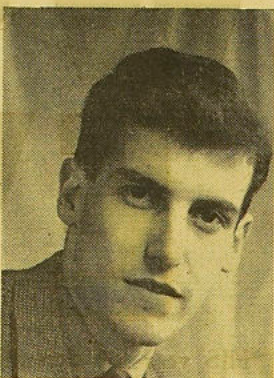
Challenge

We are living now in a time of challenge, change and excitement, both in this country, and more particularly on the world scale. The great national liberation movements of former colonial countries, and the increasing strength and stature of the Socialist powers, together with the growing strength of the various peace movements, are rapidly transforming the international scene.

This is not a time for students to remain politically sterile or cynically aloof.

The Socialist Union looks forward this session to seeing further increase in the political tempo within the University. It

EXEC. SHOCKS Resignations during vac.



David Mallion



John O'Connor

A DEPLETED Executive face the new Session. Of the six Executive Officers who were elected last term, three have handed in their resignations during the Long Vacation and two of them have left the University for good.

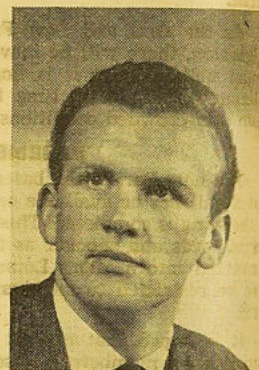
Guy Rastall, re-elected to Executive after serving as Guild Secretary last session, has decided to make accountancy his career and has taken articles. Guy was one of the defeated candidates in last term's Presidential Election and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for the revision of the Constitution.

Fred Blader, last year's External Affairs chairman, who was re-elected as an Executive Officer, has resigned his position because of pressure of work within his department. He has been appointed to a Junior Lectureship and will continue his work for N.U.S., of which he is a Vice-President.

A new boy on Executive, Mike Rowney, has also resigned to take up a scholarship in Canada. Before graduating this year, Mike represented the metallurgists on Guild Council. Another surprise resignation during the vac. was that of Dave Shaw, Editor of "Guild News." Dave failed to obtain a grant to return to the Geography Department and has now gone into the R.A.F.

The depleted Executive now consists of three new boys and two old hands, with Past President, Mike Stanley, also returning to keep a fatherly eye on the Guild.

Internal Affairs are in the capable hands of R. B. "Spud" Taylor, a graduate geologist now reading for a Diploma in Commerce. "Spud" was a member of Entertainment's Committee last year; Travel Secretary in 1958 and has represented the miners and geologists on Guild Council.



Roger Taylor

See the Apache!
—how strong he is
on Guinness



Nothing else
is Apache on Guinness
Have some now!

GUINNESS—HIM STRONG

Local elections

The Association also tries to help local candidates at election time. This is a useful and often illuminating experience.

On the social side the Association runs at least two socials a year, and also organises a trip to the Houses of Parliament. This will take place on Wednesday, February 15th. This is probably the highlight of our year, as it ends with a theatre visit, and your support, as in all our other activities, is welcomed.

Ed. St. taken over No demolition yet

WHEN the University moved out at midnight on Friday, September 23rd, Ed. St. gained a new lease of life. Its scheduled demolition to make way for a new Refectory Library was postponed; Birmingham College of Commerce, School of Architecture, Matthew Boulton Tech., College of Food & Domestic Arts, School of Art moved in to join the Education Department for the next 12 months till they go to their new building at Gosta Green.

Since term began the following week, corridors and lecture rooms are littered with furniture and equipment, as staff rush to get things ready. Rooms in the German and Classics Department labelled "Life" and "Human

Forms" make way for the overflow from the Art School in Margaret Street, and easels fill the Examination Hall.

Films on hygienic handling of food are being shown in the English Theatre, while a class on welding takes over the English Seminar. Offices of heads of departments are now lecture rooms and the College of Commerce which has moved half its students from Broad Street is installed in the Library.

Complaints

Staff and student opinion on their new home is astonishingly favourable. Naturally enough there are complaints about poor light, dirt and inadequate heating, and that, because their tenancy is supposed to be a temporary measure, no money can be spent on improvements. Yet Ed. St. is "vastly superior" to the cramped and noisy conditions of premises above a garage in Broad Street and old rooms about the city, some of which are to be demolished to make way for new ringroads. And Ed. St. has one thing, they claim. Above all, Ed. St. has atmosphere, relic of the days of the Faculties of Arts and Law.

No fridge

Catering facilities are inadequate. Refec. still serves coffee

ARTS IN THE MUD

TO the sound of furious building activity — not great enough to finish the Arts block on schedule—we go to inspect our new home. Rain and dust congeal into mud. The litter of construction lies everywhere.

We approach the building by walking along precarious planks. Dust, hammering, that peculiar smell of new wet paint — this is our new exchange for Ed. Street.

Long straight corridors, with wood-stained doors standing sentinel on either side, is the replacement for Ed. St.'s innumerable odd stairways and ingenious passages. Variations in the colour of floors denote different departments.

Leather seats

Each storey is similar to the one above and the one below. Each small room is distinguished only by the name on the door. Seminar rooms with leather seats, lecture theatres with tip-up chairs—all novelties to the erstwhile Ed. Streeter.

The building would serve its purpose equally well as an office block or hospital. At least Ed. St. could only be used for one thing — perhaps that is why it is to be demolished.

FRESHERS!

Just a reminder . . . join the
UNIVERSITY CONSERVATIVE
ASSOCIATION NOW

Apply to I. R. T. Ellis via Union pigeon-hole for programme.

Air squadron at large

SEVERAL members of the Airfield Construction Flight spent their two weeks' annual continuous training in Cyprus, where they joined up with members from Leeds University Air Squadron.

Their programme included a four day road survey exercise, an air sea rescue operation, and trips to places of historical interest on the island. Most members found plenty of time for swimming, water-skiing and sailing besides.

During the University Air Squadron Summer Camp at R.A.F. Martlesham Heath, several members visited the

Rowing Success

THE Mermaid Rowing Club, the University vacation club, made front-page news in the national Press by winning the Lincoln to Boston marathon race of 32 miles on Sunday, September 25th.

They completed the course in a clinker boat with a record time of three hours 41 minutes six seconds, to win the event outright and take the Captain's Cup for the fastest eight.

The crew was: Bow W. D. Box, 2 B. D. Vaughan, 3 A. P. Miles, 4 R. S. Clarke, 5 A. N. F. Bellamy, 6 B. J. Ford, 7 B. G. Payne, stroke 1. C. Canadine and cox J. M. Sadler.

Royal Air Force Station at Chivenor, which is the operational conversion unit for pilots who are to fly Hunter aircraft. Some members broke through the sound barrier in a Hunter aircraft.

I USED TO BE
A REBEL IN MY
YOUTH.

Have
you
discovered Feiffer?

A LITTLE WHILE ago Penénnis in The Observer examined the strip-cartoon characters in other newspapers (Colonel Pewter, the Gambols, the Bumsteads, Andy Capp, etc. . . .) with a kindly interest in their besetting sins (Pride, Envy, Sloth, etc. . . .). He made no mention of The Observer's own weekly cartoon strip by Jules Feiffer, for Feiffer's cartoons are not devoted to the adventures of any particular set of characters, or to any particular indulgences. But if you are beset by Doubt, Feiffer is your man . . .

These strip cartoons are like no others in the world. Highly individual, lazy-elocuent drawings: long, block-lettered dialogues or thinkings aloud, with emphatic words in black: no stock characters, no square frames, no balloons, no winks, no nudges and not a damn thing explained. And, strangest of all, a deep, wry seriousness behind the comedy—so that, depending upon mood and matter, a

Feiffer-addict may respond to a Feiffer cartoon by shouting for joy or by going away quietly to weep and wonder.

A young man called Bernard (but sometimes Howard) loses battles against his girl, his boss, his friends ("you can't win you can't win you can't win"). A long-robed patriarch 'reviews' the Old Testament—favourably. An Oedipus-like figure on a psychiatrist's couch skims through his lurid life ("My daughter's seeing you tomorrow. Boy, has she got problems.")

Jules Feiffer is young, unmarried, hip, an Eastern American with inherited puritanism, a citizen of Greenwich Village with a pass to every other Bohemia. Of his readers in The Observer, a majority says nothing, while two minorities applaud and hiss. It's a test of something . . . and not merely of cleverness. It's liable to grow on you. Have you discovered where you stand? J.B.L.

MERMAID
Original Writing
Staff
Wanted

Apply Editor via Union
Pigeon-holes.



BIRMINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

1,210 ON PARADE

Conference Welcome

TWELVE HUNDRED Freshers—more than ever before—packed the Great Hall to hear the customary speeches of welcome from the City, Church, University and Guild.

The Conference on Saturday was opened by Tony Goss on behalf of the Guild and was followed by the Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Stephen Burman, on behalf of the University, who told the Freshmen that they were intellectually above the average—but that it was no particular credit to them—they were born with it.

On behalf of the City, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Alderman John Lewis likened the Freshmen's situation in being on the threshold of three years at the University to that of Nigeria forming an independent state. "They, like you, will be called on to accept responsibility." He went on to tell the Conference what wonderful opportunities Birmingham offered. He concluded by warning the Freshers of the dangers of sex and urged them to behave in a responsible way.

THE BISHOP

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. J. L. Wilson, welcomed the Freshers on behalf of the Birmingham Churches and told them that the Church was there

to help them if they were ever in need.

The opening session of the Conference concluded with a speech from Professor Waterhouse on the amenities of the Barber Institute. He said that few people took advantage of the Institute until it was rather late in their stay at the University. He hoped that in future this situation would be remedied.

On Sunday the Conference continued with a concert given by the University Musical Society in the Barber Institute and a Freshman's Service in the Debating Hall on Sunday. The Conference concluded on Monday with a second session in the Great Hall when the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Aitken, delivered his annual address.

THOSE HECTIC DAYS

BEWILDERED little Fresher with a pinned-on label

Streaming through the Union in a hurry and a daze,
Listening to speeches, commercials, pep-talks,
Feeling like a crocodile or spaghetti bolognaise.

Hectic days of buffeting in crowds and queues of Priestley,
Sinking with a sigh into bed and breakfast digs;
Crammed so full of words, advice, and receipt notes,
He'd rather have a diet of syrup and figs.

Never felt so wanted, got at, important,
Never been so brainwashed in so short a time.
Then it's all over and reading lists are given,
Schedules and time-tables make conferences sublime.

Make the most of this chum, you'll never be so sought after
Not too enthusiastic, keep an even keel,
Use your eyes and ears though, 'cos when the party's over
You're one of a several thousand and that's just how big
you feel.

CORNISH BROTHERS LIMITED

By Appointment, Publishers and Booksellers to the University
All the Recommended Textbooks on sale at
our BOOKSTALL in the Lower Corridor near
the Refectory at the University, Edgbaston,
and at

39 NEW STREET — BIRMINGHAM 2
Tel. MIDland 0569

M & B

It's

Marvellous Beer

GUILD THEATRE GROUP IN FRANKFURT FIASCO

"FIASCO-SQUARED." This is the best description of "Hamlet" in Germany. After a smooth week in the Loft Theatre at Leamington Spa, G.T.G. were not prepared for the hectic events to follow.

Right from the beginning at Victoria Station they began to suspect... The N.U.S. representative with the ticket did not arrive until the precise minute the train was due to leave. Fortunately they managed to delay the boat train since they were still loading the scenery at Dover.

Once on the Channel steamer one of the group turned a beautiful shade of green. Those on their first crossing did not think that it could be as bad as that. On arrival at Ostend it was decided to find a doctor for Peter Thomas, Guildenstern, for it was he who was looking off-colour.

After 20 minutes the Tyrol express just would not wait any longer and Hamlet and several others who might have been useful, were left behind. The party arrived in Frankfurt about midnight to find that a member had left his case on the train, which was probably in Italy by then. He never saw it again (his case). But no one seemed to care any longer.

In hospital

Fortunately Hamlet and Co. arrived the next day, having left Guildenstern in hospital in Ostend with gastro-enteritis.

They encountered technical difficulties, small and not too well equipped stages. You may imagine the troubles involved in a situation in which one performs in the evening at one school, dismantles everything for an early-morning move,

rises at six a.m. the next day, travels 25 miles with all equipment to another stage and is ready for a 10 a.m. performance.

This happened on several occasions. Nor were matters improved when another member of the cast was confined to bed with gastro-enteritis; and several others with symptoms continued to act when, in normal circumstances, they should have rested.

Performances continued, however, and despite the inevitable tiredness, the fit members of the group enjoyed themselves. The play as a whole improved as difficulties were surmounted, and never could the audiences have complained of not getting their money's worth at any of the eight performances.

Complications

Added complications were that though G.T.G. were supposed to be staying in private homes, about twenty of the group had to stay at a Youth Hostel. As this closed at 9.45 p.m. and G.T.G. were involved in late performances, difficulties arose about getting in at night, resulting in G.T.G. being thrown out of the hostel three times and taken back the next morning, and on one occasion sleeping under bridges on the river and on Frankfurt's railway station.

When G.T.G. left Frankfurt they were interviewed by reporters and stories of their adventures reached the British papers. The station Press Conference became so animated that several members of the group, including the leader with the party ticket, missed the train and arrived in England 12 hours later than the rest who had argued their way across Europe without tickets.

GRIN AND BEAR IT!

—CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

available on the Campus for meals. There will be no new meal facilities in the new block.

One of the main difficulties during the term will be the accommodation of society meetings, and attempts are being made to house some of these in rooms at the University.

INADEQUATE

Even when the extensions are completed the Union will be inadequate to cater for a total of 4,425 full-time students. The spacious new Founders' Room, which deserves far better treatment than its shabby predecessor received, will ease the strain on the Coffee Room. The catering facilities, however, are not intended to include the whole student population.

Obviously this term is going to strain facilities and tempers to their limits—but remember that blame for the delays can be laid at no one's door. Everyone has done their best. For one term we must grin and bear it, before we take possession of what will be one of the finest Union buildings in the country.

JANUARY DRAMA

LEEDS University is the scene for next January's National Student Drama Festival. Organised by the N.U.S. and the "Sunday Times," the Festival is being held for the sixth year in succession from January 2-7.

"We've never held the Festival in Leeds before, but the city is well-known for its cultural life," declares Fred Morgan, N.U.S. Events Manager.

Communications will be through N.U.S. secretaries, after mid-October.

This term's production—to be entered for the N.U.S. Drama Festival—is "The Great God Brown" by Eugene O'Neill. Anyone, especially freshers, who are interested in either acting or technical work are invited to attend auditions in the first week of term. Watch the notice-boards for times and places. We welcome the smallest offers of help from all who are genuinely interested in the theatre.

AN OPEN INVITATION



The idea that having an account with a nation-wide bank like the Midland is something reserved for people of substantial means is a fallacy. So also is the belief that banks are interested only in those who are older and already established. The Midland Bank is interested in YOU—and all young people like you. You would find a bank account extremely useful and with the Midland's Personal Cheques the cost is only 6d. a cheque—5/- for a book of 10. There are no other charges of any kind. If you require more than Cheque Book service—and there are many other Midland Bank services—ask for a Current Account. You cannot be far away from any of our 2,250 branches. Call in next time you're passing; you'll be very welcome. This is an open invitation.



Midland Bank