

Women's Debating
Tournament Finals
Council Chamber
5.15, Thursday.

GUILD NEWS

No. 612

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th, 1962

Price 3d.

Film Society
SEVEN SAMURAI
LAUGHING GAS
Mech. Eng.
Lec. Theatre
7.30 p.m., Thursday.

Unique exhibition appears on T.V.

'56's VENTURE IS A HIT

by Guild News Reporter

ON Monday the Vice-Chancellor opened the '56 Society's Exhibition on the lower ground floor of the Education Department. Entitled: "The Scientist's Eye," the exhibition has attracted a great deal of attention, and a television unit paid a visit on Monday.

The display shows the similarity of visual pattern that occurs not only in different sciences, but also in the work of the artist. This is only the second time an exhibition of this type has been held in Britain.

The drive behind the exhibition comes from John Roberts, chairman of the '56 Society. Professor Kolbuszewski, of the Highway and Traffic Engineering department, who thought of the idea, and Dr. Cahn, Physical Metallurgy, who organised a smaller exhibition on these lines in 1958, have done a great deal of work and provided

many of the ideas.

Dr. Cahn felt that the exhibition was in some ways an attempt to rescue the reputation of the scientist, and to show the aesthetically pleasing patterns which occur in the scientists work.

The exhibition contains many examples of the cross relation between the arts and scientific worlds. Although four-fifths of the exhibits come from the University, considerable help has been obtained from the College of Arts, The Midland Institute and the City Museum.

Design

Mr. McNally, a tutor at the College of Arts, has helped in the design. With design experience at the Brussels Exhibition, he is concerned with transforming the patterns of nature into practical design, an approach which has not been used extensively since the heyday of ancient Greece.

Dr. Cahn is very pleased that the exhibition had brought members of different departments into close contact. He commented on the suitability of the exhibition with its fine internal architecture.

This exhibition is the climax of three months' work. Admission is free and it is hoped that the sale of programmes at one shilling each will meet the cost of the display. The exhibition is open until Saturday.

A review of "The Scientist's Eye" appears on Page Three.

FUTURE EDITOR



(Photo: Arthur Burgess).

GUILD Council has elected Mr. Mike Coe, a second year Chemical Engineer, to be the next Editor of "Guild News." As the system of electing Editors has been changed to allow two a year to be elected in future, Mr. Coe will only serve until Christmas of this year, when he will be free to stand for the post again if he so wishes.

In his policy statement to Guild Council, Mr. Coe, who is at present Assistant Editor, declared that he would like to see more letters in the paper and that he also wished to improve the financial and sales situation, which at present was rather poor.

Those of the staff who have watched his steady climb from reporter to News Editor and then Assistant Editor are confident that he will fill the post successfully and well.

R.L.B.

UP THE LADDER

AT a meeting of Guild Council last night George Chapman, a Civ. Eng. Research student, was elected Chairman of Entertainments Committee. This followed the resignation of Mike Berry on the advice of his professor, Professor Tobias, of the Mech. Eng. Dept.

"I am very sorry to have to give this up," said Mike Berry, "but obviously my academic work must come first."

During his year of office, Mr. Berry has produced many excellent functions for the Guild.

"Entertainments Committee regrets losing Mike, especially at this time of the year," said Mr. Chapman. "However, we shall still have the benefit of his experience."

● John Roberts, Dr. Cahn and Professor Kolbuszewski setting up exhibits for "The Scientist's Eye" exhibition.

(Photo: Arthur Burgess).

Ents. Comm. examine Hop organization TWO HOPS IN FUTURE?

WITH the rapid increase of students attending the University, Entertainments Committee feel that they ought to cater for more people at the Hops.

Since they have decided that more students would attend these if there were more space, they are going to examine the possibility of holding two dances on a Saturday night.

The Chairman, George Chapman, is hoping to take his committee on a tour of inspection of the new Refectory to see if a second dance could be

held there. This inspection cannot take place until the building is almost completed, as Entertainments Committee will have to examine the facilities which will be available before making a decision.

SAINT'S DAY

ON Wednesday evening, "Cymdeithas Hywel Dda" celebrated the eve of St. David's Day with the playing of tapes of the pirate, 'Radio Free Wales.'

This was the first time that the tapes had been heard in Birmingham. They consisted of two complete "Radio Free Wales" broadcasts and two N.B.C. broadcasts on "Radio Free Wales" that went out on a coast-to-coast network in the United States.

The broadcasts explained how "Radio Free Wales" supports Plaid Cymru (the Welsh Nationalists) and protested against the Postmaster General's refusal to allow the Welsh Region of the B.B.C. to give broadcasting time to the Welsh Nationalists.

Students Protest at Delay in Justice

TWO members of the Guild, R. A. Walker (Metallurgy 1) and W. E. Bracewell (Elec. Eng. 1) are protesting against the slowness of justice in the Guild.

Last term, on November 11th, they were caught climbing into a Hop and the stewards impounded their membership cards. As directed, they reported to the Chief Steward's office on the following Monday.

The Chief Steward said that the matter was not under his jurisdiction and told the undergraduates to await notification from Disciplinary Committee.

Having heard nothing, they wrote to the President in the first week of this term, asking him to look into the matter. As there was still no action, they then wrote to their Guild Council representative, who asked a question at a Council meeting.

It is now 16 weeks since their cards were removed and there is still no sign of any action on

the part of Disciplinary Committee. "Like Kafka's, 'The Trial,' this is," said one of the accused.

TODAY

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Have you seen this week's New Statesman?

The best-selling review.
Edited by John Freeman.
Fridays, Ninepence.

GUILD NEWS

The Birmingham University Newspaper

Over-spending

THE Lounge Bar, at first, appeared to be a splendid idea. How useful to have somewhere fairly respectable to take the girl friend, the parents, Great-Aunt Matilda, without the risk of their ears being assailed by rude songs and their nostrils offended by the smell of stale beer.

Now the good idea looks somewhat tarnished. The estimates for the bar were presented to Council with a take-or-leave-it gesture which ensured that Councillors, most of whom wanted a new bar, would vote in favour of spending more than £3,000 on it.

Although it was revealed at the time that tenders had been sought from only two firms, Councillors assumed, since no detailed accounting of the costs was given, that expert advice had been obtained on expenditure and value for money. But it appears that no such advice has been sought or given.

For example, one of the things we will get for our money is an 18 ft. bronze foot-rail, price £38—more than £2 a foot! If the Guild is really serious about economising this year, then this is a very strange way to set about it.

Last Thursday Finance Committee approved potential expenditure of £1,000 on furnishing and fitting the new bar—it is only potential because the Guild is hoping the University will meet part of the cost.

Chairs

Will the Guild buy the furniture in the same way as it contracted for the bar itself? The tender provides for 60 chairs and 15 tables at a cost of £660. Will ALL these go into the ex-T.V. room, as well as a bar?

There is a good case for a reasonable Lounge Bar. There is none for wasting money. After a given point, the law of diminishing returns comes into operation and we obtain less and less for the same outlay.

There will be a meeting in Executive Committee Room on the top floor of the Union at 1-30 p.m. to-day to discuss the new furnishing arrangements. Anyone interested may attend.

If any member of the Guild is qualified to speak with authority on this topic, we strongly urge him to go to this meeting. He might be the means of saving the Guild, and, therefore, all of us, a considerable sum of money.

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PRESS POST

DANGER TO US ALL

SIR,—As a graduate of the University since last summer I would be grateful if you would print the following report, not only because I feel it would be of general interest, but because it is a matter which concerns every one of us and if we are not watchful may well overwhelm us all.

I have just spent a week in Berlin, during which time I have been flooded with information from all sides. The Berliners have been obliged to watch the Communists at work for over 16 years now, but for the visitor it can be a shattering experience.

The cold-bloodedness and inhumanity of which one reads in the newspapers become such a frightening reality that one often stumbles out of East Berlin or the Zone with a sigh of relief.

Danger

My first impressions were, of course, rather superficial and this is the great danger for those who stay for only a short visit. I saw Robert Kennedy deliver his speech from the Schoenberg Town Hall and the Communist attempt to interrupt him by firing balloons and parachutes carrying the red flag overhead. A good joke, you may think, but the Communists are in deadly earnest and such psychological tricks can achieve a great deal.

All these factors have a demoralising effect that is at once noticeable, and one cannot but

RELIEF AND SERVICES

SIR,—While offering my sincere best wishes to Mr. Kelman and his proposed organisation for Relief and Development, I feel it my duty to indicate some home truths which he seems to have overlooked in his severe and unjust criticism of the President's recent appeal.

His suggestion that it is shameful that we should close this special appeal seems quite unreasonable and quite unrealistic.

I would point out that the World University Service, a standing committee of the Guild which seeks to make students aware of their international environment, has as part of its aims, precisely those which Mr. Kelman proposes for his organisation. Does he feel that doubling-up on the amount of "machinery" already in motion is synonymous with doubling-up on the amount of work done?

Hypocrisy

Would he not agree that if we students are apathetic to the welfare of colleagues worse off than ourselves, it is sheer hypocrisy for us to talk of the welfare of the more remote starving millions?

I suggest, sir, that our Mr. Kelman's time would be more usefully spent, and indeed very welcome, in the service of W.U.S., helping clean up the mess in our own home—the World University—first.

Yours etc.,
KERRITT W. WALROND.

admire the Berliners for their fortitude in face of such a great menace.

My letter to you, however, is prompted by my experiences of one day in East Berlin which have left such an impression upon me that I cannot think of it without feeling a great apprehension for the future.

Many things impressed me in East Berlin, but I will pass on to the evening when I had obtained a ticket for a lecture on "What is Communism?" in the House of German-Soviet Friendship. Here, with about seven friends, I presented myself at 6 p.m. to hear the lecture. The speaker, a "Diploma-Philosopher" from the University, was a very able speaker.

Nothing

In a talk which lasted over 40 minutes he told us precisely nothing. Then it was time for questions. "How would the State treat the Church under Communism?" Answer: Religion is merely an escape for a deeper need in mankind. The coming of Communism will satisfy this need and religion will then be unnecessary.

"Why was the wall built which divides Berlin?" To this, he answered in the form of an allegory. If a town is threatened by a plague and it builds a barrier of protection against infection, is not this the sensible thing to do?

And in such a manner he answered many other questions. But he became increasingly hesitant in his answers (there were many West Germans in the room) and the meeting suddenly reached a crisis. A big, burly, wolf-faced man in the audience stood up and began to shout at us that we were insulting the D.D.R.

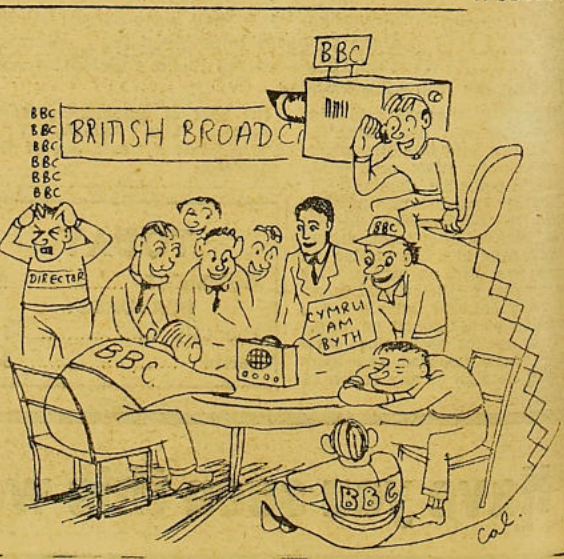
He was obviously a big official, as the president did not dare to restore order. Like a taper he went on for half an hour, dealing in half-truths, intimidating, threatening and waving his hands. He was a real Krushchev in miniature. He was so frightening that one of our girls could not stand it and rushed out of the room.

Head

The matter came to a head when he accused us all of being enemy propaganda agents here to sabotage the work of the D.D.R. As one man we all rose (more than half the assembly) and started to walk out. He rushed to the door, accused one of our girls of being an agent of R.I.A.S. (Radio in American Sector) and was only finally persuaded by the president to let us go.

This is the truth of Communism that lets such men get to the top. If the Western World is not ever watchful such men will be the leaders of tomorrow.

GEOFFREY PULLEN.
(Graduate)



● Cymdeithas Hywel Dda broadcast some tapes of Radio Free Wales last Wednesday. (Drawing: Cal.)

WILLIAM BROGDEN FUND

SIR,—I would like, through your columns, to appeal on behalf of the William Brogden Fund. This fund has been launched for the purpose of allowing a non-white South African to pursue a course of study at a British University.

SCARS is organising a collection in the Union at lunch-time tomorrow; collecting this will be labelled S.A.S. (South African Scholarship) and I would earnestly request all members of the Guild to give their support to this venture. Further details of the fund can be found on the SCARS notice-board.

Anyone prepared to stand with a tin at any time between 12 noon and 2 p.m. is asked to report at Committee Room 2 (top floor) on the day of the collection.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. MARJORAM

DIATRIBE

SIR,—It was stated in "Guild News" two weeks ago that the new Lounge Bar was to occupy the present TV Room and that the TV Room would then occupy the Men's Lounge. This seems reasonable, but now that the Lounge Bar has been officially approved by Guild Council, I would like to suggest that the Women's Lounge be made into another mixed lounge like the Concourse.

At present, the Women's Lounge, a most delightful room, is rarely occupied by more than a dozen people, while the Concourse Lounge, both at lunch-time and in the evening, is filled to capacity and rarely an empty seat is to be found.

I well appreciate that periodically women need a quiet room in which to rest, but surely a smaller room would suit their purpose quite adequately (the lounge above the reading-room, for example).

I am sure that by printing this letter some healthy discussion should result.

Yours etc.,
D. J. TRIBE.

TO ARMS

SIR,—I have been questioned recently as to the origin of the Mermaid in the University Coat-of-Arms. I wonder if some heraldic expert can enlighten me?

Yours etc.,
T. COBLEY.

REVIEWS PAGE

TV QUEST

SEXUALITY is still our most immediate and genuine concern. So says the "Radio Times" announcing last Sunday's "Meeting Point" and they quote students from this University who were preparing for the programme.

Students have always been concerned with sex, either in asking about it, practising it or getting caught at it. They might to question the generation which reserves the right of pleasure on their private moral lives.

Only recently after a young lady was sent down from Oxford for the whole of Britain's student opinion waxed wrathful that an individual's life should be so interfered with by those supposedly concerned with her learning and education.

One of our female students (incidentally, are Birmingham University girls really so much more concerned with sex than we men?) asked if marriage was anything more than a convenient organisation of society.

Evelyn Home said marriage was never convenient, the psychiatrist felt marriage was a sociological experiment and I

Music

BY MANY STRINGS

SHOULD the strings of an orchestra be reduced for performances of Bach, Handel or any of the early Viennese composers? This is, and has been for some years, a most controversial topic. My own view has always been that if a conductor can secure a good performance with the present-day number of strings, then he entirely justifies himself.

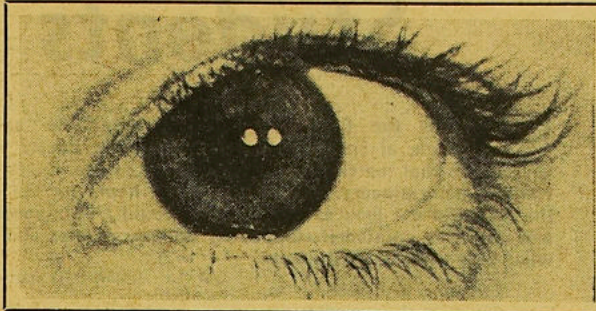
Hugo Rignold did not reduce his string body for Bach's 3rd Suite which opened last Thursday's C.B.S.O. concert. He drew wonderfully responsive playing, amazing and superb rhythm and intonation from from C.B.S.O. strings.

We know that Handel and Mozart delighted in large string orchestras which naturally give a fuller tone and often result in superior intonation. The three trumpets were marvelously strident and brilliant. Beethoven's 7th Symphony received an electrifying performance and again the strings were on top of their form; the finale was taken too fast, though the orchestra responded with remarkable clarity of attack and phrasing.

Zvi Zeitlin displayed an exceptional technique in what is perhaps Sibelius' best work, the Violin Concerto. However, this was the C.B.S.O.'s night; they have come a long way since Mr. Rignold took over 18 months' ago.



● "My dear brother in iniquity!" Aimwell (John Samuels) and Archer (Graham Davies) in a scene from "The Beaux Stratagem."



● "The Scientist's Eye" is the title of the '56 Society's Exhibition, which is being held in the Education Dept. this week. (Photo: Arthur Burgess).

Films

A CERTAIN FEELING

THE adulation generally accorded to Mr. Peter Sellers is not likely to be diminished by his latest film, "Only Two Can Play" (A.B.C., New St.), adapted from the book "That Uncertain Feeling" by Mr. Kingsley Amis. Indeed, he can usually be relied on to more than make up for the sort of deficiencies from which most film comedies suffer.

John Lewis (Peter Sellers) and his wife (Virginia Maskell) have reached the familiar stage of marriage when there are two young children and father has a roving eye. The stage on his bedroom wallpaper and the talent which frequents the Abercromby library at which he is an assistant serve as constant reminders to him of the need to satisfy his natural instincts.

A serious treatment of this common social phenomenon would label him over-sexed, but in this film he's just a happily married man—until he meets the wealthy Mrs. Gruffudd-Williams (Mai Zetterling) who virtually seduces him.

All this is very funny and reasonably sophisticated.

It is Lewis' little girl who is

G.T.G.

Val Jennings CUPID'S BEAUX

"LOVE is I know not what," says a character in "The Beaux Stratagem" and this is likely to be the audience's impression after watching the machinations of a pair of fast-talking fortune hunters in Farquhar's sparkling comedy, produced by Mr. David Bradford and staged in the Deb Hall this week.

Their picaresque quest leads Aimwell (John Samuels) and Archer, played with verve by Graham Davis, on a provincial tour ending up at Lichfield where they "set their caps" at the wife and sister of a Scottish country squire.

Lynda Dickeson captures the spirit of this mannered and amoral Restoration piece with a polished performance as the London bred Mrs. Sullen, languishing from boredom with country life and "the pleasure

of counting the melancholy clock by a snoring husband."

Acting is up to the usual high-standard of G.T.G. and praise must go to those in smaller roles; particularly effective are Marion Virgo's cameo of Lady Bountiful, Chris Crowe's lively all-purpose family servant acting as butler and ploughman, Sean Ferguson's French chaplain with underlying Irish brogue and the pert inn-keeper's daughter, Linda Forrester.

A variety of elaborate and attractive picture settings are well-designed to accommodate speedy scene changes which make heavy demands on stage staff and point to the slick and efficient management of the technical side.

Elegant Seventeenth Century costumes contribute to the tone of the play, a comedy of manners where foppery and finery play a large part in the action.

Variety

Difficulties are set for a producer by the play's variety of tone—the sentimental love of Aimwell and Dorinda, the witty and sophisticated flirtation of Archer and Mrs. Sullen, the vigour of the inn scenes with roguish landlords and highwaymen who mistake any unknown traveller for one of their own profession, and the sudden moralistic twist of a rational justification of divorce.

Slick treatment and fast-moving action are the only means of solving these problems and contribute to a witty and rewarding evening's entertainment.

'56 Society

Peter Ealey

PATTERN OF SCIENCE

VARIOUS visual patterns exist in every branch of science and these are the subject of the '56 Society's present exhibition, "The Scientist's Eye." Because the designers have been concerned with the form and immediate aesthetic appeal of the exhibits, the exhibition is interesting and valuable to scientists and non-scientists alike.

Some of the exhibits have been grouped together because they show a similarity of pattern. In this way, though they seem at first sight to be incompatible, the shell of a cephalopod, a pine cone and the electron micrograph of a paraffin crystal have been placed in juxtaposition, since they display the same fundamental spiral structure.

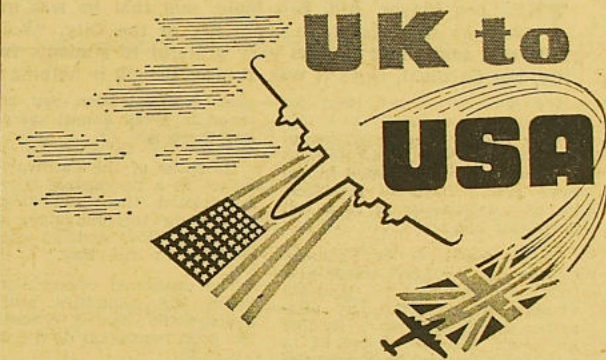
In this particular part of the exhibition, the designers are to be congratulated for the way in which they have skilfully turned to advantage the permanent spiral stair case in the Education Department.

Because the bias of the exhibition has been towards form and pattern, abstract paintings, exhibited by arrangement with the Birmingham College of Art, have been included, as well as some decorated artifacts and textiles.

Use

The paintings on the other hand are distinctly disappointing. It is a pity that prints of Picasso, Braque and others were not preferred by the exhibition's organisers.

However, apart from this disappointment, the exhibition is stimulating in layout, and impressive in design. It is to be hoped that the '56 Society will offer us again in the future something of the same nature, on a larger scale perhaps.



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● The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman Eric Mole.
(Photo: "Birmingham Post & Mail").

Behave Reasonably

—say Lord Mayor and Chief Constable

THE Lord Mayor, Ald. Eric Mole, said that he was quite satisfied with the contribution made by students to the social life of the City. "You are here to study, after all," he said, and added that he was very grateful to students for their major contribution to City life, the Carnival, since it was of great benefit in helping to finance social welfare in the City.

He saw no further need for students to mix socially with city people, and welcomed the idea of the whole University and its halls of residence being situated in the same area. Halls of residence, he felt, were essential to a full university life.

In his speech at the Freshers' Conference, the Lord Mayor said that he hoped that the students would not ignore the city altogether during their stay. By this he meant that he wanted us to take some interest in the affairs of the city and the running of it while we are its temporary citizens.

The Chief Constable went a little further than this, and said he thought that students ought to make a conscious effort to get to know the city in which we are living. "The more students can mix with city people in sports fixtures, social engagements and cultural activities the better," he remarked.

Visits

"We have fine concerts of both classical music and jazz here," he said, "and I see no reason why students should not make an effort to visit a council meeting, or come and see the law courts, which are some of the finest in the country." He admitted, however, that it is difficult.

Pressure of work may prevent too many visits to the city, and the University does not enjoy the same status in a big industrial city as it does in such specifically university towns as Oxford or Cambridge. On the other hand, there is the opportunity to see a big industrial city at work, become interested in its affairs, and see how it is run.

He said that both the police and the public are willing to tolerate a certain amount of irresponsibility in students so long as they do not overstep the mark and cause any serious damage, or personal injury to a member of the public.

"After all," he said, "in your largest contribution to city life—

your Carnival week you are allowed to break almost every by-law there is."

He spoke of the Carnival Committee as a responsible body and appreciated their difficulties in controlling the individual activities of all those students who participated in the "Rag."

The continued co-operation between the committee and the police would, he felt, ensure that the good reputation of the Carnival in recent years was maintained.

It was bound to happen, he said, that in such a large city the University would become a remote community away in Edgbaston, and he saw little necessity for changing this state of affairs.

However he did not wish to think that there would be students who would leave the University at the end of three years and still know nothing about Birmingham.



● "You can't come here; this is private property. I don't care what survey you're doing."

Students in the City

RAIN made the City centre look inhospitable and the multitude of sparrows were complaining shrilly with a persistence that matched the drizzle. Most people, heads down, walking determinedly in an effort to get home for tea out of the rain, did not look as though they would give a considered and objective opinion if stopped by undergraduates and asked what they thought of students.

A lady who was looking unhurriedly at a shop window promised to be an excellent victim, but in effect she proved to be very compliant. Oh, yes, students are an asset to the city, and a university is a nice thing to have, but that was all she could say.

Snow Hill Station provided another lady who, though sorry she did not know where the University was, had nothing against students; and a Cockney artisan who knew nothing about Birmingham and, like the exemplary man-in-the-street interviewee, had not given much thought to the question of how much a student should contribute to city life.

New Street Station was getting rid of the last of the businessmen, and presented a drab and dirty scene punctuated by isolated groups of waiting travellers. Only one man had any real experience of students, and this was both in the capacity of a fellow-traveller

and a fellow-workman during vacations.

He was impressed, he said, by the intelligence, adaptability and civility of students.

A man in a blue Continental-style mackintosh was sheltering under the grim, grimy station facade. What did he think of the University? "I know where it is, College, but ze Unifersity, I do not know. I sink it is up zat vay, but I do not know. Perhaps you 'ave to get ze bus."

Two girls in short white mackintoshes, stiffened underskirts and headscarves, flat white shoes, dragging feet and chewing gum. What do you think of students? "Don't know." "Have you ever met any?" "No." "Would you like to?" "Don't know." "Have you ever been to a hop or dance in the city?" "No, live in Sutton Coldfield."

Remote

The Post Office steps. A sensitive, intelligent-looking man with a gaze withdrawn beneath his rimless spectacles. "To the average Birmingham citizen I should think that students mean very little apart from during Carnival week."

"For the rest of the year they remain a remote community away in Edgbaston. It would be difficult for the student to make much contribution to the City life, but perhaps they should try to gain experience in public matters."

Obviously the student did mean very little to the average Brummie in the city centre, but none of them imputed this to any specifically anti-social attitude on the part of the students. If anything it was the Brummie himself with his daily work and evening telly who had little room in his life for the student.

by Murtees:
research
by Guest

● "But I'm a fashioned type, you understand, and to my mind there's too much sex up there. I can't see how the hell they can work where so fond of the girls. It's just bloody sexy, and that there is to it."—Coalman.

Photos:
Mike Webber

However, it was surprising to note how many of them mentioned a son or daughter who was a student or about to be. One wondered how many of the climbers on the ladder of meritocracy were genuine whether they were or not, surprising to see how many of the campaigns are the spring to University or College.

This lack of any unfavourable comment brought us back home, to see if our more distant neighbours could make good neighbourly complaints. One provided a balanced and opinion. The industry of put in more than they commented, "and very interesting comment."

Behind Selly Oak station the factory was an were busy with shovels and sacks with coal from the school, the reverse side of a Betjeman coin, with its dark, dirty windows, half broken. Quickly by a side door, we stopped a man crossing the yard, and

Our first victim seemed amused, bewildered and flustered by a request for his opinion. "What do I think of students? I don't know. I have not done with them. But I'll be this—I think they're just a lot of kids gaming around."

Did he think they were a threat to the city? Not particularly, he wanted to see more of it socially? No. "They do anything. Just a bunch of gaming around." "There's a bad in everyone and I see it's the same with students," the comment of a more colleague.

"But I'm an old-fashioned type, you understand, and to my mind there's too much sex up there. I can't see how the hell they can do much work when they're so fond of the girls. It's just bloody sexy, and that's all there is to it."

A porter on the station platform taken aback by the question: "You'd better ask the station master," he said but, when he admitted that students were a nuisance to work with, and the fact that he worked with picked up the comment from a moral viewpoint that students had provided leg labour during the day.

Like

ON THE COURT

THE Lord Mayor, Alderman Eric Mole, said that he was quite satisfied with the contribution made by students to the social life of the City. "You are here to study, after all," he said, and added that he was very grateful to students for their major contribution to City life, the Carnival, since it was of great benefit in helping to finance social welfare in the City.

he gave us a few perfunctory answers to our questions. But he scampered away to his work as a large foreman-like figure emerged from behind him and looked threateningly at us. His opinion of students was in no doubt from his manner and soon we found ourselves once more outside the factory.

Nice

A contrasting politeness greeted us when we entered the A.B.C. Selly Oak cinema. The cashier told us that he had little experience of students, but that he had no complaints about what he knew of them. "I merely see them on my way here along Bristol Road in the bus; they seem nice enough. They certainly don't misbehave themselves in this cinema."

Perhaps we should sum up the attitude of most Birmingham people who know students in the words of the landlord of the "Gun Barrels": "They are rowdy, but they are all right, and we often have a very good time."

Students in the thick of the City

Students give their views

WHAT do we think of the City? One prominent member of Guild Council emitted a loud raspberry in reply. However, he immediately qualified this remark by saying: "While I am here I hate it, but when I am away I will love it against all comers."

An inhabitant of one of our Halls of Residence asked an interviewer. "There are so many facets of a big city that one can't say whether one likes it or not. I know no other big cities, so that I can't really make comparisons, but this city doesn't really have a centre. It's merely a collection of small places like Selly Oak and Harborne that have joined together."

Certainly there doesn't seem to me to be enough in the way of cinemas and theatres and suchlike facilities. I like the traffic arrangements, I think they are very good, but the road surfaces are deplorable."

Foul

"As a countryman I think it's the foulest, dirtiest place I have ever lived in," said a self-confessed "thick" media. "As soon as I can get out of it, I will." "It's big, it smells, and it's dirty," was a similar remark, made by a suburban inhabitant.



● "Er—I dunno. You'll have to see the stationmaster."

CORRECTION

IN last week's "Guild News" it was stated that Mrs. J. Friend, the Warden of University House, was insisting that next year's officers in House should be chosen from a list selected by herself.

This, we are informed, is not the case and we regret this error and apologise to anyone inconvenienced by it.

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Shakespeare.
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This week in The Listener

and
BBC TELEVISION REVIEW

Issue dated March 8th

SPRING BOOK NUMBER

New books are reviewed by distinguished critics including—

F. W. Bateson
Hilary Corke
Nikolaus Pevsner
William Plomer
Norman St. John-Stevens
Colin Wilson
and many others.

This issue will also carry printed BBC talks including—

"The Heart of the Planning Problem"
by S. C. Leslie.

"The General Strike"
by A. J. P. Taylor.

"Twelve Good Men"
by C. R. Hewitt.

and other features

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BIRMINGHAM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Brian Hill describes Berlin and The Wall

I AM now looking out on to one of the most famous streets in Europe. The Kaiser's troops marched along it with Russian precision on their way to attack in 1914; the storm-troopers goose-stepped along it when Hitler held his massive parades; allied tanks rumbled victoriously down it after the Nazi might had been crushed in 1945.

The Kurfürstendamm is still an exciting place. The tanks and troops have disappeared and in their place have come Volkswagens, Mercedes and sight-seeing crowds strolling casually down towards the Brandenburger Tor, calling at the many revue bars and theatres on their way. It is difficult to believe that you are 150 miles behind the Iron Curtain. Life could not be more westernised, with bustling activity, busy restaurants, clinking cash-registers and extremely good value strip-tease clubs. For the visitor, it is a fabulously interesting town and curiously enough a very cheap town as well. West Berlin is like an oasis of light in the middle of a red sea.

Conscious

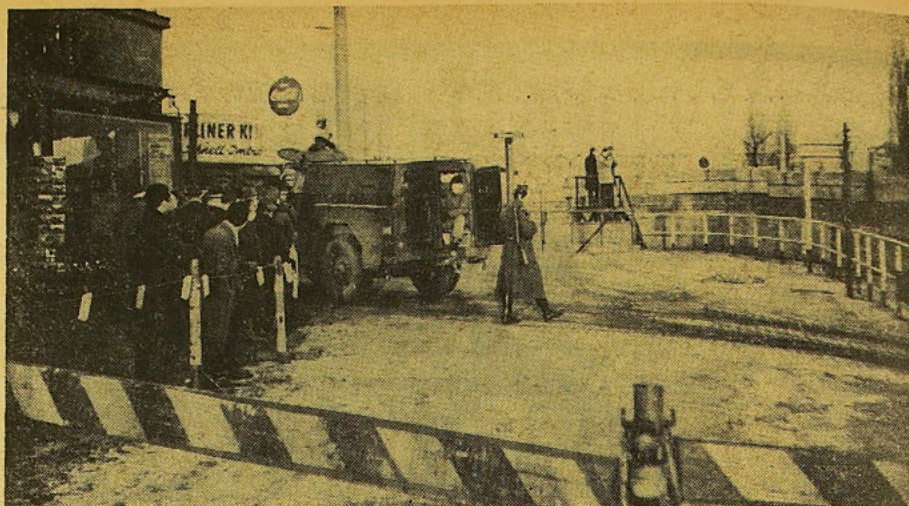
All 2½ million people here are, however, very conscious that tanks, troops and guns are not very far away. Fear hangs over everybody's head. The question of Communist aggression dominates all conversation. You cannot drive very far from the centre without suddenly being brought back with a jolt to reality. Barbed-wire, mines, control-posts, high watch-

towers, machine-gun posts, stern Russian soldiers with Alsacian dogs loom up out of the darkness towards you. No West-Berliners are allowed into this Communist "paradise." Since the building of the wall there is no contact between East and West. Sisters have suddenly been separated from brothers, children from their parents, boys from their girl-friends and men from their wives. Bedraggled groups are to be seen all along the wall waving hopefully to figures on the other side—the only contact possible.

Monstrosity

On the other side of this concrete monstrosity (so badly built that pieces keep falling down), it is the same story. Unhappy people longing to be reunited with their friends and relations. Materially they are not so well off and their lives are far more grim. There is a sense of deep tragedy which shows in the way their faces are lined with worry and the way they have lost all their zest for life.

They used to buy their clothes, cosmetics and food from the West, but this is no longer possible and before long they will



● West Berliners queue to wave to relatives on the other side of the wall. British troops look on from an armoured car.

assume the same typical drabness of Communist populations everywhere. The shops are bare and ugly; there are very few cars and no bustling activity.

We (Geoff Pullen, a graduate, and myself) stood one day in Alexanderplatz and counted 60 people, two tramcars, five cars and 10 policemen. Compare this tally with Piccadilly Circus.

Russian propaganda proclaims that the wall was built to stop "imperialist pigs" from attacking the German "democratic" republic. Nobody who goes to Berlin can be in any doubt as to the real reason. Marienfeld was organised as a refugee camp to accommodate 10,000 East German refugees a week and in the few days before the wall was erected 60,000 fled to the West.

Here in Berlin you can see the acute brutality of a system which has promised people paradise on earth and which has to prevent these same people fleeing from "paradise" with barbed-wire, soldiers and machine-guns. All windows of houses on the frontier have been walled up and their inhabitants have been moved out en masse to save them from imperialist and

colonialist corruption. It soon becomes apparent from what the people are fleeing. The motor-tax department of Birmingham Corporation is heaven compared with the tremendous bureaucratic maze that has to be penetrated for even the simplest transaction. There has been hardly any development in the whole of East Germany since the war. The countryside is drab and desolate and there are hardly any villages to be seen on the journey from Helmstedt to Berlin.

Rationed

At no time can you go far without seeing ugly watch-towers and machine-gun posts. The East Germans have to go without goods varying from vegetables to toilet paper (about three rolls a year can be obtained if you pull some strings). Much food is still rationed and identity cards have to be shown when you purchase anything.

At 11 p.m. the streets are dead apart from the patrolling police and Russians armed with dogs and machine pistols. The whole system in East Germany is based on suspicion. The Vapos

patrol in twos because they cannot be trusted alone. I was suspected of being a spy at a dance in East Berlin—only when the young lady saw the number-plate of my Anglia would she believe I was English and talk openly. On the way out of the Eastern sector each time the seats of my car were thoroughly pummelled by officials to make sure none of their comrades were being abducted.

All the people in West Berlin would rather die than give way to the Communists. They are all united in their struggle and it is this sense of purpose which gives them their energy. In the East it is estimated that only 5 per cent are really Communist. At the moment the big majority long to throw off the Communist yoke and pay no attention to the government.

Communist propaganda is so complete and effective, however, that there is no guarantee that the people will remain like this. Can the West afford to neglect this tremendously important factor of the Eastern people's support? East Berliners already are to some extent resigned—in vain—Communists, ten years they might be con-

SPORT BADMINTON TROPHY GOES BACK TO MANCHESTER

Birmingham lose cup

LAST year Birmingham lost to Manchester in the Men's Badminton U.A.U. final by seven rubbers to two. This year, Birmingham again reached the final and again their opponents were Manchester. After three-and-a-half hours of continuous tension and many exciting fluctuations of fortune Manchester again won the title, this time by the narrowest possible margin.

Had Birmingham's top pair, Hartshorn and Taylor not been way below their best form, Birmingham must surely have clinched the trophy.

After the first two rubbers the match score stood at one all. Hartshorn and Taylor never really came to grips with Manchester's first pair and so lost in straight sets. On the other court Essex and Ting, after a tense beginning, settled themselves down to play their distinctive attacking game and won.

Third pair Donnachie and Megson gave Birmingham a 2-1 lead, but this was cancelled out when Hartshorn and Taylor failed to beat Manchester's second pair.

Essex and Ting then went on court to play the match that had to be won if Birmingham were to win. The game was fought in an atmosphere satu-

rated with nervous excitement and ended with the Birmingham pair claiming a magnificent victory by 17-16 in the third set against Funnell and Haile, the Manchester and U.A.U. top pair; this gave Birmingham a 3-2 lead.

Lost

But to end a disastrous afternoon for Hartshorn and Taylor, they lost to Manchester's third pair after winning the first set. Donnachie and Megson attempted to make their other two games more than mere formalities and extended their opponents, but to no avail.

Therefore, although Essex and Ting gave Manchester's third pair no quarter, Birmingham lost this encounter with their old rivals by five rubbers to four, and the trophy returned to Manchester.



● A smiling Badminton Club team—before Saturday's defeat. (Photo: Andrew Hornig).

Rugby Club not disgraced CAMBRIDGE TRY-OUT

"60 CLUB" 9 pts., BIRMINGHAM 0.

CAMBRIDGE University use this term for experiment in preparation for next season's Varsity Match. For this reason nine points down after 80 minutes at Grange Road represents a commendable display.

Although Birmingham were without Marrs and B. Jenkins, they played with confidence and fire in the early stages, and were unfortunate to be three points down at half-time as a result of a try involving a blatant off-side infringement. The defence was once again remarkable and certainly must be considered the Birmingham side's chief asset.

After the interval Cambridge tried endless unorthodox movements to penetrate the defence, the full-back, the back-row forwards and the blind-side winger all joining in an attempt to create the extra man which they always seemed to lack.

It is significant that of the two tries they eventually scored, one came as a result of a bad throw-in by a Birmingham winger. Only once in the whole game did the defence fail to destroy the Cambridge efforts.

Spasmodic

Birmingham's useful movements were spasmodic, however, largely because MacFarlane, through no fault of his own, was harassed unmercifully by back-row forwards.

Fletcher (spun out bravely at stand-off, and Shaw at full-back played a faultless game, contributing much to the two most promising of Birmingham's attacking moves.

SATURDAY THRUST Good chance for Birmingham

ON Saturday in the Great Hall the semi-finals and the final of the U.A.U. Fencing Team Championship will take place. In the morning Birmingham and Sheffield will contest a place in the final, after which Reading and Liverpool will fight each other. The final will be decided in the afternoon.

Birmingham stands a good chance of reaching the final, for the Fencing Club recently defeated Sheffield 19-8. Also this year they overcame Liverpool 17-10 despite a depleted team. As yet they have not played Reading.

No entertainment for spectators

OBITUARY FOR SPORTS DAY

THERE will not be a Sports Day this year; perhaps there ought to be some explanation for any remaining enthusiasts.

Once upon a time Sports Day was the glamour event in the Athletic Union calendar. It was held on the lower playing fields, important guests attended in large numbers, and a brass band graced the occasion.

Since the Athletics Club was not then in existence anyone interested competed with enthusiasm and any natural skill with which they might have been endowed.

But now the serious athlete, on entering University, has probably already been coached to some extent and he now supplements his natural ability with

arduous training all the year round. In consequence the casual performer cannot hope to compete on anything like equal terms and so gradually the number of competitors has fallen over the years. Spectators have therefore not had their money's worth.

To remove this objection, Athletic Club members have been

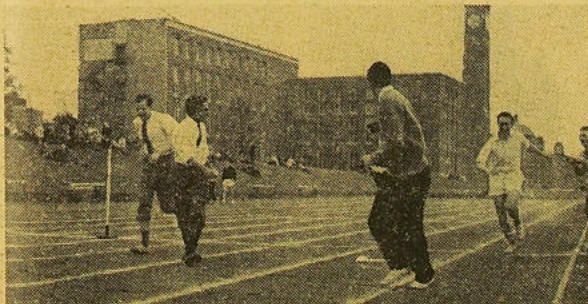
prohibited from competing on the Sports Day for the last four years. With this place becoming more like a degree factory every day the number of competitors has fallen still further.

Rejuvenate

This year an effort was made to rejuvenate the proceedings and eliminate examination pressure by holding it in the Spring Term. But it was impossible to find a suitable Saturday date, and with the response from the Inter-Faculty section not being very encouraging the event was for a long time in the balance.

Eventually it was decided to hold the affair on Thursday, March 15th, but it would not be certain until late in February whether this would be permissible.

This would leave insufficient notice for any guests who might wish to attend, and since Sports Day is Athletic Union's way of saying thank you to its friends there seems no point in carrying on.



● A slick changeover in the Presidential Handicap at last year's Sports Day.

"The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher."

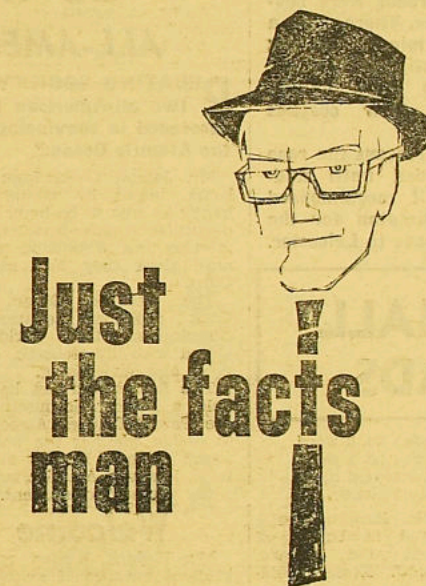
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IT IS BECOMING HARDER for people to see what is really happening to the world, because relevant and untampered facts are increasingly difficult to get hold of, whether you want them to support a reasoned argument, or bolster up a prejudice.

For instance, it was The Observer who sent a man into the Naga Hills to find out what was really going on in that deadly private war, who gave the first comprehensive account of Vietcong infiltration in Vietnam, who published the address of the public relations firm acting for the Katanga lobby at a time when other people were denying that such a group existed.

Scoop

First news of the tension between Russia and China came from Edward Crankshaw last February in The Observer. The first full statement on the U.N. in

Katanga by Dr. Conor O'Brien was published last December in The Observer. On many other occasions in 1961, Observer reporters delivered the goods in the shape of hard and important news faster than anyone else.

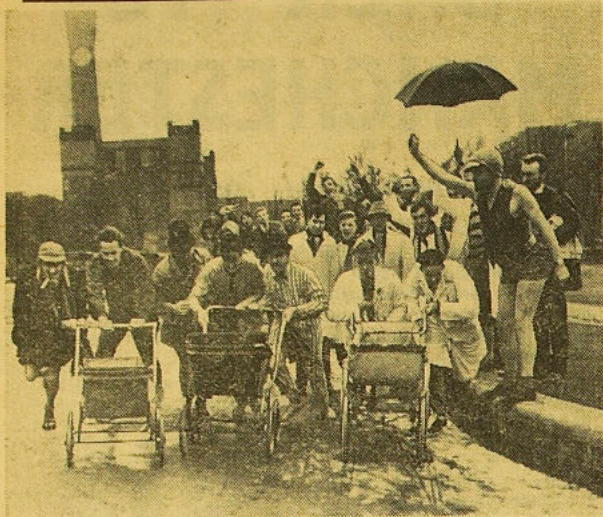
But The Observer firsts are important not simply because they are firsts. They are an indication of the kind of news service that The Observer dishes up every Sunday.

Unslanted news

What matters about these news items is not that The Observer happened to get them first, but that it brought them into the open, when they might otherwise have remained hidden. These stories were published whole—uncut and unslanted.

This is what The Observer did last year. And how it will report events in 1962. The firsts are incidental.

NEWS DESK



● The Birmingham Pram Team in hard training.

(Photo: "B'ham Post").

ICE HITS PRAM RACE

AT the close of Leicester's annual Inter-Varsity Pram Race on Monday, Birmingham teams occupied 8th, 12th, and 24th positions. The winning team came from Hatfield College of Technology.

In view of dangerous road conditions, it was necessary to abandon part of the competition. Although dry at the start in London at midnight, by the end of the first 20-mile stage, roads were covered with ice. There were a number of minor accidents as runners slipped and fell. Drivers too were finding control of their coaches difficult.

For these reasons the race was suspended until mid-day, when it recommenced from Northampton for the final two stages to Leicester.

SMALL ADS

External ads.: 4d. a word.
Internal ads.: 1d. a word.
Insertions accepted up to
mid-day Tuesday.

LOST. — Gent's Bentima wrist watch, believed in Union, of great personal value. Reward. —Contact B. J. Evans, Commerce.

SOCIAL Study Circle — Stella Dyer, Secretary of OXFAM, 13th March, 4-5 p.m., Committee Room 3. All welcome.

MRS. GRIMOND speaks on "The future of the British Left." 1.15 p.m. in the Council Chamber on Friday, 9th March.

JUNE ACADEMIC FESTIVAL. — June 19th-29th. Sir John Wolfenden on "Crime and Sin." Prof. A. Coulson on "The Foreseeable Future." Watch for further notices.

LIBERAL Society Debates: "The abortionist is a necessary evil" on Tuesday, 13th March, at 5.15 p.m. See posters for place. Proposer: Mr. M. Thickett; Opposer: Mr. D. Brindley.

THIS house deplores the use of step-ladders in the painting and decorating of ceilings. Council Chamber, 6.30 p.m., Saturday.

WANTED: A painter to decorate the bar with a mural.—Contact John Gunn.

Designed and produced by I.N.P.S. Ltd., 192 Corporation Street, Birmingham, 4, for the Guild of Undergraduates, Birmingham University. Printed by Ripley Printers Ltd., Ripley, Derbys.

Homes plan for staff of University?

Attempts to solve the local housing problem

THE University is considering the implications of a scheme to house teachers, research workers, and the families of academic staff in a village which would be built near the University. The idea has the backing of the University Council which has set up a sub-committee to consider the problem.

BANDS WANTED

THE Band of the Royal Marines has been engaged to appear in the Carnival processions this year.

An attempt is also being made to acquire the services of the Band of the United States 3rd Air Force for the evening procession. This has been the subject of much discussion following the disappointing turn-out in the evening last year. It is hoped that the Americans, who were so popular in 1959, will prove as big an attraction this time.

The committee, which includes a member of the Council, Mr. Yates, and two members of the Commerce Department, Professor Hutchinson and Dr. Halsey, has been investigating the possibilities of obtaining the land near the University upon which the village could be built and the chances of getting the capital necessary for such a scheme.

If it should prove feasible the idea would solve the problem of providing homes at reasonable rents for members of the staff who, at the moment, experience great difficulty in obtaining adequate accommodation.

Capital

"The scheme is, as yet, in the embryo stage," said Mr. Geoffrey Barnes, the University Secretary. "We have formed no definite plans to implement the idea, and our chief worry is that of finding sufficient capital to finance the arrangement."

At the moment, the University makes small loans to members of staff who are experiencing difficulty in buying their own homes, although it tries to keep such advances to the minimum. The amount on loan at the present is £36,000.

Buying

A member of the staff said, "I have found some difficulty in buying my house and I think that a staff village would be a good idea from the financial point of view, particularly if we were to be given the option of buying our own houses after a period of years."

"On the other hand, I don't think I am terribly keen on living with the rest of the staff for the remainder of my life."

If this scheme materialises it will probably be the first of its type in the country.

The Atlantic Ocean — do we need it?

ALL-AMERICAN DEBATE

DEBATING SOCIETY was entertained last Thursday by two all-American boys on tour in this country. They succeeded in convincing the House that it "was grateful for the Atlantic Ocean."

Mr. Joseph Cook, from Alabama, began by saying how happy he was to be here. This particular counter-invasion was meeting less formidable resistance than they had met in Cuba.

The Atlantic Ocean, Mr. Cook explained, quarantined Americanism that would be obsessed with TV, tobacco, detergents and advertising.

The British did not have to hold a democratic meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association to decide whether the world is round or not. It was all our fault, however, America was not ready for self-government.

Welcome

Mr. Rodney Kleven read a brilliant message of welcome to the visitors from the Prime Minister, without his authority of course. "... an ally in the last year of every war ... whose help was invaluable according to the memoirs of Rommel ..."

Mr. Kleven followed this with a biographical sketch of the two speakers and a condensed history of the United States. As he said himself he did not use argument.

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

A NUMBER of students in the Faculty of Commerce are at present setting up a scheme which they hope will overcome the difficulties experienced by graduates who want to work for a year or so on voluntary service basis in underdeveloped areas.

The organisers of this scheme hope that it will overcome these difficulties, and provide openings for graduates from this University, and perhaps eventually from others.

Mr. Dick Kirchberg came from Miami, and thought that our policemen were marvellous. After an entertaining tiff with the chair which he won, he enlarged on the theme of the first speaker telling the house of some more American evils.

Mr. Arthur Large, seconding the opposition, was in a sober mood. He discussed the formation of America, and its naive foreign policy.

From the floor, Mr. Peter Plant, making a welcome return to the house, brought some logic to the motion. Besides he could not stand colonialism. Mr. Kamaruddin drew another of his amazing metaphorical scenes.

UNHOLY ALLIANCE

THE conflict over the past 20 years between the General Council of the Trade Unions Congress, with a mainly right-wing membership, and the Electrical Trade Union which was "in the vanguard of the working classes" was the recurring theme of the talk delivered to a small gathering of the Communist Society by Mr. McGrath, a local official of the E.T.U.

Mr. McGrath declared that the T.U.C. had seized upon the alleged ballot-rigging case to hold an enquiry into the whole of the activities of the E.T.U. Executive. The "unholy alliance" of right-wing members and Roman Catholics who had been trying to grab power, seized upon the anti-Communist publicity by the Press and television to win the ensuing election on an 18 per cent poll.

LANGUAGES UNHEARD-OF

"NOT enough is known about the various sciences involved in language," said Professor Ross, Professor of Linguistics, at the Guild Open Lecture on Thursday.

He gave an excellent illustration of the attitude prevalent today, by telling his audience that the only serious research into the field of speech acoustics was being done by telephone manufacturing companies with the purpose of finding out how badly and cheaply a telephone can be manufactured without distorting speech.

The Professor stressed the need for a new system of grammar which could describe all the languages of the world, even such widely differing tongues as Sanskrit, Greek and the Semitic languages.

He illustrated the widely-differing systems of word construction with examples from the Polynesian language of Tahiti, where the words "torch," "light," "intelligent" and "window" all came from a common root.

Much of the Professor's lecture on language suffered from inaudibility, and it would be a good thing if more attention were paid to the poor acoustics of the Debating Hall, and the definite need for a microphone realised by those concerned in the management of it.

K.D.

UP THE WALL

IT is planned to have a mural painted on the long wall of the main bar to brighten the place up. Executive are in need of a painter of murals to execute this piece of work.

Anyone willing to undertake the job should contact the Union Secretary with samples of their work (i.e., a piece of wall) and with ideas for a subject. Materials will be provided and the successful applicant will start work as soon as his or her design has been approved.

DON'T STOP THINKING: BEGS SIR ISAIAH

"IS Political Philosophy still possible?", was the question Sir Isaiah Berlin, Chichele Professor of Social Philosophy at Oxford, asked, at an extra-mural lecture last Friday.

No important political philosophy had appeared in the Twentieth Century, he said. Subjects left the sphere of philosophy when, either new methods invade the field with

a claim to place the study on a sounder basis, or when presuppositions of a subject wither away, generally with the disappearance of a culture.

Philosophers tried to push subjects for study into either "a basket" which would turn the subject into an empirical science, or into "a basket" available for subjects amenable to formal study. The latter involves axioms, the deductive method, and the test of consistency, and there is no claim to describe the real world.

Questions

Sir Isaiah wanted no application of human reason, because philosophers held beliefs for reasons other than they stated, and cannot reach true conclusions. Responsibility would disappear.

As psychologists teach, one is better able to cope, if questions are dredged up into consciousness. This was the case for reason and for pursuing political philosophy.



● Sir Isaiah Berlin.
(Photo: Andrew Hornig).