

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 534

Thursday, October 9, 1958

Threepence

TO CRITICISE IS TOO EASY

These have been anxious days for Guild Secretary, Mr. J. Stanley, who has been waiting to see how his plans for a remodelled Freshers' Conference would work and how they would be received. The results have been, as ever, inconclusive; but Mr. Stanley need not worry unduly—his long experience should tell him that it is impossible to please even a slight majority of students, who are always ready to carp and criticise, but unwilling to take the onus of responsibility themselves.

Certainly I talked to several hundred Freshers over the conference, and the main impression I received was, that though they were impressed and found everything helpful, no amount of explanation and guidance could have dispelled the bewilderment innate in all Freshmen. Nearly all were agreed on the organisation—that it was generally good, but that there was too much waiting about... perhaps this was the fault of some of the group leaders. Two female Freshers I spoke to were full of unreserved praise: "It couldn't have been better," they said, "and it was very well organised." A student from Ghana was of the same opinion, and he particularly enjoyed his tour of Edgbaston.

The cuts imposed on this year's conference seemed agreeable to the newcomers. One female Freshers, studying Social Science, said this at once but "It couldn't have been shorter." On the other hand, Mr. Irving, a Physics Freshers, whom I suspect was of an independent bent, was emphatically on the other side: "It is all too long. I would have preferred to have had a short talk and then been left to wander around."

The lack of theatrical entertainment was not unduly remarked upon; both Mr. Irving and our Social Science Miss would have liked a play or something similar on Friday night,

but realised the difficulties of organisation, in that people would have had to rehearse during the vac. Thus G.T.G. have undoubtedly lost none of their reputation... but neither have they gained.

Undoubtedly, the Freshers were tired and bewildered, and it would seem as if some kind of display for them would have been appreciated. This was put to me by David Baum, a Medic., who added firmly, "I would have liked something more organised."

Mr. Stanley's plan has, therefore, many advantages and a few snags, but there is one major criticism that he will have to face, and that is the abolition of society stalls. Practically every Freshers wanted to know why the societies had no displays other than notice boards, and this lack of them left them in the dark. Selwyn Goodacre, also a Medic., actually asked why there were no stalls, and several others complained that the societies remained too anonymous, leaving it to the individual to discover the details of the group he wanted to join. Without doubt, Exec. will have to look into this problem—for it has been noticed, even by all those who have never been here before.

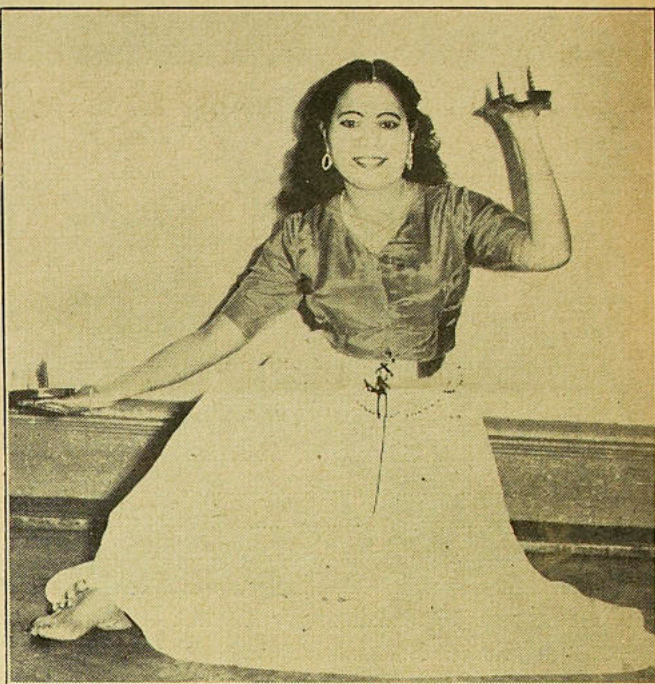
With this in mind, I spoke to Michael Heseltine, Guild Club Secretary, and one of the members of

Exec. who are in favour of the stalls. His suggestion seemed reasonable, and might well be implemented next year: "The snag with stalls was their chaotic character. My plan was that instead of having 1,200 Freshers in the Debating Hall for 2½ hours, the opening of the stalls should be spread over the whole day. Also they would be found over the whole of the first floor of the building. This would give them time to see and think. As it is, the societies have lost their main approach to students."

But, as I first inferred, it could well be that the newcomer to the University is far too dazzled by his surroundings to take anything in. As Selwyn Goodacre told me "I haven't learnt so much about the University. The main reason for coming to the conference is to meet people."

Come to the...

... International Evening



Canadian Candle light dance performed by Sita at last year's International Evening.
Photo: Dolphin

Rag!

OCTOBER 13

The University Carnival will open on Monday, October 13, and will last three weeks until Saturday, November 1. The aim of Carnival is to collect money for local charities, and in order to reach our target of £15,000 the help of every student is necessary.

CAR COMPETITION

Most of this £15,000 is raised by means of a Car Competition. For a shilling, any member of the public can buy a ticket on which he writes down his estimate of the total proceeds of Carnival. The person guessing the total, or the nearest to it, will win a 1958 Ford Consul saloon. For this competition to be a success we must sell as many tickets as possible. Ideal places to sell are pubs, cinema queues, factory entrances, and in

CARNIVAL DAY

On Carnival Day itself, i.e., Saturday, November 1, all students are given freedom of the city and they may travel free on any Corporation bus as long as they carry collecting tins. Two processions through the city centre take place at 3.30 and 6.30 p.m. These consist of 40 or so different floats which are constructed by departmental or Guild societies, and a prize is awarded for the best float.

Stunts are a good way of promoting sales and if carefully planned they will give us excellent publicity, but failing that, some sort of original fancy dress is very helpful. At this point, I must appeal to you not to go around painting statues or any public or private property, or cause them any damage. It only harms our relations with the city.

TINS, CAR BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Supplies of books of car competition tickets and Carnival magazines may be obtained from your Carnival representative, and from stalls in the Union and Guild Club, apart from Carnival Office. Do not lose these books and if possible always carry some with you. Carnival collecting tins will be issued on Carnival Eve and Carnival Day in the Union, Guild Club and the Medical School. If you have any queries whatever on any aspect of Carnival, do not hesitate to come down to Carnival Office and see us.

Overseas Freshers' Conference

This was the first time that an Overseas Freshers' Conference had been arranged. It was an experiment, and after talking to the students who were there I am quite sure that it was a successful experiment.

The idea behind the conference was to acquaint the foreign students with the ways of this country and to give them some introduction to University life before the hurly-burly of term began. A visit to Stratford was arranged to see "Romeo and Juliet"; a country walk and visits to the town centre were also on the programme. These were the relaxations of the conference. A programme of lectures was arranged for the mornings. These included English grammar courses and lectures on the parliamentary system and local government.

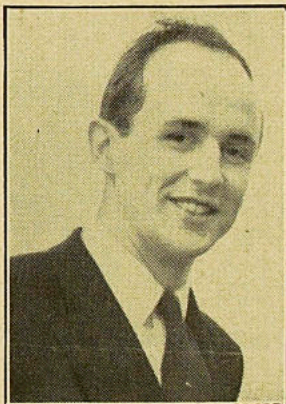
There were forty-four students at the conference. The main advantages of such a gathering in the view of the students were being able to meet other foreign students in a friendly atmosphere, practice at note-taking and learning about the University from old students living at Manor House. The English grammar course was criticised, none of the students appear to have gained from it, most of the students spoke fairly good English and a much longer and more advanced course was necessary if this aspect of the conference was to be instructive. But all the foreign students who were over here for the first time agreed that such a conference gave them an opportunity to

"settle-in" both in England and in the University.

Some of the students at Manor House had been in England for periods of up to two years, their praise of the conference was more reserved and some said that they thought that it should not be compulsory for students who had lived in England for more than six months. They gained little during their stay.

It appears therefore, that that nebulous body, the Authorities, have introduced a service for future foreign students. Lessons can and I hope, will be learnt from the first conference and put into practice in future.

Michael Gledhill



As promised last week, we are able now to print a photograph of Mike Gledhill, the Internal Affairs Representative. His major function is to preside over Entertainment Committee, and in this connection he is largely responsible for the organisation of Hops and the Freshers' dance. With regard to the latter, he has already proved himself to be a man of great resourcefulness: at one hour and a quarter's notice, he was able to provide a piano and amplifiers for the band.

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EDITORIAL

Guild News



Number
534

Selly Oak
1841

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

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Those of our older readers who managed to buy a copy of the Freshers' Edition last week, were undoubtedly somewhat astonished at the new look of the paper. We cannot say that we are personally very sorry to see the disappearance of the old "Guild News," with its "real" newtype, whose appearance gained for last year's Editor a rather unfortunate name. If nothing else, the acquisition of a new printer, and the enlarged area that has accompanied it, will make for a higher standard in layout which we hope will please our readers.

The paper is branching out in all directions, and in order that it should take its readers with it, it requires better and more material. As we have said on a previous occasion, "Guild News" is not a private little coterie for the select few; it is the newspaper for all students and those interested in university and Guild life. The accent is on news, whether of the national body at large, or a particular society of the Birmingham Guild of Undergraduates. The columns are open to everyone, whether to report, to write letters, or to feature, and we urge everyone to take advantage of this offer.

With the advent of last year's Editor, the days are gone when it can be levelled at us that "Everything that goes into 'Guild News' Office appears in the paper." This will never be the case, but the reason for an appeal to you is not only for more copy, but for better copy.

We are happy to have publishers who have the literary standards of the university at heart. Last year Birmingham made a dismal showing in the national competition for university newspapers, a competition judged solely on layout. This year it is our avowed aim, as well as our publisher's, to increase our national stature and, if possible, to win the crown. This is no idle pipe-dream, but a reality that can well come into being. We ask our readers to support us in bringing our plans to a quick fruition.

Message from Materials

You may have read elsewhere in these pages that the 1957 Carnival Committee effectively reprimanded itself in its final report, by passing a resolution that future committees should adopt a less officious attitude to students. We are not officers of the law, but inevitably it falls upon us to issue a few serious-minded "Do's and Don'ts" to every student who will have anything at all to do with Carnival.

The whole idea of centralising the collection and issuing of all materials is to prevent pestering of local firms for a few nails, 10 feet of 3in. x 2in., and so on. By obtaining materials in bulk, we save a lot of bother on both sides between students and industry, which might in some cases lead to bad feeling.

It might be worth while recording that at a conservative estimate the value of materials given to us for decorating floats alone, is in the region of £200-£300, whilst scaffolding and electrical equipment lent to us last year was worth in the region

of £700. No charge is made for any of this and it is everybody's responsibility to see that materials which are lent to us must be treated with respect, and returned right down to the last item. Failure to observe this will mean refusals to supply us with materials—and no materials, no processions, and a host of other things which are associated with Carnival.

For all these reasons, please, if you need anything which hasn't been supplied to you, see your rep., and go through the proper channels to get things. Above all, please don't raid local firms with requests for odd items you need—you will probably get a blunt refusal, anyway—and, further, please do not, under any circumstances, pinch anything from building sites around the University.

From now on I will try to be less officious, and close by hoping you will be bursting with original and practical ideas for floats. Remember, fundamentally, it is the money we are after.

CHARLIE SYMONS.

Carnival This Year

Last year we lost our pride!

This year, with your help, we will regain it. For many years Birmingham was top-dog as far as Carnivals went—but last year Manchester took the lead. A good thing for Birmingham, for it made the committee think. When they thought, they realised that the Birmingham Carnival had been the same for several years. Monotony breeds "apathy." (Sorry, Mr. Editor, but I bet I'm the first who year.)

We thought hard, we had heated arguments, the committee had many different ideas on how to make a change. The answer was to lop a week off Carnival Month in an endeavour to give a shorter but more concentrated Carnival period.

Please help us this year to regain our supremacy. Enter into the spirit of Carnival; then, and only then, will the money come in. Look upon Carnival as a friend, not as an ogre that cannot be avoided.

Carnival has not been revolutionised but the changes we have made were made solely for the student. We realise that the only way to get money is to make things interesting and entertaining for you—we are lost without your support. Only you can tell us whether we have made the correct decision or not.

We start the ball rolling at 10 o'clock Saturday morning with a big stunt, but we need sellers 300 of them. See you in Victoria Square, 10 o'clock Saturday.

Cheerio!

DAVE BUDD.

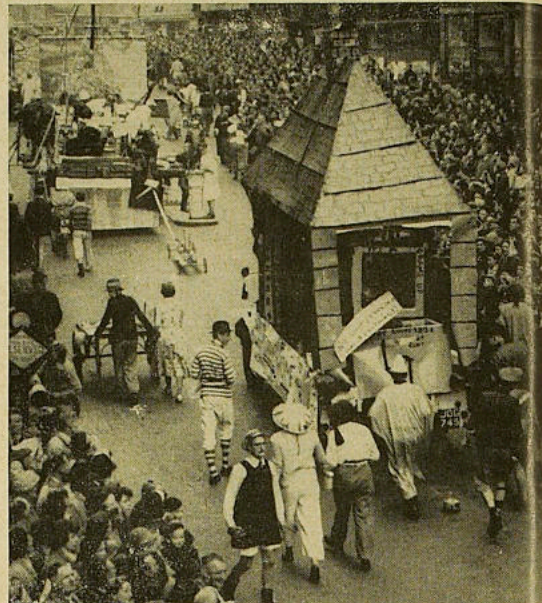


Photo: Dolphin

MED. SCHOOL COLUMN

HIPOCRATES is turning in his grave, it's happened again, Qs.Qs.Qs, the Plebs (non-medics) are back. The peace of the Union is shattered and the plenty is no more. Can't get near a snooker table, no tables for bridge, the bar is crowded. Freshers can be disregarded but not the Plebs, there's too many of them.

Believe it or not I've found an 'ole, yes, comrades, (I spoke to a Hungarian recently) an 'ole. Not a big 'ole, a nice little 'ole, and romantically empty, not a workman in sight, not even Paddy Powell. And if you move on wheels, roller skates included, you'll wonder what's hit you when you hit space, turn

momentarily into a Sputnik, then land with an 'orrible crunch. It's in University Road too.

Talking of 'oles, the private one we had at the Med. School is turning into a lovely library (best English pronunciation), surrounded by scaffolding. There's much less noise and soon we may be able to have something to drink without swimming in the spit coffee, as at present in the excuse for a canteen.

In memoriam: Medic. Freshers, please respect the advice of our previous Sxx-Dxxx... (just in case of libel proceedings) "If you don't smoke, don't start; if you don't drink, don't be tempted; and don't flirt with females who have barrel shaped teeth."

A NEW CARNIVAL COMPETITION

Stanford & Mann Ltd. are organising a Carnival Competition which should prove popular and most beneficial to Carnival. At their University and New Street shops, two glass jars will be filled with the same number of rubber bands in each. For a minimum sum of 6d. (payable into a Carnival tin), estimates are invited for the number of rubber bands in the jars. Cash prizes of £3 3s. 6d., £2 2s. 6d. and £1 1s. 6d. will be awarded to the three nearest estimates submitted. The results will be published in *Guild News* on Thursday, November 13.

The competition starts on Monday next, October 13, and ends on Carnival Eve. Make sure you join this easy competition; it will help Carnival, and—who knows?—it may mean a useful cheque for you!

PROFILE

If you look at the very bottom of page 23 of your new diary you will see an unimpressive looking entry: UNIVERSITY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE. Chairman—D. Sampson. If, in addition, you are new to the University, this will not mean very much to you... yet! But forgetting Carnival for a minute (impossible), let us look at the man at the head of affairs.

When it was suggested to Derek that he should be put here in the spotlight, he replied with a grin, "Well, they've got to fill up with something." And that is just typical: the smiling, the unassuming, and the unruffled.

His cheery rotund face is well known in the Guild, both to the old hands and, by now, to many Freshmen. Yet his seemingly casual approach to life is perhaps his greatest asset for the job he is doing. Patience and a true sense of harmony are invaluable qualities for one in his position. If you doubt this, just take a look at the chaos which often reigns in Carnival Office (if you dare) during the more hectic days which lie not too far ahead.

Here will be Derek in the role of peace-maker, pouring oil on troubled waters, and when the Treasurer carefully hurls a collecting tin at the ear of the unsuspecting Secretary, what could be better than to have a Doctor in the House?

Don't think for a moment, however, that there is nothing more to the man than the

superficial personality. He has determined ideas; he is not a revolutionary or a world shaker, but he is willing to implement new ideas which have matured in the light of his previous experience. And so, this year, we have a Town Hall Concert and an International Evening in our Carnival programme. Derek can look at his position through the eyes of reason, and fairly accurately assess just what the public and students are thinking.

He even aims to strike a happy understanding between his committee and the Guild Executive, and with experience on his committee last year and on the Executive this, I can appreciate fully the wisdom of this approach. But, after all, if you are talking to Derek, and suddenly he has to dash off to the "Q.E." or the "General" you can always stay and talk to Elise... but perhaps I'd better not go any further! M.J.H.



'NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL ... NOR GOOD RED HERRING'

"Before the sigh deepens into the yawn of resignation, and cowardice, masked as tolerance, accepts another defeat," one must deplore the Philistine and Barbarian decision to superimpose a tasteless mural upon the walls and ceiling in the entrance to the new Chemistry Block.

The entrance itself—complicated enough by sundry alchemical symbols scattered over the glass screen and by the decorated black surround—has recently been further debased by the addition of a lurid mural.

It may be justly wondered, glancing at an illustration of it that appears in the Pelican book on Alchemy, why there is such violent antipathy to the mural. Indeed, it looks quite pleasant appearing as a printed illustration, but in its position on the walls it is hopelessly out of context. The Grand Hermetic Androgyne, which is described as tramping underfoot the four elements of the *prima materia*, comes from the Codex Germanicus, a Renaissance manuscript, and while the mural executrix has adhered to a hearsay description of the original colour scheme, the result is too lurid and completely fails to recapture the spirit, as opposed to the form, of the early masters.

The alchemical cupid motifs on the ceiling, which have already proved to be its most objectionable feature, even to those who can bear or actually enjoy the rest, are almost directly fished from the 17th Century painter, David Teniers the Younger, and symbolise the "ludus puerorum," the child's play nature of the work following the arduous discovery of the Philosopher's Stone. Moreover, the left-hand wall incorporates many diverse elements, dominated by the sun and moon allegory, which is taken from a work of 1718.

This suffices to demonstrate the general pastiche nature of the mural, and even the most obsequious critics agree on the negligible artistic merit of the pastiche, especially in this form. As even our most conservative Prime Minister has echoed: "The past must be a springboard, not a sofa," and Lecorbuser, in the nineteen-twenties and more recently the French Secretary for Preserving Church Buildings, have both condemned the "support which can always be obtained for a pastiche of the past." The Chemistry mural is in its whole conception typical of that frame of mind associated with the more dismal elements of Victorianism.

In such a restricted space, a very carefully thought out mural would undoubtedly have been a brilliant acquisition to the Department. It would have needed to be planned as part of such an entrance, not as a mere afterthought. The only merit that one can concede to the "commissioning authorities" is that they had the idea of putting something there. Many think that the present "effort" does more harm than good: an initially good idea has become warped. Either something worthy of such an important situation—the Chemists cannot unfortunately keep this monstrosity to themselves, in that it faces

A more committed member of the University rejects defeatism, indicating that the wall could with advantage be restored to its original state. Perhaps someone from the Art College could provide something more fitting at a small cost—such mistakes must be paid for. The appearance of this excess is particularly bewildering at this time: the University must have been aware of its particularly exacting role as a patron. Our recent exhibition, "Living and Learning," must have made this obvious. The Duke of Edinburgh wrote of new university buildings, in a pamphlet to that exhibition: "It may be important to get them up quickly, but it is equally important that they should have some lasting architectural merit."

It is such things as the mural that drag one back to reality after a few years of hope following the Casson and Condon plans. One can only suppose that it was not officially commissioned but merely sprang into existence at some private whim. One cynical colleague has commented that the left-hand face of the mural will vanish in a cloud of smoke anyway when the radiator, significantly buried in the Element of Fire, warms up for the winter. Such a tactless addition as a smear of soot might well improve it. As a 2nd century writer put it: "When you take plants, elements, and stones from their places, they appear to you to be mature. But they are not mature until the fire has tested them."

The Vice-Chancellor recently stated that "Architecture is more than the expression of the spirit of an age or of an institution. It is also an influence on the lives and performance of those who work in the buildings they have caused to be built." What sort of influence can this mural have? ...

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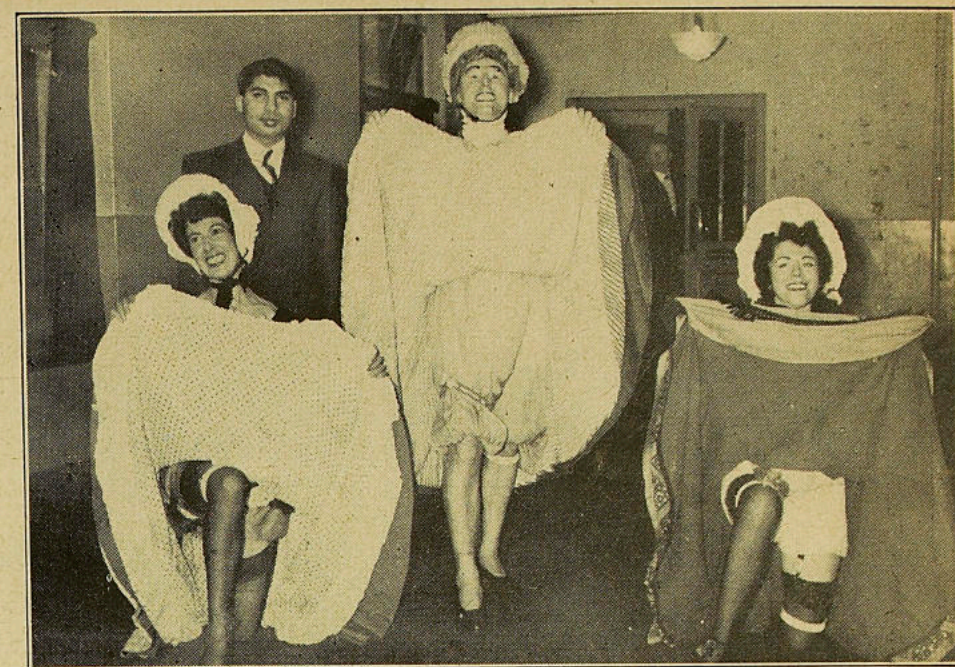
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The ever popular French Can-Can at last year's International Evening.

Photo: Dolphin

CAN-CAN AT LAST YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL

The sixth International Evening, this year, will be included among the Carnival entertainments and will take place at the Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday, October 22, 1958, at 7.30 p.m.

In the past this popular event was always held at the Union, but due to the limited capacity of the Debating Hall and the ever increasing popularity of the event it has been found necessary to hold the event at a larger place. And what better place than the Birmingham Town Hall.

Yes, in view of recent events it's time the City of Birmingham was showered with pomp and pageantry of an international calibre—the ever popular Can-Can, the Oriental splendour of the East, the regalia of the Middle East, the thudding of drums and the fascinating rhythm of Africa, the

Spanish damsels, etc., etc., and a whole galaxy of items from home and abroad.

To the uninitiated, especially the Freshmen—the International Evening is an occasion when students of different nationalities, garbed in their traditional national attire entertain the public with items which are typical of the countries from which they come. They sing and dance, and perform sketches, dress parades, etc., and for one to watch as many as 15 different nationalities performing in one evening is really unique.

Those who recall last year's International Evening—will confirm its popularity. It proved to be a huge success—people had to be turned away on the evening of the performance due to lack of accommodation. Last year over a dozen nationalities participated and the

audience was thrilled to their hearts content. They were taken to India, Pakistan, Israel, Ceylon, Malaya, West Indies and a host of other places. The exotic and dazzling costumes, the foreign tongues, the contrasting customs, the fascinating music—all go to make an enjoyable evening.

Some of the highlights of this year's International Evening include songs and dances from Estonia, songs and dances from Poland, an Israeli choir, a West Indian steel band and Calypso, a top performing Irish dance group, Oriental and native dances from Malaya, instrumental numbers from the Sudan and India, etc.

After all what could be more appropriate in a multi-racial city like Birmingham than an International Evening, when performers of different races and colour are brought together for a common cause—to promote understanding and goodwill.

Do come along and be entertained; besides being entertaining it is highly educational. The entire proceeds go to charity so why not support a charitable cause. Watch out for more details and information in the Press. S. AWATH-BEHARI. (Organiser).

CARNIVAL PUBLICITY

Dear Fellow Students,

"Carnival comes but once a year... and now it is right on top of us again. I know about it, but does anybody else know about it? Making Carnival known to the public isn't only just MY job. It is a job where you personally can get cracking."

Tell your family, your friends and relatives, their friends, and so on ad infinitum. Let everyone know what's happening—not only just the fact that Carnival is here, but the events leading up to it—the shows, concerts, stunts, etc.

If you are willing to display posters in your windows, come and see me! If you are willing to take pamphlets to your local pub or shops, come and see me again! I don't mind how many times you pester me: it's my job.

And now just a word about stunts. If you have a good one, (or even a bad one), PLEASE come and see me and register the details with me, or with any member of Carnival Committee, so that I know about it. It is so much easier if Carnival Committee give their blessing. Another thing, if it is good, you'll get a news reporter, and you never know... you may be photogenic enough to get your picture in the paper too!

So don't forget—tell Brum all about it, and tell me as well. Cheerio for now. I'll be waiting to hear from you. Happy Carnival.

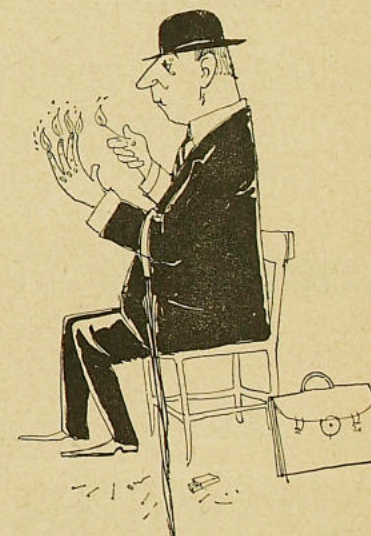
BERNARD A. JUBY.

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WOMEN FRESHERS: Come and join the Swimming Club. Water polo players particularly welcome. Contact Jane Spencer at the Union.



Burning your fingers

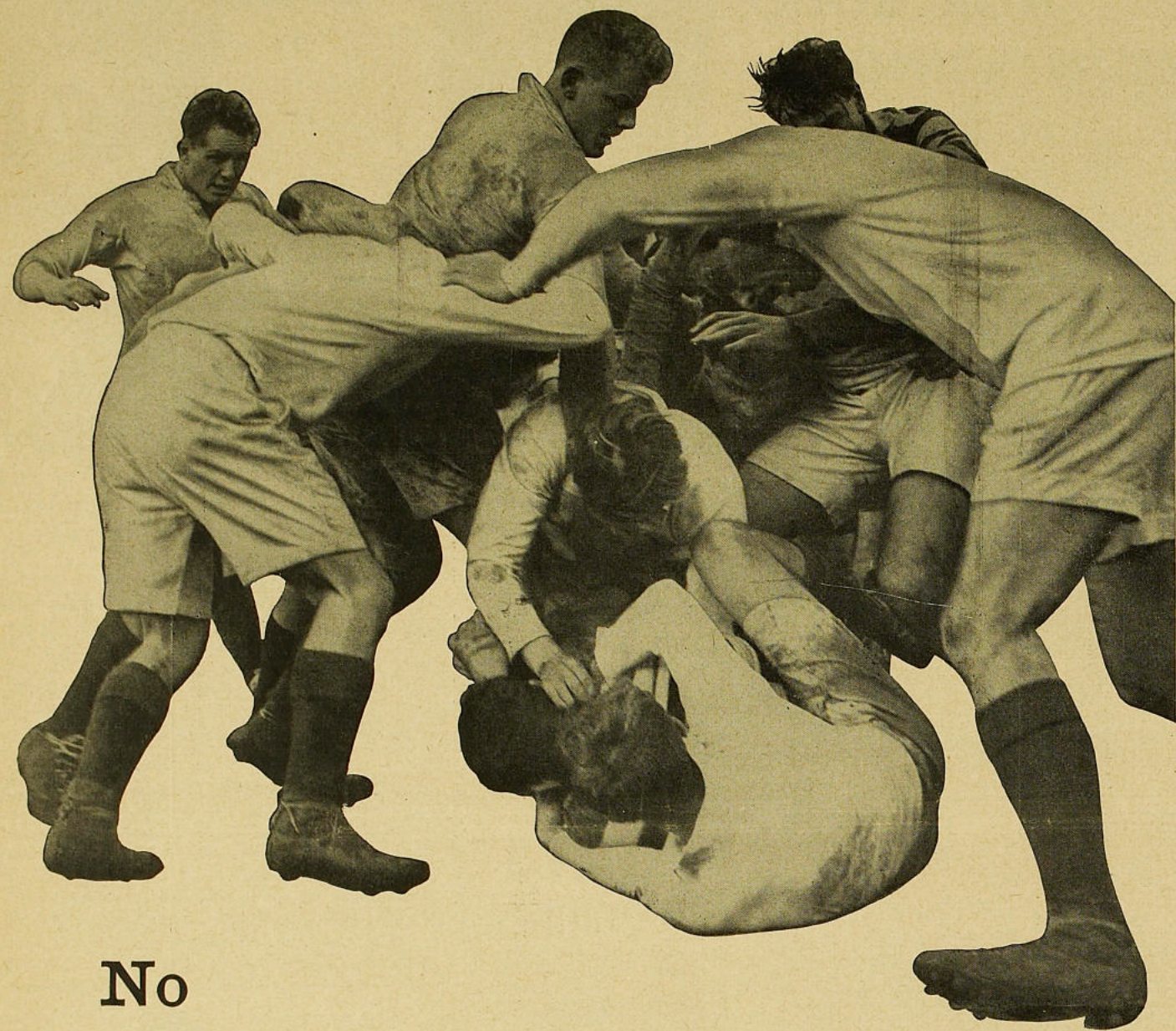
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product is matched by the variety of the work constantly going on in the organization's research laboratories, technical development departments and production plants. Recruits are given every encouragement to sample that variety to the full before they decide on their own particular bent—be it pure research or solving intriguing production problems. The sort of men to whom Pilkingtons offer these opportunities—and the material rewards which measure up to the importance of the work—are science graduates and technologists with specific interest in a wide range of subjects, including physics, mathematics, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering or fuel technology. For full details write to the Personnel Officer (Staff) at the Head Office, St. Helens, Lancashire, giving age and a brief description of education. P.S. Don't be put off if you regard Rugby League as a heresy. There are some fine Rugby Union clubs in the area. In fact whatever your favourite recreation you will find first-rate facilities in St. Helens or nearby.

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WOOD'S-EYE VIEW OF BIRMINGHAM

The average human being, upon seeing the City of Birmingham from the somewhat uninspiring viewpoint of a train steaming into New Street Station, is—if possessed of any aesthetic sense at all—filled with feelings of near nausea. However Fresher, may I, as a native of this rather unusual City, beg of you to not make too hasty a judgment? There is in fact much of interest to be found in and around the City.

Birmingham has an all too well deserved reputation for smokiness and dirt, grubby little side streets, and hundreds of one and two man factories. At present, determined—if not always enlightened—efforts are being made to improve the City. Some of the newer buildings are well worth a visit, for example the College of Commerce, the "Big Top" building in New Street, some of the new "flatted factories," and (dare I add) the new Teacher Training College. The Inner Ring Road Scheme, still in its very early stages, will transform the heart of the City. As these schemes progress, much that is old and dirty will be swept away, but also much that is interesting will go.

Although Birmingham can offer nothing to compare with, say Foyles in London, there are a number of interesting bookshops, concentrated around Bristol Street. Anyone interested in antique and curious things can find much to delight him at Treasure Trove in Cotteridge (on the 45 bus route from town).

Almost overnight a mushroom growth of foreign restaurants has sprung up in the City; two years ago it was difficult to get a meal anywhere in the City after about 8 p.m., but to-day there is a choice of about six places. There are also a number of Coffee Bars, mostly rather garish attempts to copy the London ones. The City pubs are mostly rather dull, but the "Greyhound" has a rather interesting range of ciders, perry and home brewed ale.

The Midland Red bus services make escape from the City to the attractive surrounding country easy and inexpensive. To the south-west there are the Lickey Hills, Bromsgrove, the attractive and interesting old cathedral town of Worcester, and the wild beauty of the Malvern Hills, all supplied by a twenty minute bus service.

Also in this area are a number of pretty little towns, notably Chaddesley Corbett. A little further ahead in the same direction is the vale of Evesham, and the charming town of Cheekiam, a fine old town of wide streets and graceful buildings, which has an active cultural life, in particular the annual festival of contemporary music. To the south-east there is the lovely Warwickshire countryside, and Stratford-on-Avon, home of Shakespeare, and flowers aces. Northwards there is rather less in the way of countryside, Sutton Park being the only readily accessible area.

One cannot claim that the cultural life of Birmingham is worthy of a great City, but on the other hand, the City is not quite such a cultural desert as some people seem to imagine. The present dearth of professional theatres is compensated for to some extent by the very active amateur theatre movement, and two companies, the Highbury Little Theatre and the Crescent Theatre, attain a very high standard. In an age when, or so we are frequently told, the legitimate theatre is being destroyed by the cinema and television, it is refreshing to see the attempts of amateurs being attended with such success, and possibly even more pleasing to see a professional theatre, the Windsor (Bearwood), successfully change over from so-called variety to repertory.

Birmingham has eight major cinemas, of which the newest, the Cinephone which specialises in foreign films, is perhaps the most interesting. In addition there are a number of flourishing Film Societies, some of which offer special rates to student members.

The City can boast of some very fine Public Libraries. There is also a

private library, the Birmingham Library, which offers many of the facilities of a club, as well as a library to its members. The library is associated with the Midland Institute, a body which includes societies devoted to a wide range of interests. There are a few learned societies, such as the Birmingham Natural History and Philosophical Society, and the West Midlands Bird Club.

B.J.B.W.

HECK - HECERE - HECKLED

The heckle is so ancient a part of the armamentarium of the unselected platform speaker that numerous examples have been recorded in the annals of match-box backs. Why, then, has this venerable art been lost for so many years to the distinguished major Guild Society?

Historically speaking it has resulted from the differing gambits played by various Deb. Soc. committees in the battle of Society v. the Apathy League. The virile committee of old men recently elected, will continue the policy founded by the same men at an earlier age; "This is to encourage all floor speakers to speak, albeit briefly, on all possible occasions."

Anyone who can pluck up nerve for the first time can speak when the debate is thrown open to the House, so a word about heckling and constitutional interruptions.

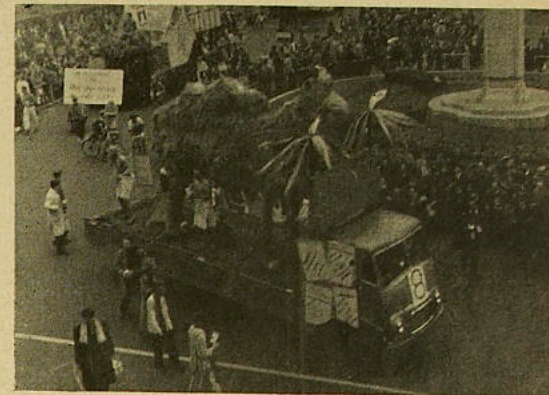
The "heck," by no means to be confused with the bucolic "hic," is a brief controlled interruption. The essential components are wit and speed. The former is sometimes natural but mostly dependant upon an encyclopaedic memory of past matchboxes. The latter ideally is a natural spontaneity, practically it depends upon a prior knowledge of the speech. (This is not so difficult since the speaker feels sure that if he knows what your "heck" is going to be, he will be able to remember his sparkling astringent reply which will humble you as the dust. He never can.)

The Constitutional Interjection is more simple but since it takes longer it must be more effective. An unfortunate heck is forgotten as soon as its burp; a tedious point of order

One word of single praise, to Mr. Kingston's tricky spirit of an Hamlet, which was outstanding where every part in every play was taken with rare ease and skill.

Next week "Much Ado," Stratford Memorial Theatre. —K.W.R.

Your float—be inventive



Far and near

Students and professors at San Francisco's Academy of Art have voted Brigitte Bardot the "Best Undressed Woman in the World." She carried off this rather unusual title in the face of stiff opposition from such nominees as Janet Leigh, Mitzi Gaynor, La Lollo, Marilyn Monroe and Anita Ekberg... any of our ladies care to enter next year?

Once again the Freshers' HOP proved to be the usual cattle market. By nine o'clock there were already 800 non-Freshers in the Great Hall and the number of superfluous males led to the customary restrictions on the dancing space. Organiser, Mike Gledhill, did not, however, seem unduly worried—after all, the Hop is the greatest Guild money spinner.

Another new wing has been opened to students at Manor House this term, and they have moved in whilst the finishing touches are being added. A small hall with a stage composes part of the new building and, at last, there is a genuine bar where one can drink happily instead of down in the cellars as previously.

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THEATRE

A YORKSHIRE TRAGEDY (Three Elizabethan Rarities, Repertory Theatre) has been called a truly great play of the "crudely realistic type." Written about 1606, it is based on a contemporary and sensational murder case: a man of a family once rich has squandered his living. His mind is turned by this downfall. He murders his two sons and attempts to murder his wife in order, so it appears to his deranged mind, that they shall not fall to poverty.

The topicality, of course, no longer excites an audience but divested of such interests the generalities of the piece are thrown into relief and prove strangely moving. It is no longer the crude realism of the play which makes it great, but those emotions common to all great tragedy, the validity of which are emphasised by their triumph over the unfamiliar.

JOHAN JOHAN and FRATRICIDE PUNISHED are two comedies and complete the Rep's triple bill. The first is an early play emerging with delightful vigour from the very beginnings of English secular drama. If my theme in the last paragraph were strangeness, here it is familiarity. That which struck Sir Thomas More as amusing still demands and earns our laughter.

—G.E.N.W.

LIGHT MUSIC AT THE TOWN HALL

TOMMY STEELE

Despite the believed popularity of the "Boy from Brixton," the Town Hall was by no means full to capacity for last Wednesday night's concert. Nor were there any weird and colourful clothes in evidence among the audience. Mr. Steele's personality was as irritatingly ebullient as ever, but his supremacy in this particularly nauseating field of light music was obvious... or am I biased? Without belittling Mr. Steele, however, I may say that the supporting acts were of an unusually high standard, above all the Five Dallas Boys, whose harmony was very pleasing from the musical point of view.

It is a significant fact that no member of the university, other than yours truly, was present... or did they come in disguise? —G.E.N.W.

HUMPHREY LYTTLETON

Last Saturday evening, the Town Hall was well packed for a jazz entertainment, though it is a matter of speculation whether the audience had come to see Britain's popular Humphrey Lyttelton or Jimmy Rushing, reputed to be America's greatest living "blues" singer. These artists have embarked upon their second joint tour of Britain.

The audience was slow to react to the new Lyttelton style of music. The mainstream style, however, gave way to a more

traditional number, for which the saxophone section was dispensed with, and the audience visibly warmed to the small group which ensued. From then on they could do no wrong. The saxophones, however, did show their own versatility in a number entitled "Perdido," in which Tony Gee was prominent.

Jimmy Rushing was immediately a hit with the Birmingham crowd, both in his jovial manner and displacement capacity, above all in his rendering of "St. Louis Blues."

Judging by the number of encores which were called for from both artists, it was a highly successful evening of jazz. —THETA

EDITORIAL

SPORT at this university actively encouraged, not perhaps as much as some would wish, but at least to the extent that there is compulsory Physical Education for all first year students. This, whilst it has the drawback that few people ever like doing things they are compelled to do, has introduced many of us to a variety of delightful occupations that would otherwise be missed. To those Freshers who already have their chosen sport, may I wish the best of luck, but to the many more who are as yet undecided on their athletic activities here, may I suggest that they sample one, or more, of the lesser-known sports rarely available outside university.

GOLF CLUB ACTIVITIES

This year the Golf Club is looking forward to having one of its strongest teams for many years. It was one of few University sides last year with an unbeaten record, and has every hope of repeating its success this season.

This year's captain, R. A. Jowle, did very well last year coming second in an International Student Tournament at St. Andrews, Worcestershire Open and Amateur, and the British Youth's Championships. In this last event, he was the leading amateur player.

Both the captain and R. McTait represented the U.A.U. against the Scots at St. Andrews.

SPORT LAST VACATION

Throughout the holidays we have been hearing of major sporting events—the Empire Games, the European Games, and many national championships and international matches. Besides these higher-level events, many county and club matches have taken place, and in all these, University athletes have been represented. Pride of place must go to Dave Jones (440 yards), Norman Watkins (javelin), and Norman Pemberton (discus), who all represented Wales in the Empire Games, and to Dave Shaw who, by representing England in the steeplechase against France, becomes our only current undergraduate international.

Dave was born at Greenock in Scotland and started athletics at the age of 14, but only began serious competition when he entered the R.A.F. three years ago. Whilst in the Services, he trained with Ibbotson under Squadron Leader Davies at Yatesbury, and is still under this coach whom he is able to visit at Cosford.

Already Scottish record holder when he came to the University, he really began to show his worth this season with second place in the Inter-Counties, third in A.A.A. Championships, and first in the White City August meeting.

Dave Shaw's first International came with the England—France match late this year, and he made a great debut, winning the 3,000 metres steeplechase, in the good time of 9 mins. 9.8 secs.

Dave Shaw hopes to represent Britain in Moscow next year, and eventually to compete in the 1960 Olympics. He stresses the fact that he is not a completely dedicated runner, and to demonstrate this, occasionally has lapses when he resorts to the usual human comforts—but, on the whole, as he says, "A rolling stone gathers no miss."

Other University sportsmen to do well this vacation included Geoff. Tildesley, who represented Yorkshire against Northumberland and Durham in the mile, Norman Watkins, Jim Jarvis, and Joe Medhurst, all of whom represented U.A.U. in the match against the Combined Services. Medhurst also did well to reach eleventh place in the A.A.A. Decathlon.

Peter Coultas represented U.A.U. and the Midland Counties in matches against the Royal Air Force and the North East respectively, the latter being televised. Annabel Thompson, this year the Vice-President of the Athletic Union, played hockey for Warwickshire, and other clubs also had fine performances from their members, as can be seen elsewhere.

Although not a student, mention must also be made of Ian Ward, a new member of the Phys. Ed. staff, who represented England in the Pole Vault at the Empire Games, and in the match between Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

GYMNASTICS CLUB

The Gymnastics Club were very fortunate to have their president, George Kunzel, present at their Freshers' display. Together with a B.A.I. gymnast, he gave displays on the high bar which were exciting to the large crowd.

Blue sails at Edgbaston

The Birmingham University Sailing Association, which now enters into its fourth year as a University club, is rapidly becoming one of the most popular societies in the University.

Starting off originally with no boats and nowhere to sail it has now developed into a firmly established club, boasting two Enterprise dinghies, "Charity" and "Hope" and sailing regularly at Rotton Park reservoir, near the Hagley Road. A third boat should be available for the coming season and it is to be hoped that the two more Enterprises will be built in the very near future.

Being both a recreational club and an athletic club, the Association caters for both the man who likes "Messing about in boats" and for the racing helmsman.

For the novice coming into contact with sailing for the first time, there is ample opportunity to learn all about this most fascinating sport. Full instruction is given from the start. New members begin as crews, being taught the principles of sailing by an experienced helmsman. At the same time this instruction is supplemented by monthly lectures and discussions.

Due to the full programme throughout the year even the complete novice can have an opportunity of representing the University in the sport.

"GUILD NEWS"

PHOTOGRAPHS

TAKEN BY

Stanley Dolphin

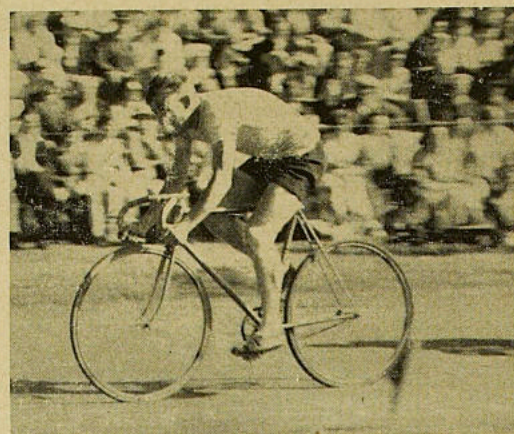
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'The Cycle-Racers'



The University racing cyclists have been very active throughout the vac., figuring in Midland road races every week, in addition to the colourful holiday track meetings. The standard of competition has continued to improve, and average speeds in most road races have been around 25 m.p.h., even on the long hilly courses.

The first event of the holidays was the Wheelers Road at Wolverhampton. University riders figured in all the major moves, Olive Dalby initiating the original break and John Griffin and Jim Waddoups getting away to a short lead ten miles from the finish.

The Woden Grand Prix in Staffordshire saw a triumph for our up and coming young rider Jim Waddoups, who took second prize. Also in this race John Griffin was placed seventh, coming home in a chasing group, and Olive Dalby won the bunch sprint.

Another interesting event was the Saracen Road Race. This was held on a Lickey Hills circuit, a gruelling race that was enjoyed by a large crowd. Jim Waddoups again rode well in the early stages but, like team mate Bill Hodgson, was unfortunately forced out of the race by mechanical

trouble. John Griffin did well to be amongst the few finishers.

Perhaps the most pleasing result was in the Southam and Delabere Race held in the Cotswolds, and including the climbs of the notorious Cleve Hill. Despite torrential rain, the University riders Waddoups and Griffiths were well up in the fast leading group, and their efforts, backed up by a sterling performance by John Dalby, gave us first prize in the team event.

On the track we have been represented in meetings at Coventry, Aldersley and Salford Park. However, in spite of this strenuous racing programme the club found time to make an extensive tour of Devon and Cornwall, by way of relaxation.

JUDO CLUB

Last Saturday's display was given before a large audience in the gym. The Judo Club has three practice nights and two of these are to be used for instruction. By Saturday no new recruits for the ladies' section had signed up, but a good response in the men's section was evident. Don't be shy, girls, the present members will look after you.

The main instruction night has been changed, to enable our usual instructor to attend. It is hoped that all members will arrive in force on the new night, Wednesday. In addition to our normal instruction, we hope to have two visits a term from a high grade Black Belt. This high-grade instruction will be of great help, as was shown by the excellent summer course held at the Budokwai under G. Gleeson, 4th Dan.

Fixtures this season will include matches with local clubs as well as the usual University events. Intending Judokans please note that we intend to introduce inter-club visits as soon as the beginners find their feet.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

As far as can be seen, from the only exception being the full-back positions.

As far as can be seen, from Freshers' Trials held on Saturday and Monday, there will be difficulty in filling the vacant places left in the forward line by the absence of Bill Meek, out with a cartilage injury, and other members who have left. With luck and training there are a few who might make the grade, however. The defence is more or less settled, with many of last year's players available,

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Concert Diary

I sincerely hope that Hugo Wolf is remembered by posterity for his settings of Heine and Schiller, rather than for his critical essays, particularly those concerning the music of Brahms. Writing in a Viennese paper, he greeted the four symphonies with a degree of hostility that is incomprehensible to those who have come to love the works of this composer. Doubt of Wolf's critical faculties was confirmed at last Thursday's concert at the Town Hall when Brahms' First Piano Concerto was performed. A work which stands like a colossus, it is one of the most successful of early romantic concertos, successful in that unlike them, it combined profound symphonic thought with virtuosic writing, the latter being subservient at all times to the former.

It is remarkable that a composer whose study had been devoted to the works of his classical forebears, and whose roots lay in the formalism of the Baroque period, should have produced what is fundamentally a romantic concerto.

Brahms, composing in the early stages of the romantic movement, could so easily have jettisoned the past in favour of a future of experiment with revolutionary musical ideas. Had such a thing happened, the result would have undoubtedly produced a series of musical mules, without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity. Brahms, however, relying on the past and drawing on the future, joined two fundamentally opposed ages, so that the title "classico romantic" can, with some degree of accuracy, be applied to him.

The First Piano Concerto is the bridge which spans the gulf between the two periods, and what a truly magnificent structure it is. The performance on Thursday hinted at the greatness, and on many occasions was fully realised. The first movement is all sinew.

The main theme announced by violins, and tympani, needs all the tension it can get, and though the orchestra bent its collective back willingly, the final ounce was just missing, and the cellos rather let the side down with their narrow, raspy tone. It may seem unfair to mention the orchestra where everyone expects to read of the soloist, but this is a work or symphonic proportions and indeed the long introduction is purely orchestral, both in thought and writing, the piano developing the orchestral part rather than the reverse being the case. On the whole the players gave a creditable performance, though I was a little worried about Panufnik's part. His beat remains mannered, while his girations on the platform are as embarrassing to watch as they are unnecessary.

As regards the soloist, Daniel Wayenberg, I had slightly mixed feelings. He has obviously studied the work and grasped its meaning, though one feels that perhaps his technique is over fluent. The opening runs of the finale were so enthusiastically played that they tended to run into each other, but on the whole he revealed the mightiness of this First Concerto of Brahms.

On Sunday last, Harold Gray obtained more precise playing from the orchestra. The soloist Arthur Doyle, huffed and puffed his way round Vaughan Williams' Tuba Concerto. Alternately like a sea-lion negotiating a step-ladder and a lugubrious old man of Falstaffian aspect, the work still fails to convince. A fruity performance of an interesting work.

Tchaikovsky's Fifth was no more than it has ever been. A ballet-symphony with plenty of virtuosity, particularly as regards orchestration, and a streak of melancholy which was not too pitiful on this occasion.

—K.T.