

University Collection

Debate :
THAT
HOMOSEXUAL
ACTS ARE
IMMORAL
Council Chamber
Thursday : 5.15 p.m.

GUILD NEWS

No. 608

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 1962

Price 3d.

Film Society
LE TESTAMENT
D'ORPHEE
Mech. Eng.
Thursday : 7.30 p.m.

Chem-Eng. don their water-wings

CHANNEL BID — BY BIKE

Stolen,
not
strayed

THE Austin A40 which was stolen 11 days ago from the East Car Park was found abandoned in King's Heath last Wednesday.

It had suffered no serious damage, although some wiring behind the dashboard had been pulled out. A camera that had been left in the car had been taken. A number of students, having seen the report in last week's "Guild News," have been asking the owner, Alwyn Mansford-Doble, whether the car is in fact his.

PRAMATEURS

THOSE who were unfortunate enough to miss the Pram Race in 1961 will be glad to know that they now have another chance to take part. Anybody who would like to help push a pram from London to Leicester on March 4th-5th should come to Carnival Office or put a note on the urgent board.

For the uninformed, a team comprises 20 members accommodated in a coach. Supporters, wet-nurses and masseurs are also required. The prize for the winning team is a barrel of beer and the cost to participants will be about ten shillings per head.

Freedom groups— East and West FUTURE POLICIES

TWO new societies have been admitted to the Guild this term: Cymdeithas Hywel Oda and the Kashmir Freedom Group.

"Cymdeithas Hywel Oda" will please patriotic Welshmen. It is designed to complement the Welsh Soc. by stimulating an interest in the cultural, economic and political problems of Wales. Their inaugural meeting is next Friday, when a Welsh Barrister will talk on "Can Wales survive the next 20 years?"

On the eve of St. David's Day they hope to hear some tapes of the pirate radio "Free Wales."

by "Guild News" Reporter

ONE of the chief stunts of this year's Carnival will be a tandem-ride across the Channel to be undertaken by Chemical Engineers Jim Wood and Ron Brooks. For this stunt the Chemical Engineers are being helped by the Mechanical Engineers, Civil Engineers and Medics.

The tandem is ready, and waiting to be mounted on floats. The back wheel will be replaced by a paddle and they expect to be able to do about 3 m.p.h. They are waiting until they get to France before they decide whether or not to attempt a return crossing, and are looking forward to spending a pleasant day or two over there.

The floats, however, which will be made of aluminium tubing, will probably cost about £100, and it is questionable as to whether or not Carnival funds will be able to afford this. There is also the question of an accompanying boat.

Dailies

Mr. Billy Butlin and various national dailies have been asked if they would provide a boat, but the only reply so far has come from the "Daily Express," who are not willing to provide a boat, though quite prepared to give publicity to the stunt.

Anyone who is willing to provide a motor-launch, or who knows how a motor-launch can be obtained, is earnestly requested to get in touch with Carnival Committee as soon as possible. The crossing will

possibly take place one day during the week before the Carnival week itself, but the actual date of the crossing will be determined by the weather conditions.

Mr. Glyn Allen, the Carnival Committee chairman, also gave information about some other proposed stunts. A party of students, again including Mr. Wood, want to sail down the Severn in bath tubs selling the Carnival magazine. Another idea is to sell tomatoes in Victoria Square for a shilling each, to anyone wishing to throw them back at the sellers.

TECHNICAL HITCH

MR. J. W. FORTEY, a lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, said that it would be better, in his opinion, if the tandem-builders tackled some large company such as Tube Investments, to help them with skill and resources in converting the tandem.

There are technical snags, he said, that can be more easily overcome in the factory than in the workshop. The floats on the tandem will have to be aluminium tubes 18 inches in diameter with conical ends for streamlining. To stop pitching these floats will need to be about 15 feet long, and, to add extra stability, since a tandem is quite high, about 8 feet apart.

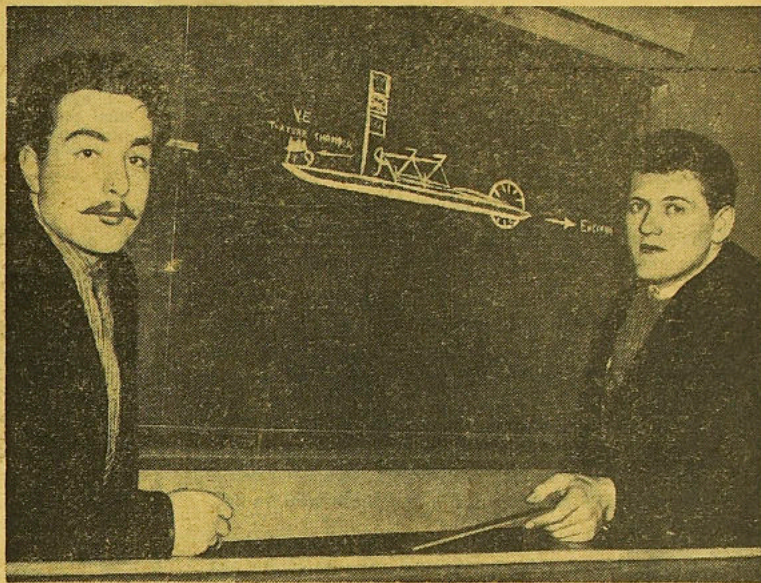
Cranks

The tandem will be mounted inside this framework, with the cranks well above water level. Mr. Fortey felt, however, that the problem of propulsion will not be as easy as they imagine, but he was very interested in the enterprise.

MONEY!

THE Guild is offering a bursary of £50 to encourage an undergraduate to undertake a travel project in the long vacation which is outside his or her course of study. Students travelling abroad in connection with their studies or attending conferences are not eligible for the grant.

Application forms are available from the Permanent Secretary of the Union.



Mr. Ron Brooks, left, seen while discussing plans with Mr. Jim Woods. (Photo: Arthur Burgess).

Victoria Square also attracts someone who wishes to set up a treadmill and create a treadmill record. Attempts are also being made to arrange a charity soccer match between a Bill Slater XI and a Show Business XI.

New Blood

MALCOLM BRADBURY, author of "Eating People is Wrong" and "Phogey" has taken a post as Assistant Lecturer in the English Department.

Twenty-nine-year-old Mr. Bradbury was educated at the universities of Leicester, London and Manchester. His best-selling, brilliantly funny first novel tilts at the provincial university. He spent some time in America as a member of the staff of Indiana University, is a regular writer for "Punch," has contributed to the "Spectator," and broadcast for the B.B.C.

At English Club last week, Mr. Bradbury read excerpts from his new novel, not yet published.

TODAY

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NEW BODY SEEKS UNIVERSITY REFORM

Channeling criticism

A NEW group is to be formed in the Guild to discuss our University system, draw attention to its weaknesses and campaign for improvements in it. It will be called the Birmingham Group for University Reform.

Most students grumble from time to time about overloading of courses, poor staff-student contacts, the poor quality of lectures and the lack of Halls of Residence. The Group hopes to channel this criticism into a constructive form.

It is likely that it will campaign for teacher-

training for lecturers, for a reduction in factual information included in courses, for more critical thinking and for better tutorial help for students.

Any student or member of staff interested in this group is asked to contact David Gillett via the Union pigeon-holes.

YOUR MONEY— DOUBLE IT!



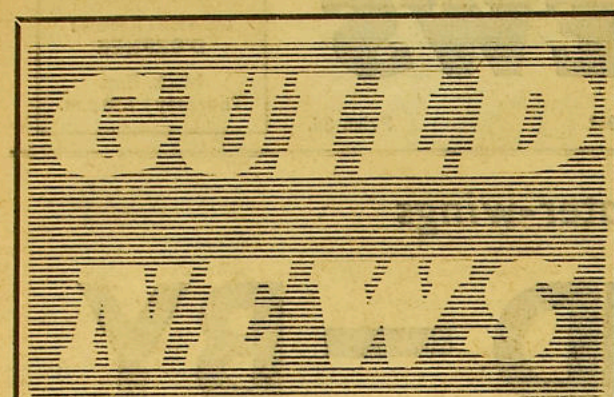
FOR a purely nominal premium at the outset you can share in the profits of one of the oldest mutual assurance offices. Ask the Business Manager of "Guild News" or come to G.N. Office for a leaflet giving a description of the plan which has been designed especially for students. YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

THIS IS THE PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT—

'THE BLOSSOMING PROFESSIONAL MAN'—or write to...

THE NATIONAL
MUTUAL LIFE
ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NEWTON CHAMBERS,
CANNON STREET, BIRMINGHAM
Phone: MIDland 3397



The Birmingham University Newspaper

One-arm bandits

THE Union "Coke" machine seems to have been inoperative for most of the present term. The chocolate and cigarette machines are perpetually jamming. The tea-and-coffee contraption in the basement of the Arts Block can hardly summon up the energy to warm its load before delivering it.

Is there a curse on the University slot machines? Or is the sad state of affairs set out above merely the result of undergraduate ham-handedness? If the latter is the case, it might be a good idea for those responsible for the purchase of these machines to invest in something with armour plating and spikes to ensure that those who know how to treat the machines properly are not robbed (literally and metaphorically) by those who do not.

And while we are on the subject, why is there no milk machine in the Union? The objection has been raised that it would be an eyesore, but this hardly seems valid when the "Coke" machine remains in all its ugliness outside Vernon Hall.

EDITOR - BOB BOOTLE
ASSISTANT EDITOR - MIKE COE
BUSINESS MANAGER CHRIS MACKIE
Telephone: Selly Oak 1841

Oxford replies ROLLS-ROYCE OR MINI-MINOR

SIR,—Oxford has recently come in for attack, both in your "Guild News" and Bristol's "Nonesuch News." May I say at once that I am pleased to see this. But could I make a few corrections? You tend to lump all Oxford undergraduates under one heading; but some of the most bitter criticisms of Oxford and the values it stands for have come from Oxford itself—in Isis, New University and Cherwell.

I found when I visited Birmingham that friendliness was immediately modified when it was discovered I was from Oxford. Certainly there are too many "faddy young men"—but there is a growing awareness—growing albeit slowly—that Oxford might not be perfect.

This emerges despite the usual conservatism and what an Italian journalist visiting Oxford last week described to me as smugness. "Isis's" attack on the Union was described as fooling (we asked for a Student's Union as you have everywhere but Oxford and Cambridge) and the President said, "I intend to do nothing about it." Cheers from the hall.

Anachronism

I agree Oxford is an anachronism—though not "beautiful." The division of Oxbridge and Redbrick, though, is not wholly Oxford's fault; Redbrick tends to be over-touty and imagines unintended sneers.

Also at last to an increasing extent prospective undergraduates are applying to provincial universities that give a better training in certain subjects (science is still rather out of the name) than to Oxford for the name. Let us hope this trend will continue.

Basically, the faults of Oxford merely reflect the faults

in the educational structure of the country. The division of fee-paying-State schools here is still incredibly strong. It is impossible to speak of any feeling of community in Oxford; besides obvious divisions in interest—actors, sportsmen, etc., there are the social distinction. Only 22 per cent. of the undergraduates come from grammar schools proper; the percentage of working-class undergraduates is 10.

Cream

Of course this is an increase on pre-war proportions—but the change is very slow; and now, instead of being a middle and upper class preserve, Oxford is

MINORITY RICE Not without curry

SIR,—I was in the Refectory recently. I chose something that the menu described as "Scottish Mutton Pie" and then asked for rice. The waitress looked most shocked, and replied "Sorry, Luv, you can't have rice without curry."

I was under the impression that in a democratic society the rights of minorities were protected. I am a minority, and I claim it as my inalienable right to have rice with my Scottish

tending to cream off the talent and make itself (in the famous phrase of Professor Bell) a university for Rolls-Royces, not Mini-minors.

For one form of distinction and segregation another has been found—one equally evil in consequence. If the cream is to be given better academic discipline, do this by post-graduate courses, not by selection into specialised Rolls-Royce plants. But whether the best solution is to turn Oxford and Cambridge into post-graduate universities as has recently been suggested remains doubtful.

Yours, etc.,
MICHAEL WILDING,
Editor, Isis.

'What ill-bred remarks?'

I REPEAT SIR

SIR,—The attacks of Mr. Powell-Smith and Mr. Fell on my letter, and their defence of the Vernon Grill, are far from satisfactory. Indeed, some of the words they use are completely out of place.

For example, what is an "ill-bred remark"? And again, why do they maintain that remarks about grubby tablecloths are completely unjustified? I assure you, sir, that grubby tablecloths do exist in Vernon Grill, and my remarks are fully justified.

"The opening of the new refectory will ease the burden on the Vernon Grill." Why? Because, I suggest, many of the people who use the Vernon Grill at present prefer a cheap cafeteria service, which is precisely what I was getting at. The 400 users of the Vernon Grill include many people who want a decent meal and are forced to pay for waitress service (and, dare I say it, the grubby tablecloths), because there is no alternative.

I would like to say, before this correspondence goes any further, that I in no way blame

the staff, who are, I completely agree, thoroughly overworked and do an excellent job under difficult conditions.

The slow service of the Vernon Grill is due not to incompetence of the staff, but to

insufficient numbers of them. I have heard (I do not know) that there are only two hot plates used in the Vernon Grill. As regards the cost of food in the Vernon Grill, I meant to imply that it was far above the cost of food in the Vernon and Priestley at mid-day. I daresay Vernon Grill prices do compare favourably with public restaurants, but that is not the point.

Won

The point is, would more people use a cafeteria service in the evening than are at present using the Vernon Grill? If the answer is yes, then surely the case for a cafeteria service is won in principle.

We now come to the only point in Messrs. Powell-Smith and Fell's letter which I am prepared to take seriously; namely that the introduction of such a service may be impracticable. I do not, however, see why. Surely a self-service is easier to provide than a waitress service. It is certainly cheaper. But I may be wrong, and if the powers-that-be consider a changeover impracticable, then far enough—as long as they look into the possibility first.

I, therefore, repeat my original constructive suggestion; that those in charge seriously consider the question.

Yours, etc.,
JULIE BAREFOOT,
(President).

Yours, etc.,
D. SIDMONS.

PRESS POST

Visiting hours

NOT A PRISON

SIR,—“Guild News” would seem to be labouring under a misapprehension about the attitude of members of University House towards visiting hours.

It would be only fair to those concerned for me to correct the false representation of what took place at this term's Junior Common Room meeting, reported in last week's edition of this newspaper.

It is not the intention of the J.C.R. the embodiment of student opinion, to appear prudish and withdrawn, as “Guild News” implied, desiring no male visitor over the threshold except at specific meagre visiting hours such as one might expect in hospitals or one of Her Majesty's prisons.

Extend

On the contrary the J.C.R. is firmly in favour of certain extensions. However, it does feel that the attempt to impose upon it the particular set of visiting hours held by Manor

House was unwarranted, especially as the suggestion was born of someone who can have no conception of what it is like to live in a women's hall of residence. Reality, not inhospitality, was the reason for our decision.

Yours, etc.,
JULIE BAREFOOT,
(President).

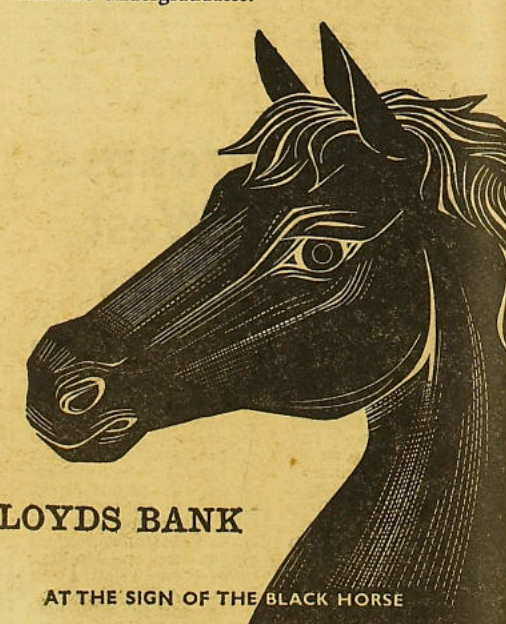
Yours, etc.,
D. SIDMONS.

Lloyds Bank opens in The University

LOYDS BANK is pleased to announce the opening of its UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM branch in the New Refectory Block of the University. The Manager, Mr. W. H. Bagnall, will welcome enquiries.

Night Safe facilities are available.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM branch has been opened specially to provide a more convenient banking service for the University staff and undergraduates.



LOYDS BANK

AT THE SIGN OF THE BLACK HORSE

Mutton Pie. I take this incident as a sign that Britain is fast degenerating into a police State, as Orwell predicted.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. WRIGHT.

THE NAME OF THE GAME

RIGHT from the start of this week's G.T.G. "The Merry Wives of Windsor," it is obvious that the production is going to be something out of the ordinary.

A good start is maintained with only occasional leaning on conventionality. The producer, Jim Duckett, is aiming at a sort of liaison between stage and auditorium, firstly, by expertly using an apron stage, and secondly, by involving the audience in the "theme" of Nicolai's opera, which are Mock Morality of the day and the Fall of Pride.

The former is amply illustrated by Mistress Ford who also plays a leading role in deflating Falstaff's pride. She enjoys the prospect of flirting with him—but only flirting. "I must arouse his lust, and yet control it."

Failure

Mistress Page collaborates with her to this end, but suffers humiliation at her failure to marry her daughter Anne to Dr. Cains, "that well-bred Frenchman." Another aspect of this middle-class snobbery can be found in Mr. Ford's character, a very complacent and jealous merchant.

These themes then are psychologically interesting for an audience and the producer has done well to get its participation. There is a balletic movement, mainly illustrative of the music, which is effective.

The opening scene between

T.V.

FEELTHY

I AM a sucker for plays in serial form and should never have started watching "Crying Down the Lane"—B.B.C. But then I did.

I am not quite sure what it is all about. I am sure that the Solicitor should have been kept away from the Female Reporter. The ordure of badly maintained farce is not necessary to keep a high T.A.M. rating.

The cleavage-toting in the Feelthy Foreign Embassy could

be justified, I suppose, it increased my blink rate for a while anyway. However, if the B.B.C. insists on bedrooms and underwear why not choose an actress who is not embarrassed before a camera crew?

"Too"

I suppose my real objection is that the characters are "too"; the American Dad is too American, Dad, similarly with the Evil Embassy Official and the American's ex-wife. They are all so black and white that I can only think of them in capitals. The Small Boy who is the axis of the plot I find unreal, particularly unacceptable is his weekly soliloquy with what I take to be a plastic budgeter.

The play does not satisfy me, but then, why do I watch each fresh instalment? Have you ever tried to break with a serial? See you on Monday in front of the box. WYNDHAM.

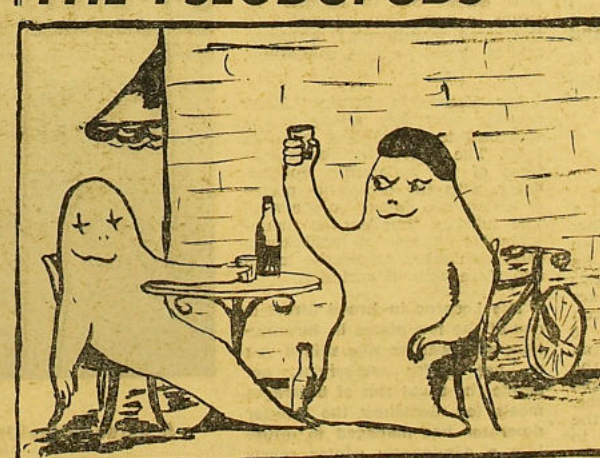
25 YEARS AGO

5th FEBRUARY, 1937

SEVERAL Universities have now adopted the idea of a news-sheet. During the vacation the Editor came into contact with members of the staffs of other Varsity newspapers and established a system of interchange which should be of great value in the future.

Liverpool has just produced its first number with the help of the Editor of this paper. Southampton and Leeds and others are already in action. If anyone has information which would be of use in establishing contact with various Colleges in the country, it would be gratefully accepted by the Editor.

THE PSEUDPODS by 292



"Vive le Carnaval."



Falstaff in trouble again. A scene from the G.T.G. production of "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

(Photo: Arthur Burgess).

JAZZ

MAINSTREAM BREAKDOWN

NEARLY 10 years ago, American critic John Hammond acted as midwife at the birth of a new jazz-style or rather a new jazz attitude. Hammond's so-called Greenwich Village series of recordings by the Vic Dickenson Septet introduced to the world the new baby which critics soon christened "Mainstream."

The chorus is good and benefits from Jim Duckett's making them a set of individuals and not just a "back" for the principals (notice the Puritan in the tavern scene).

Credit must go to the conductor, Bill Bowen, whose lively direction of this mixture of Mozart, Rossini and Weber contributes much to the enjoyment of the evening—and full marks to Jim Duckett.

MARTIN BINKS.

FILMS

BIG BURN UP

REMINISCENT of "On The Beach" is the subject, naively described by the title, of "The Day the Earth Caught Fire" (Odeon, New St.). With the threat of the bomb there is a deal of relevance about it, but the special effects plus the 'x' certificate smack too much of science fiction to scare anyone to death.

One day, as the earth went on its daily round, a most unfortunate coincidence occurred. The Russians at the North Pole and the Americans at the South each unleashed a large example of that redoubtable symbol of progress, the nuclear bomb. Only the "Daily Express" could cope with a story that big and it is through the paper's Fleet Street offices and staff that the awful truth is revealed.

The earth's axis has been tilted and its orbit now takes

it progressively nearer the sun. To the busy world of Fleet Street this is just another scoop, but not to our reporter-hero (Edward Judd). On account of it, and his new girlfriend (Janet Munro), he gives up the bottle. Otherwise he is true to the legend of Fleet Street, which is again represented by men with rolled-up sleeves, unbuttoned collars and loosened ties achieving incredible feats of co-ordination with telephones, typewriters and cigarettes.

The effects on the world of the resulting climatic changes producing fogs, floods, drought, gales and scorching heat are graphically shown in a short series of random shots but the tone of the rest of the film somehow forestalls the real sense of horror the situation demands.

Credit is due, however, for the way the film strikes at certain social phenomena: the official red tape surrounding the announcement of a momentous world catastrophe, the general apathy until effects become particular, the Prime Minister's platitudinous broadcasts to the nation, teenage wantonness in the face of crisis, and the incidence of black-market enterprise despite the odds against survival.

Produced and directed by Val Guest, the film is another attempt to awaken the masses to a social problem by entertaining them or vice-versa? Either way, they may be entertained, but awaked...?

HARVEY JERVIS.

Example

An excellent example of this fusion of styles is the Al Fairweather-Sandy Brown Band which visited the Union last Wednesday for the Jazz Band Ball.

This group boasts what must be one of the "swingingest" rhythm sections to have been heard in the Union. The key to this prerequisite for any first-class band is surely the superb drumming of Benny Goodman, who must be one of our most underrated rhythm men.

Illustrating "Mainstream's" flexible approach we can instance firstly their wide repertoire, which ranged over the length and breadth of jazz history and secondly, the personnel itself. The front line comprised of the near New Orleans clarinet of Brown, the Braf-like trumpet of Fairweather and the modern-sounding trombone of Tony Milliner.

Home

To return to the home front (i.e. the supporting band), we come to one of the most interesting aspects of the evenings music. Granted the superiority of the London-based visitors, the highlight for me, and judging by the audience reaction for many others, was when Eddie Matthews and Denis Wheeler played with the visiting group.

Though both normally in a more modern, Cannonball Alderly style, they merged easily with the visiting band, and under the stimulus of their driving rhythm played some of the finest jazz I have ever heard from University musicians.

J. S. R.

A Fringe Majority

by
Peter Ealey



Mr. André Drucker, proprietor of "La Bohème."

(Photo: "Birmingham Post").

Cafe au Lait

by
Martin
Wright

THE scarf in Birmingham is more of a hooliganism symbol than the leather jacket. This, it seems, is the opinion of at least one city coffee-bar proprietor. It is perhaps uncharitable to attribute this attitude to his proximity to Costa Green, but whatever the cause, he considers the effect warrants positive preventive measures on his part.

Mr. André Drucker is a versatile and capable man. He paints and writes enthusiastically and prolifically, having some dozen books and considerably more canvases to his name. Most of his energies, however, are devoted to La Bohème, and latterly, to his more recent acquisition, the Cinephone coffee bar.

First impressions of the former are of inaccessibility—unless you happen to live in the fire station that is—of stronger than the average coffee, and of a surprising number of paintings labelled Drucker. Should you happen to squeeze in at lunch-time, you must needs share a table with a city gentleman who, tired of prawn chow mien and barbecued chicken, is reduced to Viennese goulash.

Wise

It is wise, at least to start with, to confine your visits to this time of day, until, that is, you are established as one of the regular clientele, those faithful patrons who travel regularly from distant Solihull, Sutton Coldfield, and Tipton St. John.

At this stage you may consider yourself eligible for membership of "La Bohème Circle," that elite

corps which reserves the right to refuse admission after 10 p.m. to all non-regular—and therefore rowdy or otherwise undesirable visitors. Incidentally, prices at this time are 25 per cent higher, though still by no means exorbitant.

Herein lies the spirit of La Bohème. You may go and drink coffee with Mr. Drucker's friends, listen to his choice of music, eat his favourite foods. You are watched over by his paintings, and you may go upstairs to inspect and buy more of these and others, sometimes very poor ones, executed by his friends. Here also may you purchase autographed copies of his latest book.

and Cafe Noir

COFFEE BARS. A romantic dream of the Continent, a refuge for escapists? A last respite for the bus-stop romance? A haven for the perverted and frustrated? Or a place to sit with friends in an otherwise grey and unreal city?

Drab

The decor and clients of a coffee bar more often than not give the answer. El Sombbrero on the Bristol Road is exotic in its own tired way. Mexican blankets hang on the walls; the rooms are separated by black wrought iron work; sombreros, so essential to the motif, shield the clients from the intolerable brilliance of the 60-watt bulbs. Like the ample breasts of deep-bosomed Hebe, the smokey atmosphere in the Rear Room heaves and falls to the thunderous beat of the juke box. It is the sort of place you

AN article by Gerald Lascelles appeared in a September issue of the "Sunday Times," entitled "The Sociology of Jazz." Among other assertions it claimed that jazz attracts only a "fringe" element of undesirable characters, and that the majority of its audiences were not only appreciative but also staunch and regular supporters.

This claim of Lascelles' is hardly strengthened by what members of some Birmingham clubs had to say about themselves and their relationship to jazz. Some of these clubs are not easy to find; two are on the upper floors of pubs, one in what is supposedly an annexe of Digbeth Civic Hall, and yet another in the basement of a café.

Decor

The decor of a good jazz club is not completely divorced from Romanticism. Those in Birmingham, with the possible exception of the Gezon, in Carr's Lane, were not designed primarily as jazz clubs and there is something about them distinctly utilitarian and makeshift, particularly the Midland which reminds one of a tawdry parish hall. And yet the unintentional motif of the stained glass windows at the Cen-

tral is not without effect—symbolic perhaps of warm-blooded sensuality, triumphant over an ascetic Church.

Few people who spend their evenings at these clubs conform to the popular image of the "jazz culture" acolyte. The number of bearded weirdos and armpit-high dwarfs with shoulder-length hair, jet black and bright yellow, is decidedly limited. A large proportion of those attending are students, though seldom from the University; and then there is that heterogeneous mixture of individuals who defy systematic classification.

Chat-up

But how many are actively interested in jazz? Few would admit point-blank that they had come to pick up a "bird," or perhaps "to be chatted-up." But I was hardly given the impression of a fervent passion for jazz from a comment like this from a couple of girls. "Well, we never listen to the jazz, unless we don't like the blokes." And the strength of one student's enthusiasm was revealed by—"I like jazz, but skip jiving is much better, such awfully good fun."

The atmosphere, particularly in the smaller clubs, is almost knotted—and the cause was probably the natural question. Many gave the answer as a reason for their time at a club.

This is so too at the university jazz club at the Hotel. Many people here, out also that though they are very interested in jazz, have little scope for discriminating the choice of entertainment the university for one night.

Appeal

It is scarcely an attempt to say that jazz has a mental appeal to the extent that one-third of all those clubs in Birmingham.

A photographer who has the last few years touring clubs, put the figure at the claim of Gerald Lascelles that jazz attracts only a fringe element, just another of an artist being out with his public?



Jazz at the Top — Spencer Davies and the University Band. (Photo: Arthur Burgess).

Vancouver B.C.

Alarm rings at 7.0 a.m. It is still dark, and I hear on the roof. In my mind, I know whether it is before I get up. At about past seven, I am there, by this time fully conscious to know I am, and what I have

In Vancouver, a student at the University of British Columbia, eight o'clock, my ride will be a fellow student gives me lectures, which begin at 10.0 a.m., and are a horribly unearthly whole idea of University been shattered. I might be working!

and fits fondly back to him, good old civilised time, where most of my were at 10.0 a.m., and there was a nine o'clock, at least had the dis- to turn up until 9.10.

They are so keen that the arrives promptly at 8.30 a business of working a serious matter. They believe in holidays.

At 10, 10 days at Christmas for Easter. And there will be three in the summer but by then are forgotten how to live!

Larger

is one of the larger Universities, with 13,000 I remember my horror proposals to expand Birmingham and my experience not reconciled me to the educational institution. advantages in terms of and facilities, but the all too often an anonymous going through the machine.

It is to some extent this anonymity. I came to the "Frats" as of the American University, but now I can see do have some value.

System like this is neces-

sary in such a large institution. I do not, however, see the need for the secrecy and exclusiveness which characterises the Fraternities.

Degree courses here last four years as, on arrival, the student has not specialised to the extent that the British student has. I have been very impressed by the number of courses offered here. There is more variety and freedom for the students to select their courses.

Courses

Requirements for degrees are worked out on a unit system, and each year you have to complete so many units, each course counting for a certain number. You can select just about any combination of courses to get the required number of units. This gives a lot of freedom to the students, and I would like to see more of it in Britain.

But, on the other hand, it can lead to absurdities. For example, a course of Badminton lessons offered by the Physical Education department can contribute a few units to a degree in Engineering.

The U.B.C. campus is reputed to be one of the most beautiful in the world, and this is no idle boast. It is situated on a peninsula, Point Grey. On one side is the Fraser River, its estuary well filled with rafts of log awaiting transportation or sawing.

On the other is English Bay with its beaches. From Point Grey, Vancouver Island can be seen. Like the coast, it is mountainous and its peaks form a Bali Haï-like silhouette.

Lovely

This lovely situation has been used to advantage, and there are some beautiful buildings on the campus. Unfortunately, there are some box-like structures similar to some of Birmingham's new buildings.

The new Graduate centre here is particularly pleasing. It has recently won an architectural award for its design, and it is

right on the point. The views from the lounges are breathtaking—the lovely pines, the sea and occasional boat, snow-capped peaks—what more do you want?

While I enjoy this Graduate centre, I see that it has the unfortunate effect of separating graduates and undergrads. The Alma Mater Society is the equivalent of our Union, but it does not seem to me to have the life of the Birmingham Union. Societies meet in the lunch-hour (noon), and after five o'clock the campus is dead.

No alcohol is allowed on the campus, so there is no bar in the Union building. The social life just does not compare with that of Brum. There is no equivalent of the Saturday Hop, and most Society dances are held in town. The deadening effect of having no bar has to be seen to be believed.

Weekend

Fortunately, the alarm does not ring for me to go to lectures every morning. There are weekends, and what weekends too! Almost as soon as I arrived, I was taken camping and mountaineering, and soon realised that it was a wonderful country that I had come to.

Now we are well into the skiing season. There are good slopes half-an-hour from the city centre, but we do make the occasional excursion to Mt. Baker in the States for the chair lift and longer ski-runs. There is equally good skiing here in B.C. but it has not been developed, mainly because the mountains are so inaccessible.

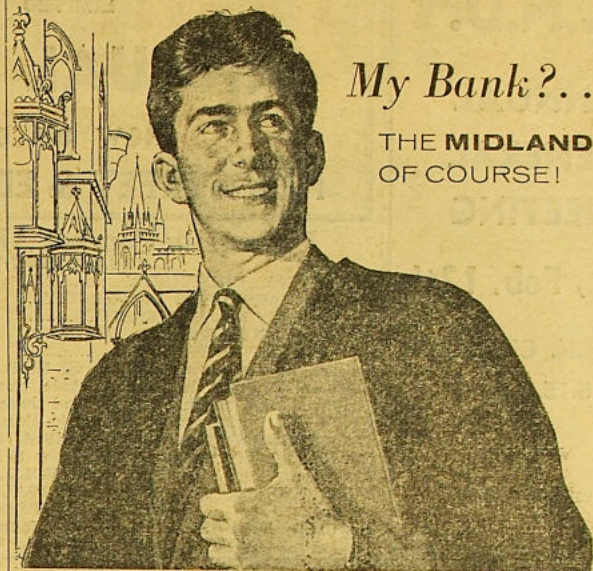
There are very few roads, and enormous areas have to be opened up still. This really surprised me when I arrived. In fact there was a lot that surprised me in Vancouver and B.C.

I hope that this has given you some idea of life at U.B.C. If you want to know more, why not come and see for yourselves? It is a wonderful place to be.

Gillian Stribley

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* STUDENTS AND THE TIMES: As a student you can have THE TIMES for 21d. Write for details to the Circulation Manager, THE TIMES, London, E.C.4.

WRITE UP WALL

The lengthened shadow of a man is history, said Emerson, who, unlike us, had NOT seen Sweeney erect against the sun. Arm, arm and out: the sun is up that ne'er should shine today. But he can and she can and so you and I and all of us fell down while bloody treason flourished over us.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch immersed in her copy of "Ajax: or Certain Privy Matters," Miss Fanshaw fell a-cursing . . .

That was an extract from the Collected Poems of Jimm Sprigge, privately printed by Weerder and Weerder Ltd.

BUT WHY? OH WHY?

DON'T YOU WRITE FOR

WALL?

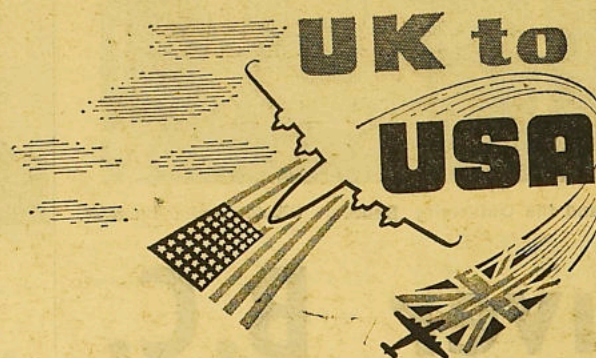
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Football

THE Football Club's five-in-a-row winning streak was brought to a halt at Manchester last Wednesday, when they lost to the powerful home side by the odd goal in five.

Without Johnson and Brett, Birmingham found themselves too down early in the second half, but pulled level through Rosser and a Manchester defender who got in the way of a Fleming cross.

At this stage Birmingham were well on top, but they failed to follow up their advantage, and several chances were needlessly wasted.

A draw seemed a probable result, but as the final whistle drew nearer Randall was called upon to make a magnificent save from one of the Manchester forwards. Unfortunately for Birmingham, Randall is the University's right full back, and the resultant spot-kick decided the issue.

Fencing

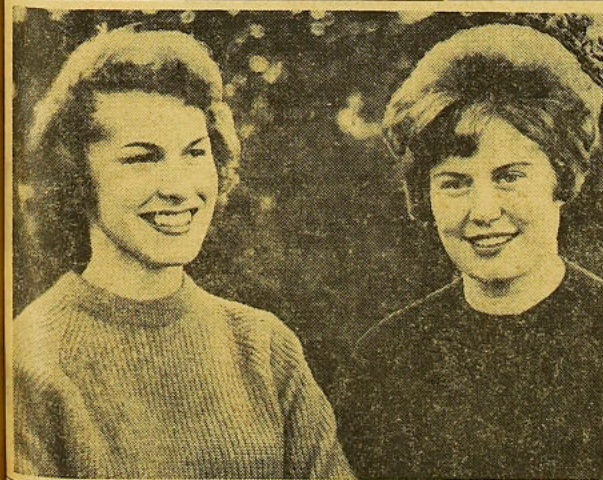
THE Fencing Club followed its victory over L.S.E. with a 11-6 massacre of Leeds. After winning the foils 6-3, thanks mainly to Baldwin and Russell, the team really got into its stride, taking the epee 7-2 and the sabre 8-1. This was Birmingham's ninth win on the trot.

The U.A.U. fencing team which lost 9-18 to the Army included Birmingham fencers Warner and Baldwin. Warner won all his sabre fights and one in the foils. Against the Navy, the team lost 23-25. Warner won four sabre bouts and three in the foils, while Baldwin won three epee fights.

Weightlifting

THERE was an exciting end to the University's weightlifting match against the Central Club last Friday, even though the University gave away 42 lb. body weight allowance to the other club.

At the end of the University fore leading by 88 lbs., when Central's L. Kohestani, the West Midlands champion, attempted to make a convincing win for his club by calling for his first "clean and jerk" of 200 lbs. He took the "clean" easily but was unable to add the "jerk." For his last two attempts he was unable to complete the "cleans." The University was, therefore, clear winner by 88 lbs.



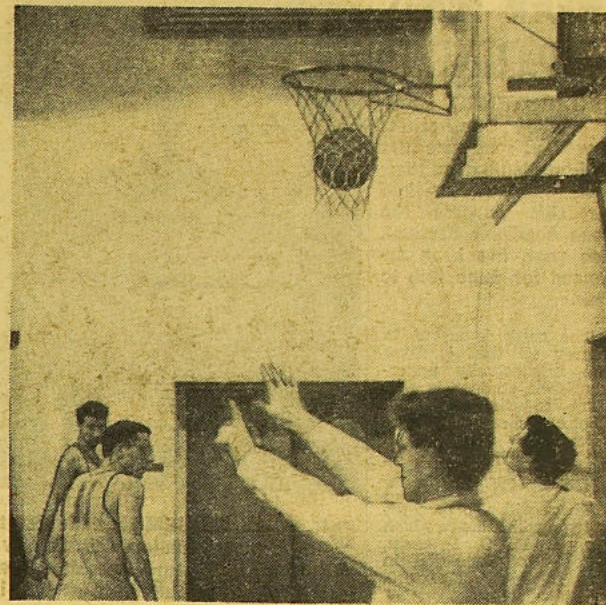
PLAYING FOR ENGLAND

Val Catliff (left) and Doreen Hall, the Birmingham representatives in the Women's English Universities Hockey team, which lost 5-1 to South African Women's Hockey Union.

In the Men's team against the South Africans, Birmingham's goalkeeper, Roger Flood, let in only one goal, and the game ended in a draw.

Bristol beaten twice in semi-finals

BADMINTON CLUB IN TWO FINALS



BOTH the Men's and Women's teams have reached the finals of their respective competitions, the U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. championships.

In the Men's match, played against Bristol in the Great Hall on Saturday, Birmingham's strongest team won by seven rubbers to two. After some experimentation earlier in the term, it was decided to retain last term's winning combination.

Dave Hartshorn and Graham Taylor won their three rubbers with comparative ease, conceding only two sets. Ting, who has improved tremendously during the year from experience in the University side, was paired with Captain Essex, and these two had no difficulty in disposing of the opposition.

RIVALS

Eric Donachie and Jim Megson only narrowly lost two

of their rubbers. This pair should not be underrated, and they should provide a solid core for the University next session.

If this performance is anything to go by, Birmingham, who expect to meet their old rivals, Manchester, in the final, should stand a good chance of winning the championships.

Bristol suffered again at Birmingham's hands when their women's team lost to Miss Parish and Co. by six rubbers to three. The team comprised its usual six members, but, in common with the men, the pairings were slightly altered.

Chi Chan and Heather Blaine resumed their successful partnership of last year and, despite a lack of practice together, they contrived to win all three matches, as did Barbara Parish and Jane Wright.

Jill Watson and Moyra Wilson were unlucky to lose their contests, after taking each of them to a deciding set.

With the team in its present crushing form, hopes must be high of retaining the W.I.V.A.B. Cup for the third year running.

Davies third POINTER FOR LEEDS

ON Saturday, the Cross-Country Club was defeated, but not disheartened, at the hands of the crack Midland Club, Birchfield Harriers by 60 points to 42. If Birchfield were not at full strength, neither was the University.

Over the fast, clean, gently undulating six-mile course, Davies, running for the University, finished third, three places ahead of Horwell and Currie who performed more like his old self. Walmsley finished in twelfth position, just ahead of Gairdner, who showed a welcome return to form, unlike Milne who finished 19th, behind improving second-team runner Allison.

Prospects

As for next Saturday's prospects, with Spence on the injured list and Davies also doubtful, it seems as if the University will have to rely on its younger, less-experienced runners to carry the can for the first team.

ABERYSTWYTH LEAVE IT LATE

Twice on the same day

ABERYSTWYTH'S unbeaten rugby team arrived for this match an hour late after losing the way en route, and they contrived a somewhat retarded victory, winning rather luckily with the last kick of the game.

For the first half-hour they played as if they still didn't know where they were, by which time they were 11-0 down to an enthusiastic and rampant Birmingham side.

After five minutes Atherton collected a loose ball on the visitors' 25, and with a great run weaved his way through to score a brilliant opportunistic try, which Bryn Jenkins converted.

Three minutes later Jenkins made the score 8-0 from a neat penalty goal, and repeated the effort after 32 minutes with a beauty from 35 yards.

Shortly before half-time the Welshmen reduced the arrears with a converted try, following a dropped pass in the Birmingham centre near the middle of the field.

The visitors pressed strongly after the re-start, but in spite of Marris' shaky form at full-back, they were unable to increase their score for 25 minutes.

Then they dropped a superb goal from the touchline and Birmingham were in trouble. Nevertheless, the home side broke away again to score a try through winger Shaw, and for the next few minutes served up some delightful rugby.

PANIC
With only three minutes left and 14-8 down, Aberystwyth looked a well-beaten team, but they then achieved a fine unconverted try, after the ball had travelled all along their three-quarter line.

With the seconds running out, there was a break through the centre, a touch-down under the posts, an easy conversion, and Aberystwyth had unbelievably won a game that had looked lost.

Rowing SUCCESS IN SEQUEL

AS a sequel to the rowing fixture with Aberystwyth in the autumn term, in which Birmingham won the first and second crew events but lost the third, the return fixture was held on neutral ground at Bewdley.

The first crew set a good example, winning by two lengths, and the second crew found little difficulty in overcoming its opposition to win by a comfortable three lengths.

The fourth crew, rowing against the Aberystwyth thirds, established an early lead, but, in failing to match the consistency of their opponents, they eventually lost by one-and-a-half lengths.

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NEWS DESK

WIDER MINDS DEPARTMENT

ENLIGHTENED university authorities nowadays recognise that their students need their minds broadening—and for this purpose the June Academic Festival, this year, has been arranged for June 19th to 29th.

The name is meant to convey all that it says: the intellectually undernourished student is welcomed to hear Professor A. Coulson speak on "The foreseeable future" and Sir John Wolfenden on "Crime and Sin."

There will also be a debate on education in which Mr. A. D. C. Peterson, Director of Education in the University of Oxford, will take part.

The lectures and associated discussions will take place after the examinations, which will enable the interested students to broaden their outlook as a complement to or a substitute for specialist knowledge, after the severe intellectual strain of the examinations.

Rumour Scotched

FOLLOWING over 3,000 vaccinations against smallpox the week before last, rumours spread throughout the University that there was a large number of students seriously ill from the effects of the procedure.

However, on Saturday Dr. John Cumming of the University Health Service said that this was not so. The number of serious reactions occurring was no more than would be expected in a young adult population, many of whom were having their first vaccination. The number of people, anyway, that the Health Service practitioners had been called out to see in their homes "one would not have to take one's socks off to count."

Not in a day

PROF. MATHER IN ITALY

PROFESSOR K. MATHER, of the Genetics department, has just returned from a 10-day tour of Italy, during which he lectured to and talked with geneticists at five Universities. The tour was arranged at the invitation of the British Council.

"In Italy a degree tends to be used far more as an entry into the professions, the civil service for instance," Professor Mather pointed out. This results in studies being concentrated more on the humanities than we are used to. There is no sixth-form specialisation in Italy, and so the student tends to be a little older than his English counterpart. The

degree courses are slightly longer than ours, and it is usual to prepare a short thesis for a first degree.

The Universities are generally larger than British ones, Rome, for example, has over 30,000 students. Some of the Italian Universities are amongst the oldest in the world, being founded in the 14th Century.



DR. JOHN BETJEMAN delivered the Open Lecture in Great Hall last week to a record audience of well over a thousand. The aim of his lecture on Victorian architecture, he stated, was to persuade us to think better of nineteenth century architecture as that in Birmingham was particularly fine.

Illustrating his talk with slides, Dr. Betjeman passed quickly from the immense country houses of the 19th century to the squalor of the slums growing up around the factories of the industrial revolution. He ranged from the Georgian tradition of small houses in Edgbaston to railway stations, the cathedrals of the 19th century, claiming that Brunell was to steam what Leonardo was to the Renaissance.

The small suburban house was England's contribution to architecture in the 19th century. Using local stone and wood they imitated the style of villages in their area, making chimneys and gables a feature of the landscape. University House derives from William Morris in this way.

Dr. Betjeman spoke appreciatively of the architecture of the University itself. Aston Webb's great crescent and the clock tower had a grandeur of scale, a vastness and imagination that later buildings on the site lacked. The Union was a fine example of the local arts and crafts Warwickshire tradition.

JACKPOT

LAST term, W.U.S. raised £225 for students overseas, by bread and cheese lunches, dances, etc. Sixty-six pounds of this total was raised in International Student Week.

W.U.S. are grateful to all who helped them achieve this excellent total.

Some Victorian architecture was bad, Dr. Betjeman concluded, but some here in Birmingham was very fine. He hopes

that the city's heritage will not disappear in an international anonymity totally unsuited to this climate.

Open Lecture

STILL THE SAME

"THE true university consists of a society of masters and students and not a collection of buildings," said Dr. Templeman in his lecture on "Students as they were" in the Union last Thursday. He went on to describe the first masters and students gathering together for the purpose of learning.

In his talk, Dr. Templeman concentrated on the mediaeval Continental student, saying that glimpses of student life could be seen from the sermons of the time and from the handbooks which described the life of a successful student. The sermons for the most part suggested that the final destination of a student was hell, also preaching against such

things as gambling in church and general rowdiness.

Having assured his audience that students of centuries ago also had their financial difficulties, he concluded by saying that he thought that in spite of the differences in the times they were very like students as we know them.

Liberals Debate: BLOODY REVOLT

AT the Liberal Society debate on Tuesday, Jan. 30th, the motion, "That this House would abolish the Monarchy," was carried by a two-to-one majority.

Mr. Mundy, proposing the motion, stated that Royalty was out-of-date and of no positive value to the government of the country.

He thought that Socialists and Liberals should favour the abolition of the monarchy, as it was becoming a bulwark of decadent Toryism.

For the opposition Miss Doran argued that members of all political parties

should support the Monarchy as a mitigating influence to party political conflict. She felt that to abolish it would require a bloody revolution, which was an extreme to which few republicans would go.

Luxury

A variety of opinions were expressed from the floor. The Monarchy was a luxury we could not afford; it had been made a laughing-stock of by the New Year's Honours List; it was good for the tourist trade; a large majority of people favoured having a royal family, if only because of the popular press.

CHANGE

Tomorrow External Affairs will be moving into the office at present occupied by "Publications 2." With an increasing amount of work the present office has become inadequate. "Wall" will move to the present External Affairs office.

University to check on all traffic

Survey starts today, continues five weeks

THE Bursar, and the School of Highway and Traffic Engineering, are conducting a survey on the transport and daily travelling of members of the University. This follows a recent discussion on car-parking where some difficulty was experienced because of the complete lack of data.

For this reason a questionnaire was designed and a pilot survey on 100 people was carried out last term to which an 80 per cent response was obtained. One thousand students will receive questionnaires, as will all members of staff and one in five of the weekly paid employees.

The questionnaires are being sent out in five batches on consecutive Tuesdays; the first was posted yesterday.

From the replies, it is hoped to find out the patterns of arrival, departure and accumulation of vehicles in the University. The means by which people travel to and around the University, where they travel between, peak times and parking loads will also be studied.

Idea

"It is hoped to produce a report in April or May," said Mr. Brown of the Bursar's dept. Mr. Brown, with an assistant, will be responsible for collecting the data and putting it on punch-cards ready for analysis.

The suggestion that a survey should be carried out was first raised at the lecture given by Sir Hugh Casson on the University's expansion plan. Brought up by Professor J. Kolbuszewski, the idea was not very well received, and the Vice-Chancellor thought that a survey would become outdated as soon as the new buildings came into use.

The questions asked mainly refer to one's travel

to and from the University on the day before the questionnaire is received. The staff questionnaire also includes a section about daytime movements around the campus.

As this survey will greatly influence future planning, it is hoped for a high response from the students.

A SPLENDID EVENING

WHEN Mr. Macmillan arrived outside the doors of the Oxford Union last Friday, to address the University Conservative Association, he was met by a jeering thousand-strong mob, bearing C.N.D. banners and chanting Left-Wing slogans.

Accompanied by his bodyguards and Conservative officials, he forced his way through the crowd to the back of the building; but the stewards inside, fearing a trick, would not unlock the door, even to cries of "It's the Premier."

During his speech he was several times interrupted. Cries of "Suez, Suez," were heard, and at one point a man shouted, "Let's have a few more platitudes" and "Who wrote this speech?"

Mr. Macmillan said afterwards that he thought it was "a splendid evening." He had enjoyed every minute of it.

THEOLOGICIANS STAY SEPARATE

Misrepresentation of the facts

LAST week's press report that Queen's College, the Church of England Theological College, is to be integrated into the University, has been denied by Professor Davies of the Theology Department. It was, he thought, an unfortunate misrepresentation of the facts.

The rumour probably arose from a misreading of the annual report of the Ministry of Education's Central Advisory Council, published last week. This included a plan for the redevelopment of the College, and also a separate recommendation that a College should be created in a modern University. The two recommendations do not, in fact, go together.

Subject to the extension of their lease, due to expire in 1970, the College proposes to enlarge its building in Somerset Road, Edgbaston, to accommodate up to 100 students. Facilities for advanced study will also be provided. The scheme would be financed by selling Queen's

College Chambers in Paradise Street. This would provide the necessary capital for additional staff, bursaries for advanced students, enlarging the chapel and would help towards the reconstruction.

The recommended University College would have 80 study bedrooms, a chapel and public rooms to house 120 students. Both proposals will probably go before the Church Assembly in July.

Professor Davies stressed, however, that there had been co-operation for a long time between the University and the Theological College in the city. He welcomed developments by any denomination which improved the teaching of theology.