

GUILD NEWS

Friday, October 2,
1959. No. 554

3^D

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham.

CONFERENCE REALITIES

SUCCESS is an elusive quantity, particularly so when it concerns 1,300 Freshmen, all at one and the same time, for each and every one has come to this University to gain that experience, academically and culturally, that makes all the difference between a career and a successful career.

Thus it is imperative that the Freshman gets off to a good start, and quickly comes to grasp with what is expected of him or her, what the University and the

Guild of Undergraduates has to offer and what is the best way to take advantage of these facilities.

It would seem at first that the three years or more that your University course takes up, provides ample time to find this out, in fact time will seem the most limited of quantities—the repeated regularity that Terminals and Sessionals seem to be always imminent, will emphasise this point . . . just you wait and see.

It is obvious that a good start is half the battle towards a good finish, and it is for that very reason that the Freshmen's Conference has been organised. But this Conference has not been so organised that you become a unit on a conducted tour of the University, the Departments, the Libraries, grounds, etc., far from it, the Freshman—the individual, he or she is the person that the Conference has been designed to help. Thus a successful Conference represents a successful introduction to the full University life, and in retrospect the significance of this will become more than apparent.

Up to individual

It is therefore up to you to make the Conference a success, facilities for you to discuss any problems that you have with University Staff or senior students, have been made with the express keynote of informality. It is up to each individual to iron out each problem that he or she may have, problems that may have arisen from reading some of the literature that was mentioned in the Conference Handbook, or points that the Vice-Chancellor will raise that you want further elucidation on, so for goodness sake don't waste this golden opportunity by remaining tongue-tied in a haze of self consciousness.

There will also be adequate opportunity for you to find out about the special layout of the University and the Union or Guild Club, as well as the many non-curricula activities of the University and Guild of Undergraduates.

Finally, when the dust of the Conference has settled, spare a moment for some quiet contemplation, and write us, i.e., Guild News, a letter, telling us what you found particularly helpful, or if you wish to criticise the Conference make it constructive criticism.

W. G. RASTALL,
Conference Committee Secretary.

The Chancellor's prize

The Chancellor's prize, consisting of books to the value of £20, will be offered in 1960 for an English Essay on one of the following topics:

Security is mortal's chiefest enemy;

The Stately Homes of England;

The Human Face;

Canals;

The Poet's Public;

The Secret Magic of Numbers.

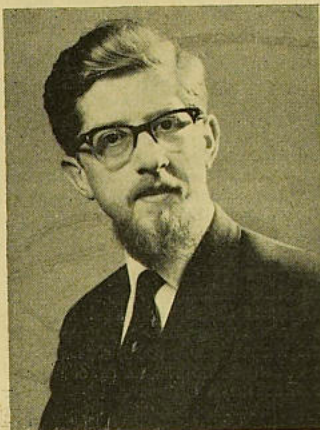
The prize is confined to members of the University who, on the last date for the receipt of entries, are of not more than four years standing from the date of their matriculation in the University. No successful candidate is eligible for the prize in a subsequent year.

Essays should not exceed 10,000 words in length and should be either typed or clearly written on one side of the paper. Candidates should provide a bibliography and give references for any quotations used.

Essays must be received by the Registrar not later than September 30, 1960.

Freshers' Edition

A welcome from the Vice-President



The President—
Mr. Mike Stanley

"A brand
new way
of life"

—JANE GILDING



The Vice-President—
Miss Jane Gilding

YOU may be somewhat surprised to see the President's picture at the top of the page, and my name at the bottom of the address, but the truth of the matter is that when "Guild News" went to print, Mike Stanley was far away, "tripping the light fantastic Steppes" of Russia. He was in Moscow as a representative of the National Union of Students, and was unable to be back here in time for the conference. Therefore he asked me to welcome you on his behalf.

The President for last year addressed the Freshers by telling them that the immediate characteristics of the University scene were "crane and jib, pit and hole." Well, since last year the site has been a hive of industry, so that though the cranes and jibs are still with us, most of the pits and holes have been filled. This, of course, means that many of you will be the first students to occupy these new buildings. (How envious are your predecessors, many of whom spent their study hours at University in prefabs and make-shift rooms).

So to the brand new way of life and for many of you to the brand new buildings, I give you a very warm welcome on behalf of the President, myself and the Guild of Undergraduates.

For your first year the Arts Faculty and the Science Faculty will be separated, the former at Edmund Street, the latter at Edgbaston. However, next year at last, the whole of the University's activities will take place at the Union. Its Campus, although not geometrically central, serves as the centre for the student social and extra mural. Naturally the part the Union plays in your study hours is up to you. But may I say that our Union, both the buildings and administration, is one of the finest in this country. It is here in your club, that you will find the exchanges of interests and ideas that go to make up perhaps the most important part of your University life.

I hope that you will find in this conference the answers to your first days' problems. However, if there are still any other difficulties, do not hesitate to come and see the President or myself, or any other member of Executive. We are most pleased to help you.

Finally, may I wish you a very happy and successful stay in the University.

JANE GILDING.

Guild without a secretary

FOR the second year in succession, the Guild Executive finds itself shorthanded just before the commencement of the session. This year the Guild Secretary, Ken Williams, has unfortunately had to withdraw from the University, and much of the burden of his work will inevitably fall on the shoulders of Mr. Stanley and the rest of the Executive until a successor is appointed. This will not be possible until the first Guild Council meeting.

Mr. Williams' loss will be greatly felt. A very forthright speaker and thinker, he distinguished himself last year as N.U.S. Secretary, and passed his enthusiasm on to the Guild. We hope that the Guild will find a worthy person to fill his place.

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GUILD NEWS
THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER
THE UNION
EDGBASTON
Tel. Selly Oak 1841

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editorial

FOR a Freshie to enter a provincial university and assume a glorified schoolboy role is ludicrous. Besides raising the academic (and cultural!) level, the university, by means of its Guild, offers the undergraduate a social background to his studies which is unparalleled by any other institution. This does not necessarily mean that pleasure is literally "laid-on." There is a certain amount of "corporate responsibility" owed by each member of a Guild.

ONE method by which an undergraduate may show his responsibility to the community would be in his interest towards the university newspaper. The newspaper may be the means by which an undergraduate can show his confidence or air his grievances towards the handling and running of Guild affairs. It also offers a co-ordination of the numerous societies and events occurring in the Guild, and may bring to the fore those activities with which the Editorial Board feel that the Guild members should be acquainted. It is student feeling, however, that the Editorial Board is a restricted circle, and is not necessarily composed of a fair cross-section of student opinion and thoughts. This is far from being a true picture. The circle is by no means closed, and expansion is welcomed . . . especially critics, reporters and typists.

THE undergraduate who only wishes to express himself occasionally should bear in mind the regular page two feature, "Press Post." (Here at Birmingham we pride ourselves on being one of the few universities to possess a weekly newspaper). Yes, you may be the "stepping stones" to even greater things . . . This is your newspaper, use it!

FINALLY, may I take this opportunity of wishing everybody, both the new and the old-comers, a successful year, and urge you to take full advantage of your stay here.

B.U.E.C.U. CALLS ALL FRESHERS

NO doubt, during the last few weeks you have been "snowed under" with invitations to this society and that, and now that you are here in the University you have to choose the societies you are going to support.

Assuming that you will only give time to important things, I would like to put in a plea on behalf of the Birmingham University Evangelical Christian Union. To refresh your memory, I will say straight away that B.U.E.C.U. stands for PERSONAL Christianity.

We believe that we have a message to pass on, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that it is vital for each of us to know where we stand with regard to this Gospel; we hope you will use your time here to re-examine the Christian Faith.

If you want to know more about B.U.E.C.U., we say don't take other people's opinions . . . come and see for yourself before making up your minds, whether or not we really have a worthwhile message.

On Saturday, October 3, we are holding a Freshers' Social in St. Francis Hall at 7 p.m., and on Monday, October 5, will follow a Freshers' Coffee Morning in the Guild Club Lounge (11 a.m.) and a Freshers' Tea in the Priory Hall (4.15 p.m.).

I hope that we shall see you at one of the above meetings, or at our regular meetings (see our notice board in the Union Common Room).

DAVID KEY (Secretary).

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Requiem of an Editor Press Post

Department of French.

Dear Editor,

May I, as this year's retiring editor, first wish you all the success in the world with "Guild News." I hope that the paper will continue to thrive and expand.

However, sir, I would like to complain about the unmitigated tripe that the Chairman of Guild Publications Committee had to put before our Freshers. Let them know the facts.

"Guild News," far from being the stimulating organ he claims it is, overflowing with a mythical "crispness of University wit and imagination," is compelled to be a purveyor of the ideas of a few for the masses, and of rather stagnant ideas at that. Of course it cannot peddle news; coming out weekly as it does, its "news" is bound to be out of date. What it should do, however, as you are well aware, sir, is to reflect student thought and opinion, and to be a stimulating record. What the Freshers should realise is that this will depend largely on them. The present University

generation is uninterested in even having a paper of any sort, and do not care that it must inevitably fall into the hands of an interested oligarchy, who are all too unwilling to accept this lone responsibility. Like the wishy-washy pseudo intellectual "Mermaid," it is going to die off unless new and vital blood is injected. To shut one's eyes to this fact, as Mr. Rastall has done, is to continue the status quo. University thought, on a national level, has never been at a lower ebb. If I were John Osborne, I might sum up and state that it stinks to high heaven. I appeal, sir, to the Freshers to help revive our dwindling fortunes, and to your reporters to go out there and "get it."

CYRIL P. HERSHON.

"WE ALL LIKE OUR FILTH"

Ed.
Street Column

THE Guild Club, like marriage, is an old institution—and who the hell wants to spend his life in an institution? Buildings may come, and buildings may go, but this one seems to have crumbled on since Joe Chamberlain first refused the extra ten yards to widen New Street and left it a bottleneck ever since.

But there the story begins, not ends. Despite its prehistoric brickwork and plaster, its primitive sanitation, its non-existent heating facilities, and the icy blasts that blow through its drab corridors, we all love our filth. Like Job's dung-heap, it has become an integral part of our lives, and we shall mourn its passing on next year with an intensity only equalled by the love of Solomon for Asolomon.

Let us consider the anomalies of Guild Club. In a building intended to house perhaps a couple of hundred, anything up to a thousand may gather, especially in the room of a thousand infernal uses and abuses, the Founder's Room. The majority of them are women (terribly infra dig for us men to do Arts, you know!), though the numbers of the sexes are gradually levelling, as the sexes learn more about sex. (Damn it all, we can't all share one female electroencephalographer in a large department, and we are British and democratic!) Still, women abound and they are badly served.

On entering the Guild Club one is assailed by foul and repugnant smells. There is no escape. Enter from the University, Madam, and you will doubtless as not walk straight into the gentlemen's ablutions. From Great Charles Street there is the fusty smell of soggy chips, cabbage past, and pies which, like cab horses, move up a place in the tray as the leader is called into service. The only smell of any delight is the beery aroma that pervades the northern nether regions.

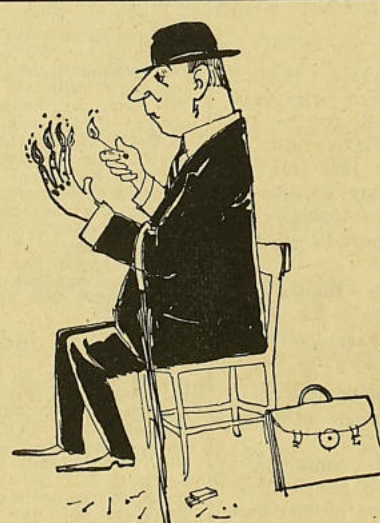
As this year's Guild Secretary put it, "There is a disgusting smell of Bxgs all over Guild Club," and I fully concur.

The men's sanitation is primitive, and as much a typhoid carrier as anything else I know. The ladies' "hos de ce monde." There are no chains to bind us, and when there are they invariably do not work. More than one unfortunate lady has had to turn to full flight as the waters rose and as in Dukas' "Sorcerer's Apprentice," flowed with inexorable down the stairs of the basement. Considering the state and effect of the food served upstairs, it is grossly unfair to deprive us all of adequate sanitary facilities. (At least, though, we can afford to pay for it, and do not necessarily have to indulge in the daylight robbery

promulgated by the University Refectory).

Nevertheless, we love our filth and squalor. It has a friendly atmosphere that will never be fully recaptured in the Barbarian coldness of Edgbaston. Dear Freshers, this is your last chance to enjoy it all. You will moan and complain as we do . . . but you will love every moment of it.

Yours, etc.,
SORREL SULLIVAN



Burning your fingers

It's more easily done than you'd think, but there's no reason why it should happen to you. When you're faced with some matter of finance or business that takes you out of your depth, come and talk it over with us. You'll find us very knowledgeable (very willing to share our knowledge, too); and among our many services there is sure to be something that will stand between you and digital conflagration.

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BIRMINGHAM City of Culture

To those that know Birmingham well the headline above is quite laughable. However, it needs qualifying. To those coming here for the first time there will be more than enough to satisfy their artistic needs, whether it be in regard to painting, sculpture, music, theatre or cinema.

However, one sad fact has to be faced: The Brummies themselves, though having hearts of gold, are the greatest Philistines and Barbarians that nature ever beheld. What other body of citizens would let its largest theatre be pulled down without a replacement in view, would let its Symphony Orchestra go to rack and ruin for want of support, or allow its buildings to be battered by starlings under the outmoded plea that they are "God's little creatures."

On the other hand, what body of citizens would have the foresight to tear down its Victorian city centre and replace it by the very best in modern architecture, to pour money into one of the finest art collections in Britain, or to provide us with an excellent museum? Newcomers will find themselves in a living anomaly.

The arts are well to the fore, yet they are hopelessly ignored by the populace, or completely misunderstood. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, despite its failings, is nevertheless a symphony orchestra and deserves better support than it at present receives.

It is to be hoped that the arrival of Sir Adrian Boult as resident conductor will do much to erase the unfortunate impression left by his predecessor.

Chamber Music fares well here. The Art Gallery has regular "Orchestra da Camera" concerts, with the best soloists. The University's own Barber Institute concerts are perhaps some of the best in this country, and the distinguished performers who are persuaded to appear do credit to Professor Lewis's high standing in the musical world.

On the other side, jazz is extremely well catered for, and the city abounds in some really first-rate clubs. In addition, the Town Hall has regular visits from the world greats, and such names as Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, and countless others have graced its boards.

THEATRICAL DEARTH

The theatre-going public has appreciably dwindled since the death of the old Theatre Royal. This has meant that for six months of the year we have had no theatre available to house the top circuit shows which come to other towns.

The Alex., perhaps the most comfortable theatre I know, has a reasonably good repertory company, and for half the year has a touring season of famous performers. The Rep. in Station Street, which has Sir Barry Jackson as its instigator, has fallen back of late, mainly due to a lack of taste in production, and an insistence on performing futile pieces by members and "friends" of the company.

While we should applaud the opportunity given to new writers, we should deprecate the low standard actually allowed to be seen. However, when the company gives better plays, such as recent productions of "The Duenna," "Romanoff and Juliet," etc.

The Hippodrome usually offers the latest in teenage idols, a few musicals, and recently provided the theatrical highlight of the year with the visit of Antonio and his Spanish ballet.

Amateur theatre does extremely well here; the University's own Guild Theatre Group (which any student can join) is distinguished for its dramatic and operatic productions, and last year won the N.U.S. Drama Competition. The Crescent

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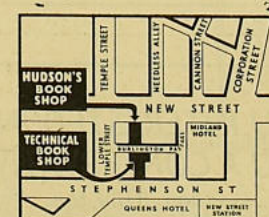
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"U.F.A.W."

ARE you interested in animals without being a fanatic? Is your attitude to animals humane but not sentimental? If so, then the Birmingham branch of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare has something to offer you. If you are not interested in animals, there is all the more reason why you should at least know of its existence, for a purpose of a university education is to broaden the mind, and no mind can be called broad if it is closed to a major part of the world of life.

U.F.A.W. might be called the back-room boy of progress in the humane treatment of animals, for it is the only animal-welfare society working specifically in university and scientific circles. In a technical and scientific age, with its vast increase in the number of animals used for commercial purposes, humanitarians must use modern methods. U.F.A.W. has sponsored and financed researches into such matters as the right and wrong ways of stunning animals by electricity prior to slaughter and of killing dogs by electrocution, the most humane ways of controlling pests such as rabbits, rats, deer and so on. Most valuable, however, is perhaps its practical work, for the millions of animals kept for experimental purposes in most civilised countries. The U.F.A.W. Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory Animals has become a standard text-book, and present work by a U.F.A.W. team of highly-qualified scientists has the following aims: the replacement of animals wherever possible, by material which cannot feel; the avoidance of any wasteful use of animals in other cases; and the elimination of pain or discomfort day, including the latest tests of acquisition of a work of Martin (1284-1344). The pottery and sculpture is also of great value and interest.

WEALTH OF ART

The City Gallery boasts one of the finest collections of paintings outside London, and the names of the masters are innumerable. Some of the highlights include some magnificent smaller canvases of Canaletto, and works by Lely, Zoffany, Millais, and innumerable famous names from medieval times to the present day, including the latest test of acquisition of a work of Martin (1284-1344). The pottery and sculpture is also of great value and interest.

The University's own Barber Institute has a really magnificent collection of paintings and furniture. It also boasts a concert hall, lecture rooms, and a library. One other home of art is Aston Hall, well worth a visit, for its architecture, wood carving, furniture, and other interesting paintings . . . and it a five-minute bus ride from the city centre.

Mermaid

'A quiet corner untrammelled by . . . haste'

MUCH of the printed word today is ephemeral. Of course this is inevitable when we are living in an age of speed and commercialism, an age when snatched digested forms are the order of the day. When and where it is possible to find a quiet corner, untrammelled by the haste that tears our values down, we should be only too happy to snatch it.

Traditionally the University finds this corner in "Mermaid," its literary magazine. Here it is possible for anyone with aspirations in penmanship to show off his talents, and to try his work out in an atmosphere of intelligent criticism which is not hostile.

The magazine, which prints any matter it considers worthy, from poetry to experimental prose, is run exclusively by students, and the majority of the contributors are students. Of course, there has been a lean period of student writing of late, and we are always happy to welcome contributions from members of staff, both for their excellence and for the incentive they provide to the undergraduate.

This year we are branching out still further, and hope to run a series on education, with one or two staff articles included. Of interest, too, will be our continued critiques of the Faber paper-backs. We will branch out into the world of philosophy, art and science. In all these aspects YOU can help. We offer you a unique opportunity . . . to read and be read. Take it with both hands. p.p. The Editor.

MONODIE

Caloric forms intent on expurgation
ascend the whirling mounts of time
overcoming opposition to each
fruition of aspiration
Melpomene is forgotten now
While muse of music and the dance
enhances
time in rhythmic sway.
Closer closer my dear you press to me
the heady foxtrot hazy thought
and conversation lapses and relapses
and limbo sets in.
Nor treasures of the inner soul,
nor pleasures of the outer frame
can change
the even flow of monotony that drifts
into a meaningless fetid
that weekly strives to free itself
and emerge as indivisible
The end is infinity.
JEHAN.

KANDI.

M.R.D.S. and ME

THE door flew open, rocked on its hinges, and crashed to the floor, bringing down plaster, wooden strips, and several old copies of "I Was a Lavatory Brush with the F.B.I." Amid the wreckage lay my old friend . . . and soon to be yours . . . M.R.D.S. "What a place to leave a bedpan" emanated from his beer-stained lips. I could hardly blame him: the place is literally overrun with nurses from the Q.E. (God bless their little cotton chemises).

I extricated myself from the secretary's chair . . . which was rather difficult as she was still in it at the time . . . and began, "Why all the rush?"

"Have you seen her?" he drooled. I knew it. M.R.D.S. had discovered the latest in Freshie females. The demigorgons of past years were far behind and a new October glint sparkled in his eye.

"She's marvellous," he purred. So I was right.

I'd had enough of last year's wild oats. First there had been Philomela, who wore tartan socks, then Jane, whose other name was Dammit (the wear had dropped her during the baptism ceremony), and countless others. What was this?

"Oh," he murmured, "a vision in three-d and a little red badge." (He had a particular penchant for the Arts Faculty). That night was the Freshers' Hop.

FRESHERS

JUST A REMINDER . . . JOIN THE
UNIVERSITY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
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Apply to B. E. Stacey via Union pigeon hole for programme

Deb. Soc. expects...

THE Debating Society has been gradually improving over the past few years, both in numbers attending debates and in the standard of speaking. Further improvement is still desirable, and we look to the Freshmen now arriving here to fill up the gaps in our ranks left at the end of last session.

We have arranged a full programme for the session averaging one debate a week. The usual Individual Speakers' Tournament (with a special Freshman's prize) will be held next term, and we shall be entering teams in the N.U.S. Tournament for the Observer Mase.

To carry out this full programme we need your support and you will find in Debating Society a cheerful and ready audience for your views.

The first debate will be on Tuesday, October 6, at 1.15 p.m., the motion being that "This House will vote Tory"; this is a special debate for the General Election. The Freshers' Debate will follow on Thursday, October 8. We hope to see a large number of Freshmen at both debates and to hear their views.

On the important question of finance, let us say again that membership of the Debating Society is automatically conferred on any member of the Guild without further subscription. Just turn up at our meetings, take a seat, and when you are moved to, stand up and speak. You will be welcome.

R.J.W.



Guild News

presents its first
"Photo News"
of the session with
the Biology Society's
Lapland expedition

Right: Mountain camp on the Norwegian-Finnish border—400 miles within the Arctic Circle.

Left: in the Rodnine Mountain range, resting before the final ascent.

... and the Pegwyn Mawr Expedition

ARMED with whirling psychrometers and other contrivances which help to produce your weather maps, a dozen "martyrs" encamped themselves upon a sheep-ridden, insect-infested hump in Montgomeryshire.

Stations had been accurately pre-planned; some unfortunates had been "relegated" to draughty summits, others to swamps and escarpments. Transport was difficult, feeding a problem (beans being scarce), and water squeezed from the bogs had a strange flavour; nevertheless for the organisers, every conceivable type

KINVIG GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FIELD RESEARCH GROUP

of weather occurred; one deluge of an inch and a half in an hour wrought havoc in some outposts. The observations, tabulated every three hours at all stations, are

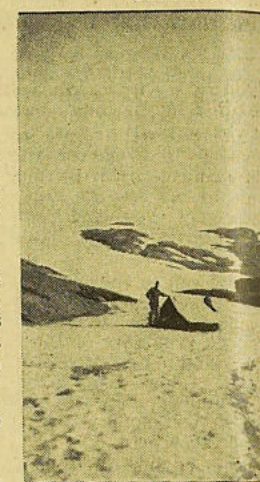
being used for a paper, which, in conjunction with the work done on the Long Mynd last year, should throw light on the Mesoclimatic of the area.

A colour film taken on the expedition will be shown during the first week of term, at which time work for next year in the Hebrides and on the Continent, perhaps, will be outlined. Needless to say, any donations of discarded Landrovers, lorries or general equipment to this expanding group would be gratefully received.

P. R. WALKER,
Group Leader 1959-60



Below:
The camp on Harding Glacier.



Below:
Four days out and rutted, surfaceless roads take their first toll.



THE SOCIALIST UNION

THE Socialist movement has a long tradition of activity in the Universities of Western Europe, and Birmingham is no exception. This article will explain our chief activities. The first aim of our society is to act as a discussion forum for socialist ideas: we hope this will help you to sort out your ideas about politics. Secondly, we try to break down the insularity of university life by taking an active part in the Socialist movement in the town. Thirdly, we arrange social activities to help create a sense of fraternity in university life.

In the past we have attracted good speakers of all "brands" of Socialist opinion: from the C.A.R. Crossland Right to the Socialist Labour League Left. Our meetings are usually packed, so come early if you want a seat! This term among our speakers are Dick Crossman, Brian Abel-Smith, and Brian Behan. On the first Monday of term we are holding a "soapbox" when we will endeavour to canvass your support for the Labour Party. On the next day, we will be making an all-out attack on the establishment, opposing the Deb. Soc. motion "That This House Will Vote Tory." We also organise discussion groups; the first is on Monday, October 12, when Ken Eaton (of Fir-

croft College) will lead a discussion on Marxism.

The society will give active help to the Labour Party in the forthcoming election. It is most important that Labour supporters offer their services; no experience is necessary—full training is given. Please contact me for full details.

I hope your stay at the University will be an enjoyable one. Whatever your political opinions you are welcome to all our meetings.

DAVID S. LANE (Secretary).

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G.T.G.

THE "Guild Theatre Group" is one of the three main societies to which one is automatically admitted, as a Freshman. All Freshers become ordinary members. All you have to do to become an active member of the group, is to take some part in a production.

Only a limited number of people can "tread the boards" of course, but there are many other ways in which you can help: in the departments of wardrobe, make-up, publicity, business management, and last but by no means least, staging.

We produce three major items, two plays and one opera, during the session, together with varied one-act plays and, sometimes, operas.

Audition notices for the Autumn Major and the Spring Opera will be going up soon.

I do hope you will find yourself a niche in at least one of our many departments, and I look forward to seeing you very soon.

NORMA R. COLLINS,
Chairman G.T.G.

FRESHERS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN POLITICS?
ARE YOU A CONSERVATIVE?

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See our Stall in the Debating Hall

SUPPORT SPORT



FAR too few students take part in the full sporting life which Birmingham University offers. This is a sad state of affairs, but true nevertheless. I do not suggest for one moment that sport can ever claim anything like the same importance as your work; what I do suggest is that participation in some form of physical activity can help your work. (Hops do not come under physical activity in this context!)

The Guild Diary gives you a list of all the sports open to undergraduates, and many of you will have filled in the forms sent to you by Athletic Union, stating your choice of sport. I am sure that you will all be warmly welcomed by the clubs you wish to join, and I hope you will gain a great deal of pleasure from your sporting associations at University. A few of you will walk straight into the first teams—many more will not be so lucky, for the standard of sport in provincial universities is not so low as the Press and the B.B.C. would have you believe. But whatever team you play for, enjoy yourselves and you will never regret the time spent away from those crowded and stuffy libraries.

For those of you who wish to play some form of sport purely as a form of relaxation, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to keep fit. If you have not yet found out how much weight you can lose in 30 minutes, just try a game of squash! The Gymnastic Club too, offers excellent opportunities, as one might expect at a University with such a high standing in the world of Physical Education.

If the atmosphere and competition in the University sides are a little too serious for you, then there are the Inter-Departmental

Competitions in sports such as squash, football, rugby and hockey. These competitions are very well organised and are a most important aspect of University Sport. If your department takes little or no part in them, do not hesitate to suggest tactfully that it is time things changed.

This is only a very brief outline of the opportunities open to you here at Birmingham. EVERYTHING IS LAID ON FOR YOU—SO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACILITIES WHILST YOU CAN. Don't spend all your time here with your nose buried in huge

tomes. And don't think I am just saying all this simply hoping to influence you because you are new to the life here. IT IS ONLY STRAIGHTFORWARD COMMON-SENSE, AND BOTH YOURSELF AND THE UNIVERSITY WILL BENEFIT.

However, even if the nearest you come to sport during your stay here is only watching Stan Lynn and his merry men play ball at Villa Park—the best of luck to you all from Guild News sports page.

DAVE SHAW (Sports Editor).

Concentrate your spare-time reading on the things that really matter: world and home affairs, books, art, music, drama. Read about them in the NEW STATESMAN, which is independent and exceptionally well-informed, serious but always lively and readable. Here you will find the facts and comments from which to form your own opinions on Tory and Labour, Ike and K., and all the political, social and literary issues of our time.

Critic's Diary, Vicky's drawings, reports from special correspondents in Washington, Moscow, Paris, Bonn, New Delhi, etc., V. S. Pritchett's Books in General, the famous "This England" column and the literary competitions—these are a few of the things you will enjoy in the NEW STATESMAN.

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Remember

THE ATHLETIC UNION MEETING IS IN THE DEBATING HALL AT 6.30 p.m. THIS EVENING. ITS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO ENABLE YOU TO MEET THE OFFICIALS OF THE VARIOUS CLUBS, AND SINCE THE UNIVERSITY TRIALS ARE TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, YOUR ATTENDANCE IS ALL-IMPORTANT.

The New Thinkers Society

"LANGUAGE is the nourishment of the thought of man, that serves only as it undergoes metabolism and becomes thought and lives, and in its very being passes away."

Thus wrote H. G. Wells in describing his Modern Utopia. His Utopia was to permit individual freedom of thought and action so that they could contribute to a dynamic society in which everyone played his or her part. But in order to achieve this desirable state of affairs in a society which, by general agreement, is by no means utopian, it is necessary to promote informed discussion on a variety of subjects. Then there will be an informed body of opinion which cannot be swayed by irrational prejudice or by the influence of the new mass-media.

And so we come to the point. This short article is a society blurb—on behalf of The New Thinkers (T.N.T.)—urging you to take an interest in those societies which promote active discussion. If politics or the arts interest you, then there are societies to cater for your individual taste; if philosophy and related topics interest you, then come along to a T.N.T. meeting and find out what we have to offer. If you don't like our meetings, then you can—and probably will—tell me so: we are not a stagnant partisan organisation, but a dynamic, representative one.

Your enquiries will be welcomed and answered immediately.

JOHN REMINGTON.

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Extends a Cordial Welcome to all University Students and invites them to come along to any of the following weekly sessions:

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FRIDAY, 8-11: TRADITIONAL JAZZ The Hottest Session in Town. Sutton Chicago Jazzmen	SATURDAY, 8-11: MODERN JAZZ Great Sessions with local and national talent.

SPECIAL OFFER TO ALL STUDENTS
Students producing their Guild cards will be admitted at Members' Prices for all sessions.
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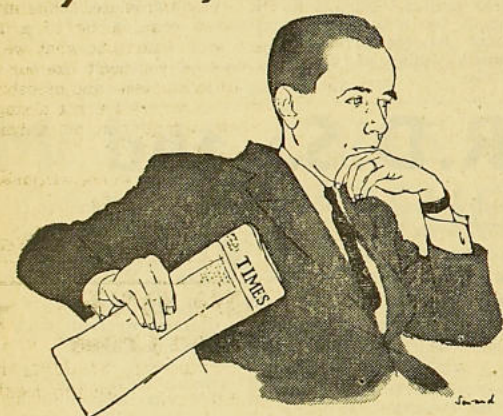
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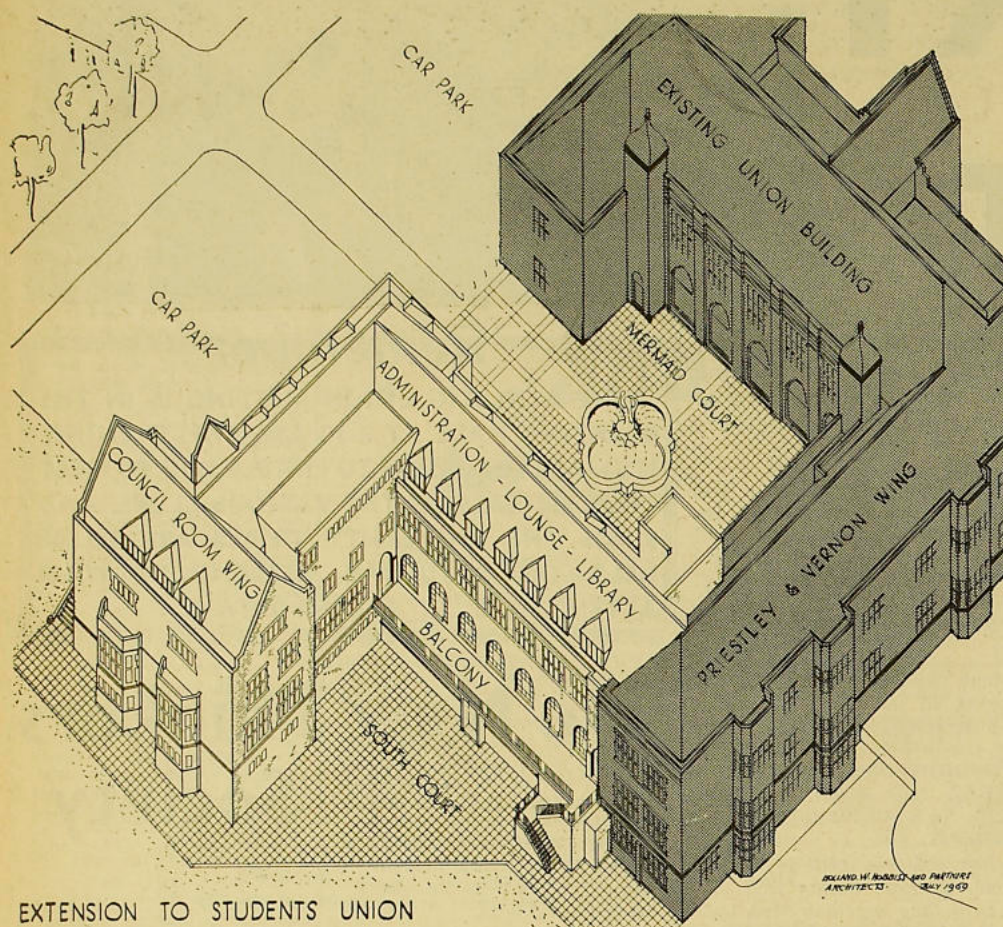
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WHAT IS ALL THE NOISE ABOUT ?



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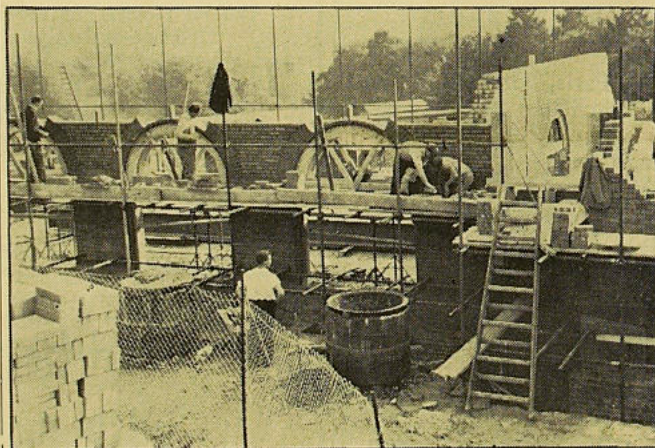
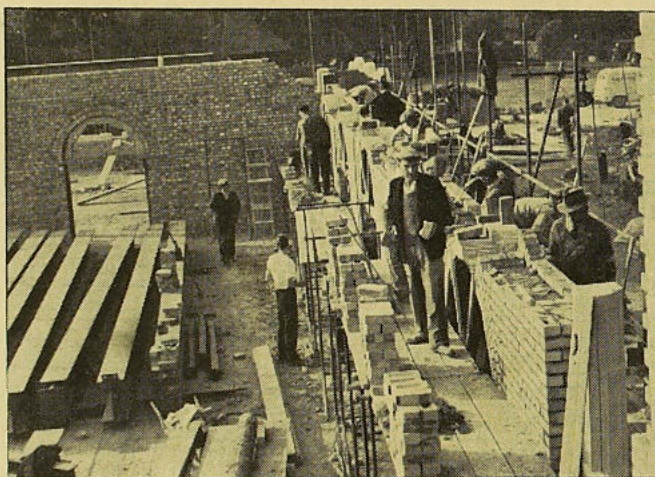
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Regd.

Designed and produced by Industrial News Service, 192, Corporation Street, Birmingham 4, Central 5154, for the Guild of Undergraduates, Birmingham University. Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers Ltd., Bond Gate, Nuneaton.



Photos by Dolphin.

THE extensions to the Union Building which are now in the course of erection are due to be completed in time for the beginning of the Session 1960/61 when the Faculties of Arts and Law and the Department of Education will finally move to the Edgbaston site.

In planning the layout of the new building, attention has been paid to the provision of additional facilities for social and cultural activities and in particular for the provision of adequate accommodation for Student Societies. No additional catering facilities have been included since the New Refectory, building of which is to be started in the very near future, is designed to deal with the major catering problems of the large university population which will be centred on the Edgbaston site.

The basement of the new wing will contain additional toilet accommodation for both men and women, a Photographic Dark Room, Hair-dressing Saloons, a Recreation Room, (four table tennis tables) and a Billiard Room, (eight tables).

The ground floor will incorporate a new Entrance Hall, a large Mixed Lounge and Women's Common Room. The first floor accommodates a Reading Room and Library, a Gramophone Room with cubicles for individual listening, a tiered Council Room and Debating Chamber and a number of Committee Rooms of various sizes.

The upper floor will accommodate all the administrative Offices together with rooms for Athletic Union, Debating Society, Publications, etc. There is also a room for use by Societies which will contain typewriters and a duplicator.

ALTERATIONS

There are a number of alterations which will be carried out in the old part of the building in conjunction with the new extensions. In the Men's Basement additional shower bath facilities are being provided.

On the ground floor the Billiard Room will become a Men's Lounge and the existing Men's Lounge will become a Television Room. The existing Bar and Mixed Common Room will be converted into one room which will be known as the Founder's Room. This room will be used for the smaller Society function and possibly as an auxiliary Coffee Room until the full New Refectory facilities are available.

On the first floor the Council Room will become a Music Room and the rooms behind the stage will be made available for storage and for Theatre Group activities.

It is inevitable that during the current session 1959-60 there will be a considerable amount of inconvenience as a result of structural work on the new building and in the old building although every effort will be made to reduce the measure of inconvenience caused to members to a minimum.

Personal Column

You may advertise personal or Society notices in this column. Rates: 1s. per word and 3d. every additional 5 words (internal); 2s. 6d. per word and 3d. every additional 5 words (for external adverts). Apply: The Advertising Manager, "Guild News", Union.

CHARITY HO! Carnival soon be here, and with it the opportunity to do good to the unfortunates of Brum. Start selling "Barb," the new Carnival Magazine. The aspect is brand new. You will want to read it.

EAT WITHOUT FEAR. APPLY: UNIVERSITIES REFECTORIES COMMITTEE.

GERCIE FRANCAIS. Freshers' Tea on Friday at the Guild Club, 33, Charles Street. 3.30. All come.

THE BERPP INSURANCE COMPANY. Have your storm insured at a minor premium. We regret that premium for those eating under Universities Refectories Committee auspices will be rather exorbitant.

UNIVERSITIES' FEDERATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE. Join this scientific and modern society for a rational and sentimental view on animal treatment. Apply: Mark Ward, The Union.

FOR SALE. Nylon Brand new. Cost 30s. 7d. accept 20s. or nearest. Collar size 15. Apply: Guild News pigeon hole.

£100 PRIZE ESSAY. TORY REFORM. THE GROUP OFFER. £100 PRIZES FOR ESSAYS ON THE SUBJECT OF "PRIORITY FOR TORY REFORM." FIRST PRIZE £50; SECOND PRIZE £25; FIVE PRIZES OF £10. THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ANYONE UNDER 36 ON DECEMBER 31, 1959. ESSAYS TO BE 3,000-4,000 WORDS. CLOSING DATE NOVEMBER 16. ENTRY FORMS IN CURRENT ISSUE OF "CROWBOW," (G.N.), 22, ST. GILES HIGH STREET, LONDON W.C.2.

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING OLD LANDLORDS OR DOUGHNUTS? THINKING OF ADVERTISING NEXT THURSDAY'S SOCIETY ORGY? THEN, THINK OF USING GUILD NEWS PERSONAL COLUMN!

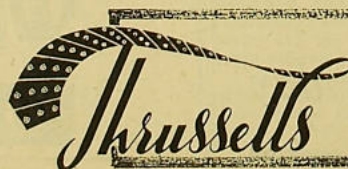
A DATE TO REMEMBER. Mrs. Margaret Knight, well-known broadcaster, Humanism and Morals without Religion, will lead a discussion on "Morals and Religion" at 7.45 p.m. Thursday, November 12, in the Union. (T.N.T.).

AUTUMN BALL. Make sure that you have got your dress in time for our first Formal Dance of this session on November 11, 1959. (Enterments Committee Bulletin).

INTERESTED IN STAGE TECHNICS OR ELECTRONICS? Come along to Debating Hall Stage at 5.15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, to meet the G.T.G. Stage Staff.

WANTED. FRESHERS WITH JOURNALISTIC INCLINATIONS... CRITIC REPORTERS, TYPISTS, EDITORS. VISIT THE GUILD NEWS STALL, OR APPLY TO THE EDITOR, VIA THE PIGEON HOLES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

B.U.E.C.U. FRESHERS' SOCIAL... Free eat! Outside St. Francis Hall at 8 p.m., Saturday, October 3.

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