

GUILD NEWS

Thursday, March 3,
1960. No. 570

3^D

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham.

PACE AND PERFORMANCE

First Night

Guild Theatre Group, back in power again after their recent triumphs, performed here two eye-opening productions of modern plays. The first of these, Arthur Miller's "A Memory of Two Mondays," showed the same brilliance as the recent television performance, although one must remember that the setting is much more limited for G.T.G. Nevertheless, the sets designed by Ralph Wilton, backed up by some excellent lighting effects, utilised every square inch of the stage to its fullest. Twelve spotlights opened out the production. The placing of the window between the audience and the stage added to the originality of this production and showed the acting ability of many of the cast.

A good pace was maintained throughout the performance and the seasonal changes were cleverly manipulated.

It is hard to single out any one person, but solid acting by Jim Bernard as Gus won the day, although the extraordinary length of the cast (14 in all) for such a short play, provided the necessary backing. Terry Hands must be complimented on his portrayal of the poetic Irishman, and proved to be outstanding when he held the stage.

Special mention must also be given at this stage to David Elboz, Peter Morris and Miss Margaret Righton and a short "spell" by Frank Purvis. Peter Plant as Tom, often filled the role of Peter Plant, but nevertheless

adequately filled a difficult part.

In the second production of Jean Genet's "The Maids" the pace, however, could hardly rival that of the previous production. As Miss Margaret Oates, who portrayed the lead as Solange, pointed out after the performance, "It was exhausting, but it had to be!" It did peter out towards the end, and to hold the audience on future performances, the pace will certainly have to be increased.

There is no verbal way of showing the excellence of Miss Margaret Oates in her role, and her character alteration in the soliloquy reflected the power of her past successes.

Sound backing was provided by Miss Christine Sheasby and Miss Rosemary Kernan; the latter showing her past brilliance, however, only in her gestures.

Once again we have to thank Mr. Ralph Wilton for his production genius, and Mr. John Brown for his advice in theatrical production.

It was pleasing to see the audience's reactions to these plays; G.T.G.'s audiences are unaccustomed to productions of this nature, but found themselves held by the sheer drama, even though the underlying meanings were often obscure.

MARK. R. D. SEAWARD.

WHY ANIMALS?

WE all use animals in one way or another; we eat them, we wear clothing produced from them, we benefit from medical research on them. Thus it is the responsibility of each one of us to ensure that animals are considered, that they are well treated and not misused. In order that we may fulfil our responsibility we must know what we are talking about and this is where U.F.A.W. (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) can help you.

U.F.A.W. provides information and provides it in an interesting way; for example, it is holding its Annual Easter Congress at Salfrey College, Birmingham, next vacation, from April 8 to 12. It is hoped that a contingent from Birmingham will be able to provide the necessary nucleus for this meeting, which draws undergraduates and graduates from all corners of the British Isles (and indeed from many parts of the world). Why not come and see what it is all about? Details are displayed on just about all notice boards in the Union, or may be obtained from Mark R. D. Seaward, via the Guild News Pigeon Hole.

SECTION 58

SAFEGUARD THE INDIVIDUAL!

AS disciplinary procedure is a necessary facet of Guild life, it has been thought opportune to draw attention to recent disciplinary action. This involved a sentence of ten days suspension and the deprivation of offices on return.

The latter was possibly due to the Conveners lack of experience in quoting the constitution. A possible injustice resulted.

Much of the material below is in respect of one case. However, since the interests of every Guild member are dependent upon similar disciplinary procedure and action, it was felt that more thought should be given to this Section (58) of the Constitution

The task of the Convener of Disciplinary Committee is to interpret the constitution as it applies to each separate case, and there should be no need for the matter to be brought before Council, as happened in this instance. This was necessary because of considerable ambiguities as to the interpretation on two points of the constitution:

(1) The role of the President on Disciplinary Committee.

The President had been present at the meeting in his constitutional capacity as "Non voting Observer," in fact he had participated in the discussion in order to clarify the facts. However, the Convener assured Council that the President had in no way affected the decision.

(2) The right to resume office after suspension.

The Constitution states that for the period of suspension the member loses the right "to hold any office in the Guild, or to be a member of Guild Council, or of any committee thereof." This is ambiguous as it would appear that a member would lose the right to hold his positions for the period of suspension only. This was a debatable point and was subsequently clarified when Council decided that this loss of position should continue after the period of suspension. However, if this matter had been dealt with competently in the first place the matter would never have reached Council. Here

we MUST repeat that it is the task of the Convener to interpret the constitution himself and not leave it to Council which has enough to occupy its time.

On the face of it an injustice may have occurred due to confusion in interpreting the constitution, which should not be possible in connection with Disciplinary Procedure. This should be one of the critical aspects of the Constitution as it concerns the right of the individual. The constitution should be unambiguous so as to simplify the task of the Convener and his committee in assessing individual cases. Reform is imperative, and is one of the matters which must be dealt with by the new ad-hoc committee with a view to clarifying such ambiguities.

SUGGESTIONS

WE respectfully submit that there are certain essential changes which must be made. Among these is the method of electing the Convener; under the present constitution, "the Board (elected by Council) shall meet as soon as possible after its election, for the purpose of electing a Convener for the Session from amongst its own number." Incidentally this election usually occurs at the first meeting of the Board for disciplinary action—a hurried affair with very little time for consideration. In this case the constitution could be augmented by having the Convener elected by Council at the same time as the Board itself. At present any member of the Guild is eligible to be a member of the Board. This we feel to be a good thing. The Convener, however, holds a very responsible position and should be a responsible and senior member of the Guild, preferably with committee experience.

It should be clear to the Convener that it is his job to apply and interpret the constitution to suit the facts at issue. The constitution is necessarily flexible to fit in with different cases, but the Convener should make up his own mind and not fall back on Council and the personal opinion of the President. In its recent consideration of the matter Council made an inflexible ruling concerning Section 58 (7) (b) when they said that members should be deprived of all offices on their return after suspension, and re-election is thus necessitated. This defeats the whole object of the constitution in that it deprives it of its essential flexibility.

In connection with Section 58 (9) (b), there should no need for the

by R. W. B. Sutton
M. R. D. Seaward

matter to be referred to the Union Committee, as the decisions of Disciplinary Board are put to Council in any case, which effect academic status as a member of the University staff is on this committee.

Finally it is obvious that disciplinary procedure is a necessary feature of the Guild, but the scales should not be weighted in either direction.

ANOTHER ANGLE

by B. E. Stacey

SECTION 58 of the Constitution ensures that every person appearing before Disciplinary Board is treated alike.

A procedure is drawn up in the Constitution and this procedure must be followed. The above article states that the Convener should be given more power, and that it is his duty to interpret the Constitution. But surely the fate of a person appearing before the Disciplinary Board should not depend on the judgment of one man. In a court of law the jury find the facts and the judge interprets the law; but the Convener cannot be compared with a learned and experienced judge.

Under the present system if any difficulty of interpretation arises the matter goes to Guild Council, the supreme body of the Guild. Here, arguments for all possible interpretations can be put, and one interpretation decided upon. It is not important which interpretation prevails, but it is important that every person should be treated alike.

I would, however, agree with the above article in one respect: that is, that the Convener should be elected by Guild Council rather than at a hurried meeting of the Disciplinary Board.

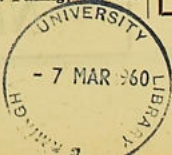
Finally a word about Constitutions: It is completely impossible to draw up an unambiguous Constitution and questions of interpretation are bound to arise. But I cannot accept that these interpretations should be made by one person, according to the case in hand. It must be interpreted impersonally and impartially by a majority decision of Council, to ensure that justice is done and is seen to be done.

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PRESS POST

MANY NATIONAL RETURNS

SIR.—The recent suspension of the obligation to serve the Queen (in other words known as National Service) has given rise to many gasps of relief! Neither the Dip. Ed. nor the Dip. Comm. courses hold their old appeal.

Many have evaded a two-year life of luxury and boredom, starved of home comforts and dwelling in "wooden halls."

But, Sir, what about those patriots who may have served for reasons of their own or because they were forced to? We are a dying race at this University. We have given up two years without any financial aid from the Government. Would it not be a token for the Government to pay each National Serviceman compensation for the two years he has given up? All I personally received was an R.A.F. sweater (moth-eaten), a pair of socks (blue woollen), one pair of boots (highly polished—but now collecting mildew) and a collection of memories (assorted).

Yours in expectation,
BRIAN E. LUBY (207).
EDITOR: We should welcome further correspondence on this matter from "the few" or "the others."

C.N.D. FIGHTS BACK

SIR.—Mr. Hurst, in last week's "Press Post," implies that C.N.D., by appealing to people to join them in action against this suicidal arms race towards a nuclear war, are unwittingly the "instruments of an internationally armed Communist system." He backs this amazing statement by a twisted account of the C.N.D. aims, calling it "evidence of C.N.D.'s warped balance of ideals." I would suggest that Mr. Hurst is suffering from that emotional malady of suspecting a Communist plot behind every organisation that is actively striving for peace. This negative attitude is the biggest argument for inactivity, and inactivity is the greatest enemy to peace.

We are not unilateralists for emotional and moral reasons only, but because we also accept the fact that neither Russia nor the U.S.A. will disarm unilaterally. We aim at two things:

(a) International Nuclear Disarmament.

(b) To stop the spread of nuclear weapons, thus reducing the danger from tests and reducing the danger of an accidental start to a nuclear war.

All nations want peace, yet talks in the past have failed because of the cloud of suspicion hanging over them. But world disarmament has got to start somewhere. So rather than continuing to develop another nuclear block in Europe, we believe that Britain, by unilaterally disarming, can break through this cloud of suspicion and give the genuine lead for which everyone is waiting and hoping. We cannot expect any other nation to give this lead. Britain, having thus proved her sincerity, can act as a bridge between East and West with the backing of all non-nuclear nations—nations which both the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. are courting. This pressure and the fact that both want the goodwill of these nations, will act as a fortnightly agreement on nuclear disarmament.

We welcome Mr. Hurst to the C.N.D. Forum, next Thursday, March 10, in the Men's Lounge, when a panel of speakers from political societies and individual Christians will be discussing questions on nuclear disarmament with us.

Yours etc.,
BARBARA K. ALLEN.

QUEUE JUMPING

SIR.—I should like to protest against the appalling manners of many students who "leap-frog" the lunch queues in the Union. Whilst I was waiting half an hour last Friday, more than 30 students passed me to join friends nearer the entrance. Others wandered up and down the line, obviously waiting the opportunity to push in; eventually they may well join someone they scarcely know.

On being politely told that there is an end to this queue, the reply is invariably "So what?" At this rate it would be theoretically possible to stand at the end of a queue for the whole lunch period without moving!

I calculated that it took each student about 15 seconds to pass the cashier once inside Priestley, and that therefore the 30 queue-jumpers had delayed me about eight minutes. This must inconvenience many of us who agree that this is a bad practice. Whilst a few will not push in on principle, it does appear to be becoming the accepted practice to do so with as much personal advantage as possible.

I deplore this situation and look for a change of attitude.
Yours etc.,
C. J. MACKIE.
(Pet. Prod. Eng.).

MOSS'S OMISSIONS

SIR.—It is typical of a respect for beer by a section of the University community that Pete Moss's reminiscences should be called "From Lager to Ouzo."

Certain that Mr. Moss frequently decks the Union bar, I find it astonishing to believe that after tramping all the way to Copenhagen he failed to complete his pilgrimage to "Carlsberg Country" by visiting the Carlsberg brewery. The fact that he was penniless can be no excuse; not only is the trip free, but afterwards one is invited to consume virtually as much as one can of their product.

Carlsberg Lager has brought greater fame to Copenhagen than Mr. Moss suspects.

A stone's throw from the Tivoli Gardens, which he visited, is the NY CARLSBERG GLYPTOTEK containing one of the most magnificent collections of sculpture work in Europe; it is a sobering thought that the GLYPTOTEK has come into existence from the profits made at Carlsberg.

If Mr. Moss had pursued his subject further he would have found that Copenhagen's famous Mermald is the personal gift of Ny Carlsberg, founder of the city.

Yours etc.,
LESLIE BROWN.

ED. STREETERS AGAIN

SIR.—Appropos your recent correspondence concerning the difference between the Arts and Science students, or the Ed. Streeters and the Edgbastards, if you prefer it that way; I would like to say that there are Arts students who study at Edgbaston; I am one of them.

The atmosphere to which the Ed. Streeters allude has always seemed to me to be derived from the necessity arising in Ed. Street of sitting on the floor—your correspondent seems to doubt that such an atmosphere will exist at Edgbaston. In view of the prospective influx of at least 400 students and in view of the Vice-Chancellor's announcement a fortnight ago of the Universities Grants Committee's suggestions about further increasing the number of students here; it seems likely that soon we'll all be sitting on the floor. Still divided into two groups, perhaps, but not Arts and Science, instead the Washed and Greasy Unwashed; a division which I have always thought more valid than the Ed. Street intellectual vis a vis Edgbastard division.

Yours etc.,
JENNIFER M. RICHARDSON.
Geography III.

STAGNATION

SIR.—What use are departmental societies? Most of them profess to increase their members' interest in their own subject but surely if an undergraduate is genuinely interested in his course of study he should find sufficient stimulus in his syllabus. If on the other hand these societies are merely to provide social activities would it not be better for these to be obtained under the auspices of inter-departmental societies? It is clear from many of the society reports in Guild News that most departmental societies encourage intellectual stagnation and do nothing at all to overcome the rift between the Arts and the Sciences. Instead of coercing Freshers into joining their own society it is time that the departments encouraged them to widen their interests.

Yours etc.,
M.P.J.

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NEWS

CHEMICAL SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM-1960

OVER 250 students and members of staff attended the Symposium entitled "Chemistry and the fight against disease," organised by the University Chemical Society on Tuesday, February 23. The speakers, Mr. Richie Calder, scientific journalist and broadcaster, Professor J. R. Squire, Professor of Experimental Pathology at the Medical School; and Dr. B. A. Hems, of Glaxo, attracted many listeners from departments other than Chemistry.

Mr. Calder, giving an "Historical Survey of Medicine," compared medicine and surgery before 1935 to "witch doctory and plumbing." However, some substance of fact was always present in the old laws of curative medicine, even if disguised in nonsense. The invention of the Sulpha drugs in 1935 was responsible for the birth of a new attitude towards drugs in medicine, but ignorance of the correct use and full significance of the vast numbers of new drugs now being synthesised (over 500 annually) created new problems and potential hazards to individual and national health.

In the introduction to his lecture on "Chemical and Physical methods of Diagnosis," Professor Squire stressed the importance of co-operation between chemists, physicists and the medical profession in the advancement of diagnosis. Body fluids were analysed for over 190 different substances, many of which were present in very small amounts and had to be specifically identified in a complex mixture. Recent microanalytical techniques, bio-assay, and physico-chemical separations such as electrophoresis and immunoelectrophoresis were invaluable tools to the medical profession, and might be successfully applied to the investigation of disease of the mind and senility. It was important, however, that the chemist should understand the dynamic state of body functions before interpreting results. The application of isotope tracer techniques had elucidated many previously unknown metabolic sequences in the body.

After the tea adjournment Dr. Hems lectured on "Chemo-therapy," emphasising that much of the disability in the world was due to starvation, which no drug could cure. Chemo-therapeutic agents were successfully used in diseases caused by invasive organisms and breakdown of the natural defensive mechanisms of the body. The simplest invasive organisms, the viruses, were the most difficult to control, and the success of many drugs used against viruses depended on attack by "similarity." Thus essential purines and pyrimidines in nucleic acids could be partially replaced by synthetic analogues of almost identical shape and size which were incorporated in living cells. The slight dissimilarity in structure might be sufficient to stop further undesirable processes such as occur for example in cancer.

Dr. Hems stressed that the climate of opinion in which facts were discovered was largely responsible for progress in chemo-therapy. Thus the effect of penicillin, discovered six years before sulphonamides, was not investigated until given the necessary incentive provided by work on the sulphonamides.

The numerous questions asked during the discussion which followed the lectures indicated the stimulation provided by the speakers, and the Chemical Society are to be congratulated on the successful organisation of such a project.

This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED MARCH 3)

SPRING BOOK NUMBER

Lord Morrison of Lambeth reviews Sir Anthony Eden's memoirs **FULL CIRCLE**.
Angus Wilson on J. B. Priestley's **LITERATURE AND WESTERN MAN**.
Geoffrey Gorer on Richard Rovere's **SENATOR JOE MCCARTHY**.
William Plomer on Ellen Moor's **THE DANDY**.
Enid Starkie on Elizabeth Hanson's **MY POOR ARTHUR**.
David Knowles in **THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**.
D. W. Brogan on William D. Hassett's **OFF THE RECORD WITH F.D.R.**

other features include: THE COMING ATTACK ON WORLD POVERTY

Andrew Shonfield
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. B. THOMAS, D.S.O., M.C.
Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks
MARCUS AURELIUS
(The first of three talks about Roman Emperors) P. A. Brunt
GERMAN LITERATURE SINCE 1945
Hans Egon Holthusen
CHINA AND THE U.S.S.R.
Alexander Metaxas
DON'T ROCK OUR BOAT
Margaret Barnes (on problems facing the people of Central Africa)
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS
G. Quispel

and other features

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FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6

OUR CURRENT DILEMMA

What do you think you're doing here?

The first of four brief dissertations on the present nature of university life by Brian Piper.

THIS has indeed been a winter of discontent as far as Guild and university life is concerned. For all the many pleas for liveliness and inspiration, and the occasional short-lived outbursts thereof, there still seems to be a blanket as wet as the recent weather on the spirits of most Guild members and the university generally. Why should this be? What's wrong with the cream of the country's intellect?

Is it their fault that no one seems to care any more about anything, except lab. reports, practicals and tutorial essays? Doesn't anyone care about the vast problems of this world which, unless dealt with soon, will make our pettyfoggish concerns about as relevant to the future as sun-suits to Christmas? Is student apathy more apparent than real? Is the system at fault, or the university, or our own attitude to life?

Many worthy people have sought to analyse the cause of the obvious inadequacies of university life at present and their conclusions have been far from comfort. Last term the Student Christian Movement organised a study group on "Christian Obedience in the University" to examine the purpose and organisation of the modern university and to see how far its achievements matched its intentions and where it was lacking. What follows is an attempt to set out some of

our lines of thought and conclusions. I am indebted to the members of staff who co-operated so much in guiding the discussions and to those many others who participated then and subsequently. This is as much their work as mine.

Since books galore have been written about this, in being brief I may also be superficial, but I may at least provoke more searching discussions. To begin with, perhaps we can at least diagnose some of the symptoms before seeking causes and prescribing cures. "Apathy" is a term often misapplied, but whatever its cause, a marked lack of participation in Guild affairs does exist. Voting in elections is low, concern with either Guild Council or Executive deliberations is either little or misinformed, until this year faculty sports led a hand-to-mouth existence, G.T.G. could never be certain of covering costs and Deb. Soc. often does not get the support it deserves. Carnival only goes if you can get the Freshers enthusiastic; successive Guild News Editors are driven desperate for lack of contributions or poor quality efforts. If we accept the tenet that the three basic elements of life are sex, religion and politics and that the first-named is like the poor, always with us, one finds the latter two not half as well supported as they could be. It needs a big name or a gimmick to attract people to meetings and constant personal urging to get people to join the societies. Is this the mark of the new generation? Is this what we are to expect of the top of the educational ladder?

But let's be a little more optimistic for a moment, 80 societies, plus the Guild societies function in the Guild, a though perhaps "some are now fallen asleep," and to judge from publicity and room-bookings in the Union and Guild Club everyone is very much alive. Deb. Soc. keeps a high average for a normal society, G.T.G. has done much better and World University Service has made its presence felt much more than previously. The last few years have seen the formation of the New Thinkers, the President's South Africa Society, U.N.S.A., the Democratic Union (now defunct) and a mission in the University by the Christian societies. Political and religious societies are much more active this year and we now have staff-student groups. More recent history shows an uncommonly large attendance at the Guild A.G.M., long and deep rumblings over the conduct of Guild affairs, and over conflicting pressures of academic and non-academic interests. There have also been the refectory lunches, the boycott, Brian Day and Mike Dyson are going to town, turning rooms in the Union into "pubs" of different styles.

Two will be basically English; "The Red Lion," an old Tudor inn, and "The Prince of Wales," a study of Victorianism. A third, "La Gironne Nore," will be French in design, and the fourth will be a "super-splendid American cocktail bar," aptly named "The Pink Salamander." When you start to see the salamander in technical you know it is time to leave the bar, and perhaps work off some of your alcohol content to the music of Eric Winston and his orchestra. N.R.C.

It is to be hoped that the 100 or more members who came to the opening meeting will continue to enlarge their knowledge of international affairs by attending one or both of these meetings.

So the saying goes. And if it be true, there will be much "spice" in the "life" of the imbibers at Guild Ball, for the variety of the decoration in the four bars is great. Designing the decor for Guild Ball is always a big job, and this year Brian Day and Mike Dyson are going to town, turning rooms in the Union into "pubs" of different styles.

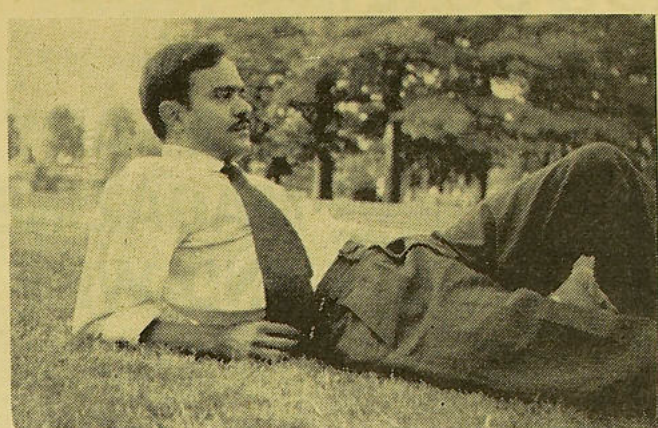
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Is all this a sign of new life or is it that we've let things slide for so long that only now do we begin to realise our peril? The British (with respect to our large overseas population) have a reputation for fighting once they know they're in a jam. The trouble is that all too often we never see the crisis until it's too late. Are we in a crisis? Are we waking up? Are we beginning to realise what we're doing here—or more precisely, what is being done to us? I will try to say something about this in the next issue.

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PROFILE: SADRU DIN JIVANI



he keeps in immediate touch with what students actually think and feel about the way their affairs are handled; above all, eminently practical, he sees to it that something is actually done about student complaints. Asked whether he thought that this personal contact, on top of his normal academic and administrative duties, took up a great deal of time, he replied that it did not if one's time was carefully planned and not wasted. "Students want to see and know their President, and Exec., to mix with them and to exchange their opinions with them." And it is on this basis that Sadru performs his duties as Union Secretary, obviously enjoying every minute of it.

As a Medic, a matter close to Sadru's heart is the position of the Med. School with regard to the Union. He aims to integrate Med. School more closely with the Union affairs and activities, while preserving its own autonomy.

Once, when asked the meaning of his name, he replied that in Arabic it means, "Defender of the Faith" and in Persian it means "Hundred-faced." He certainly has many facets to his essentially likeable personality. As well as being an imaginative organiser, and a good conversationalist, he is famed for his skill in making excellent curries. He cheerfully admits that he lives to eat, rather than that he eats to live. This is no doubt why he expends so much energy on the problems of eating in the University.

Lively and energetic, he has made a great contribution to Guild Affairs and has won the regard and affection of all that have had to do with him. M.W.J.

"I CHANGE my personality every six months," said Sadru Jivani the other day, so take note of the above person... he may not come your way again. A fourth year Medic, Sadru Jivani comes from Uganda, "the land which produces agitators."

A true son of his country, Sadru is proud of the fact he was the first Medic ever to take his second year exams wearing a beard. Delightfully unconventional, he takes great pleasure in accepting every challenge that comes his way.

As a Fresher, he saw the prize being presented to the Fresher of the year. A friend challenged him to win it the following year, and despite the fact that he was handicapped by his English not being good at that time, and that he played no sports, he nevertheless won it, just to show us all that he could do it.

When he first came to Birmingham, he plunged into Guild Affairs because he missed the companionship of his friends from Africa. In four years he has risen to be Secretary of the Union, a position he fulfils with great success. The reason for his success on Exec. is, he feels, because he is in intimate contact with the student body. Essentially friendly and sociable, this type of work suits his character and temperament. By mixing with students in the bars, coffee room and at Hops,



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PALATE AND POCKET A Hungarian Wines

THE pre-eminent wines of Hungary are those grown and matured in the region of the Great Mountain of Tokaj, and the most outstanding of these is the world-famous Tokay Aszu. This wine can only be produced after a long, dry autumn; it is only made in certain years and thus it is not cheap.

Tokay Aszu is a sweet and somewhat heavy wine possessing a unique flavour and a pleasing, yet subtle, fragrance. In 1850's "The Wild Duck," Tokay is referred to as "a noble wine . . . having a most remarkable bouquet."

It is a dessert wine in the same class as Madeira or Port. The quality and strength of the wine is denoted by the number of "put-tions" (i.e. special hods) of dried grapes added to each barrel of wine liquor. This wine can be purchased at 19s. per bottle.

The lesser known Tokay wines include Tokay Furmint and Tokay Szamorodni dry and Szamorodni sweet. The Furmint is a well-balanced full wine of medium sweetness with a fine bouquet and an appealing golden colour; it may be taken with a meal or as a dessert wine. It is good value for money at 16s. per bottle. Szamorodni dry is a delicate wine and is fairly alcoholic having been fermented to dryness. This wine is to be taken as an aperitif or with soup or fish. There are few wines at 15s. per bottle which can be compared favourably with Tokay Szamorodni dry. The counterpart to this wine is the Szamorodni sweet, a full-bodied, dessert wine with a notable bouquet competitively priced at 16s. 6d. per bottle.

The vineyards situated on the volcanic shores of Lake Balaton yield grapes from which excellent wines are made. Balatoni Riesling is widely obtainable at about 9s. 6d. per bottle; it is a versatile, medium-dry, white wine with a distinctive flavour, blending well with most dishes.

Balatoni Furmint is a little dearer at 10s. per bottle, it is a full white wine with a good bouquet. It would be difficult to find a better wine at this price.

Mori Egerjo is a very dry and delicate wine from another region of Hungary; it is suitable for accompaniment to the fish course and ideal for a wine and cheese party. At 10s. 3d. per bottle it is cheaper than Chablis or Pouilly Foulaise, but it is not quite as good.

One cannot discuss Hungarian wines without some mention of the famous Bull's Blood of Eger. The vineyards are situated in a kind of

"sun-bowl" in the hills at the edge of the Great Hungarian Plain. Bull's Blood is a red wine, as its name implies, and is not unlike a claret, being fairly dry yet having a smoothness which makes it a pleasing partner to meat dishes. 10s. 6d. per bottle is a reasonable price to pay for this wine.

When buying wine a considerable saving can be effected by a group of people forming a syndicate and buying the wine in dozens, for example at least 1s. 6d. per bottle can be deducted from the prices quoted above if the order consists of a dozen or more bottles.

Some of the wines mentioned can be obtained from local agents.

All of them can be obtained from:

F. and E. May Ltd.,
Wine and Spirit Importers,
18, Piazza Chambers,
James St.,
London, W.C.2.

J. O'CONNOR.

Neville Coghill

WHEN Professor Neville Coghill spoke at English Club last week about the visual element in Shakespeare he proved his point as much by his histrionic method of presentation as by the specific examples he gave.

Theatre, he said, is unique among the arts in that it appeals both to the eye and ear. A good play must therefore be conceived in terms of visual as well as verbal symbols and in this respect Shakespearean drama excels.

A deaf man, Prof. Coghill maintained, would get as much pleasure visually from a good production of, for instance, "Titus Andronicus" as a blind man would receive from the dialogue. With mesmerising eloquence he illustrated this thesis from his vast knowledge of Shakespearean drama. When he had finished, an unusually large audience applauded warmly.

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THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME Halls of Residence

EXPANSION in numbers, and occasionally in facilities, has been a feature in every decade in the history of the University; but the prospect of an accelerated expansion has placed a new emphasis on the immediate need for Halls of Residence.

The present plan, conceived only a few years ago, was to have come to fruition in 1965 with a closely-knit five faculty university on one site for 5,500 students with a staff student ratio of 1:8. Long term residential planning was to provide 2,000 places but only about 800 could have been achieved by 1965. The new plans for the rapid expansion of university places—so far only accepted in principle by the University—takes the form of expansion to 7,000 places by 1970, with a possible 10,000 plus in the late '70s. Two thirds of any such expansion after 1965 would be in the Science Faculties. This article will concentrate only on the "intense and urgent" need for Halls of Residence, in the light of such expansion.

Table one reveals that the provision of places in halls has to date been meagre—it has never exceeded 13.5 per cent. of the undergraduate body, and at present stands at 11.75 per cent., the lowest but one in England. But the other side of the story should be told, for the University have had to face many other pressures and problems.

Originally halls of residence were conceived as experimental projects, and it would seem that official detailed judgment has yet to be made. The war seriously interrupted such projects and greatly increased their cost. The cost to-day is prohibitive—£2,000 per head. Lack of a suitable site, lack of the necessary funds, the need to build academic buildings first—all these things have forced halls of residence to be a secondary consideration.

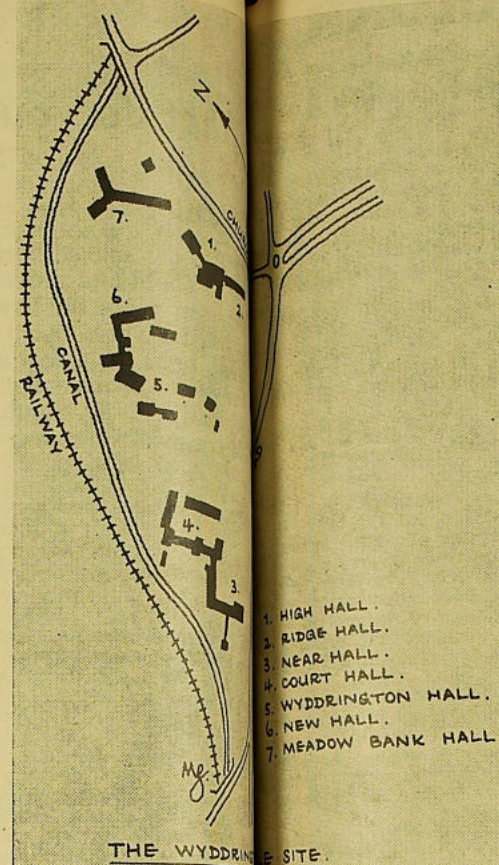
Ever since 1955, when the Wyddrington Vale site was chosen, many administrative difficulties have been encountered, and a second set of plans had to be drawn up—the first stage of these plans has been decided on, but modification of the remaining stages may well occur.

The basic reasons why the need for more halls has become acute in the light of such expansion is shown in table 2. This table shows that the bulk of the increase in student numbers has been absorbed by finding more and more lodgings. However, saturation point is rapidly being reached. The reunification of the arts and sciences plus the loss of places in Hill House and Selly Oak Y.W.C.A., plus the increase in numbers, only intensifies the problem. Major complaints of the student body now take the form of excessive travel—14 per cent. of the Freshmen complained of this in the Freshmen's Conference questionnaire—and a lack of comfort and amenities expected to-day and the steady rise in prices for such accommodation.

This drive for freedom from land-ladies and illusions of a better standard of living, are reflected in the effects of the lowering of the age qualification for flats. See Table 3. With rumours of the possibility of Birmingham's Industrial Holiday being considered for 1961, the sheer practical needs of more self-dependence is underlined. Without even considering the educational benefits that halls of residence indirectly bring—the need is indeed "intense and urgent."

The plan for the future is the development of Wyddrington Vale—a gracefully contoured and luxuriously planted parkland. The proposed seven halls—with places for about 1,500 students—will be developed in a series of stages—stage one in the building of High Hall and Ridge Hall—to accommodate 438 female students, the cost of the development amounting to about £675,000. The speed of development of the rest depends on the amount of finance available from the Graduates and University Appeal to the generosity of the University Grants' Committee. The University clearly recognises the problem—and I hope that this article will help us to understand the University problem.

W. G. RASTALL.



UNIVERSITY EXPANSION		
Availability of Halls of Residence		
Session	Total Places	H. of R. Places
1918/19	971	—
1938/39	1,739	230 Approx.
1948/49	3,200	300 Approx.
1958/59	3,942	464
1968/69	6,830 (22.5%)	1,000 Plus (1)

(1) This estimate is based on rate of progress, even though 2,000 plus is the target for the 5,500 Campus.

Term-Time Residence			
Session 1958/59			
Session	Halls of Residence	Home	Total
1955/56	353	967	3,204
1958/59	464	939	3,942

Effect of lowering qualification for Flats		
Session	Women	Total
1957/58	54	291
1958/59	74	356
1959/60	102	524

N.B. Numbers throughout include graduates and Senior Medicals.

MOUNTAIN MEET

THIRTY-THREE members of the Skiing Club left Birmingham for the Annual Meet and Dinner in the Lake District on the evening of February 20.

They did get there in the end, the Langdale road the coach had to be pushed on a number of occasions.

Most people got up at 6.30 on the morning. After the usual scramble to get to the higher slopes impossible. The snow was deep and very soft and wet. Some people walked over the tops of the hills and then made a somewhat abortive attempt at a climb on Rannoch Moor. The annual dinner was held at the Old Dungeon Ghyll.

On Sunday a large number of people and one party attempted to climb the Central Crully, but were forced to turn back. On Monday a couple of our more intrepid members dined at the Pikes in the sunshine.

DEBATING COLUMN (Ladies' Tournament)

THE Ladies' Tournament was distinguished only by the attempts of the Debating Society Committee at obtaining entrants for the competition.

By means of a dastardly plan involving the printing of posters with the names of six of our more loquacious ladies on them, and by sending a member of the Committee round afterwards to four of the ladies (for only two had entered voluntarily) and by saying to each of them that they were needed to make an even number of six, the Committee managed to bring the total number of entrants up to four. One can hardly blame the two who did not enter from not speaking!

The competition itself was a little disappointing, perhaps due to the motion: "That This House Would Rather Look East Than West."

Miss Christina Chaudoir, for the proposition, spoke of the many aspects of the motion and mentioned some of the advantages of Communism. Miss Maureen Jones replied by talking of the wonderful life in "the land of milk and money"—America. Miss Jennifer Steer-Wood said that she liked being romantic and talked of life in the exotic East. Miss Pat Bolton claimed that the proposition were sentimentalists and that America stood for freedom, and further indulged in one of the most marvellous (albeit inaccurate) histories of the world.

Dr. Jasper McKee, who instituted the competition last year, judged the competition and afterwards gave his summing up. He described the basis on which he judged the competition, his chief comment was that there was too much reading; this I think is fair criticism for any debate held at Deb. Soc. but I must admit it is very difficult to do away with it. At the end of the best speech of the evening Dr. McKee presented the cup to Miss Steer-Wood who returned it to the pawn shop where it had lain since she won it last year.

MED. SCHOOL COLUMN

WELL here we are again after an absence due to lack of space. Time has drawn to yet another month, the month of March.

In Med. School this month is of considerable importance, more so than elsewhere in the University, for in this month fourth year get one of their rare holidays in preparation for their adventures into the mystic realms of "Specials." Above all third year come face to face with those traditional enemies, the Examiners, and then pass on to become clinical students. To all about to take second M.B. part 2, may I say, "All the best, mates; may you have the same luck I had!"

Following the success of the bread and cheese lunches held in the Union, which have to far raised £150 towards World Refugee Year, the same idea is to be instituted at Med. School, from March 10, every Thursday between 12 and 2 p.m. until further notice. You are invited to come along to the canteen and give the amount you would normally spend on a meal to World Refugee Year fund. In return for this you will receive an adequate supply of bread and cheese with which to abate your hunger. As Med. School fare is normally not much more than bread and cheese anyway, there is little hardship involved. In addition the diet experts amongst us assure that bread and cheese form a well balanced and nutritious meal; so why not come along and try it? N.E.B.

FROM LAGER TO OUZO

by PETE MOSS (Part 2)

GERMANY is the Continental country I would most like to live in. This may be partly explained by the comparative ease with which an English-speaking person can pick up the language, and partly by the impression that the German social and economic structure is closer to our own than that of, say, Italy, or even France.

However, my present idea of Germany does not consist of a string of comparisons between that country and our own, but rather of a collection of happy memories of a land where I could actually afford to eat as well as drink. While I must admit that I prefer French cooking, I don't think you can beat eating out in Germany from the point of view of value for money. How I remember the times I've walked into Fischis in Dusseldorf and ordered a half chicken with chips, mushrooms and salad—all for five bob!

No wonder I sometimes feel disenchanted with the Vernon. All this talk about food is not meant to belittle the importance of German drinks—far be it from me to deny Hell Pils and the Mosel and Rheinweins their place in the world—I just wanted to point out to the drinker who finds himself in Germany that worthwhile blotting paper is readily available at low prices.

How does Germany stand as hitching-hostelling territory? As far as hitching is concerned I have never had any trouble, but I have heard of Press and radio campaigns directed against the practice (generally as the result of a robbery or a murder committed by a person taking a lift, and these, naturally, have at least a short-run detrimental effect). There exists in Germany a good network of youth hostels, but these tend to be run on stricter lines than in other countries. One place which particularly sticks in my mind is the big Cologne hostel. Here a loudspeaker blared forth instructions in five different languages in the dining hall, and the Warden came round early in the morning playing a violin. This is the most unpleasant type of reveille I've experienced yet. But don't worry too much; in Germany as elsewhere they do (to be continued).

CULT OF THE PERSONALITY

THE cult of the personality has long been the foundation of the cinema—be it director or star. This past week has seen a film which combines both these ploys—"Destiny of a Man," directed and played by Sergei Bodarchuk. It is the story of a Russian soldier, Andrei, captured at the beginning of World War II by the advancing Germans, and of his mental and physical torture in prison camps and on his return to Russia after the war.

The story of his captivity is told not in chronological sequence of events, such as is found in that flow of British P.O.W. camp films which seems, happily, to have dried up, but in terms of a progression from one example of torture to another—so that a very satisfactory reason is given for Andrei's hatred of the Germans. And so compelling is the portrayal of Sergei Bodarchuk that one is picked up and carried along by the anti-German floodtide; to leave the cinema saturated with it and horrified at the intensity of the hatred and amazed at the way the Germans in the film are presented in order to create and nurse that hatred.

And it is here that the cult of the personality again appears. The Germans are not an amorphous mass as are the Russian prisoners, the fellows of Andrei. Instead, they are caricatured, though not with laughter aforethought. Each is imbued with a facet, we were told was common to all in the war propaganda. There is a fat, schnapps-drinking, cigar-smoking colonel; a drunken, shrivelled little fellow from the Ruhr; and a sadistic Aryan prison commandant with his pseudo-intellectual cohorts; all reflecting hate.

And the film progresses from one meeting between Andrei and a German to another, building up the torture suffered by Andrei and the hatred resulting. The final reckoning comes when the soldier returns home to find his family and house destroyed in a German bombing raid. Such, then, is the measure of one man's hatred and it is revealed for the audience in a harrowing manner.

K.R.C.

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CONCERT DIARY

ONE week and much listening to music has intervened since I first heard Robert Simpson's new Violin Concerto, and I am still humming the themes to myself. But do not let that convince you; do not be dazzled, as the Thursday audience was, by a Birmingham violinist playing the work of a composer from Leamington Spa.

The fervour of local patriotism, to which the local Press were surprisingly prey also, could not hide the faults of the work. In his long programme note, Dr. Simpson told us of the genesis of his work: he was particularly influenced by the pre-Romantic concerto with the struggle of soloist and orchestra, and considered the Mendelssohn prototype as the easy way out. "To accept the full implications of the thing (i.e. the struggle) is to be faced with a most arduous task," were his words. In general, Dr. Simpson, in an academic and almost pedantic manner was too conscious of his task, and as a result there was little spontaneity and, if I may use the word, inspiration. Despite the artistic excellences all round, the soloist, Ernest Element, was also caught up in this spider's web which dragged all down. Any spontaneity, such as the beautiful little "Baa-Baa Black Sheep" tune in the last movement, was stifled and left undeveloped . . . perhaps a conscious (the word is inescapable) effort to be as dissimilar from Mendelssohn, Brahms, and company as possible.

The opening movement represented a reasoning speaker (the violin) trying to calm an angry crowd, whose turbulence was clearly represented by five staccato-like notes, reminiscent of Brahms' First Piano Concerto. The slow movement was frankly boring and over-protracted, and the soloist was too harsh in the passages where he was called upon to sing out. The last movement was by far the best but left undeveloped Sir Adrian and the orchestra played excellently.

But it was well worth waiting for the second half, which gave us the finest Brahms' Fourth Symphony yet heard in Birmingham. The conductor is rightly regarded as one of its best interpreters, and his sensitive tuning drew from his players unbelievable heights of musicianship. The audience forgot its stupor sufficiently to applaud warmly, for which small mercy we should be grateful.

KANDI.

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DRESS FORMAL

THE CASE FOR APARTHEID DISMISSED ED. STREET COLUMN

1N the interests of justice, Mr. Osborne's incorrect figures ought to be corrected. The latest figures available put the population at 14.4 million. This gives a ratio of about 4 to 1 and not 9 to 1 as Mr. Osborne suggested.

Further, to quote Mr. Osborne, "Apartheid is not being applied anywhere where dual facilities do not exist." This is not true. Under the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act No. 49 of 1953, Sections 2 and 3, if there is only one waiting room on a railway station, it is lawful for the stationmaster to reserve that waiting room for the exclusive use of white persons; any non-white persons willfully entering it commit a criminal offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

The claim that it is the white South African who builds the nation denies the simple historical truth that the economic development of South Africa was due to two factors:

(1) The migration of the European with his capital and technical skill.

(2) The migration of the African from the rural to the urban areas.

In the absence of any one of these components, South Africa would not have prospered. It is therefore not surprising to find that this pattern of economic integration has continued to the present day. To-day in the Union's mining industry, which forms the backbone of the economy there are employed many hundreds of thousands of Africans. This brings us a very important concept of Apartheid. At the turn of the century, as Mr. Osborne says, it was envisaged that this entire labour force would be removed to the so-called Bantu States. Where then is the alternative labour force going to be found? The S.A. white population is not increasing at any appreciable rate and even to-day the three million whites are an inadequate source from which to draw the country's skilled manpower, let alone the semi and unskilled labour. The answer lies in the three million or so Africans in the urban areas, housed in compounds on the outskirts of the industrial areas. The economist would regard the African population as a great natural mine of energy and

potential skill, but to the protagonists of Apartheid it is a menace to the future of the Europeans.

The contention is that the African and the European way of life are irreconcilable. This contention is not valid because Christianity has changed the African fundamentally. The identification of skin colour with permanent culture is scientifically not equated. Even if we were to concede that the life of a European and African is incompatible, what about the group of Africans so largely Westernised that they have no roots in tribal life and customs. These are the men who are denied a self-satisfying role in the Western society which has produced them.

It is claimed by Mr. Osborne that the white South African gives the African more than any other community in the world and he proceeds to compare this with Britain's giving only one per cent. of her tax revenue to the Commonwealth. Can the two issues really be compared. The African forms an intrinsic part of the S.A. population and on him the economy of the country depends. Some 82 per cent. of the labour force is non-white and thus it might be said that the Africans support the three

million Europeans. While there is no "poor white" problem in S.A., the average African just about subsists. Is it not a universal law of Public Finance that the prosperous section of a country should contribute more to the revenue than the poorer section?

Apartheid can only lead from resentment to strife and from strife probably to disaster. Mr. Osborne's ideal Apartheid may sound plausible, at least to him, but in practice it can do no more than fail.

2SOUTH AFRICA belongs to all the people who live in it. All have contributed a lot towards making it the leading industrial country in Africa. Yet capital and skill are not the only requirements for industrial prosperity, but also labour, practically all of which is supplied by non-whites.

To talk about separating the various peoples into small independent nations with national homes is laughable. The land area reserved for Africans is less than 13 per cent. of the whole area of the Union, but there are nine million Africans and three million whites in all of South Africa. The white rulers do not intend handing over complete control of these so-called independent nations and so far as the Africans are concerned the whole policy is dishonest, calculated to maintain white supremacy forever.

Let us get rid of this ridiculous idea that the white taxpayer gives more to the African than anywhere else in the world. The African produces all the wealth of S. Africa by his labour, his wages are shockingly low, and he has no means of collectively bargaining because African trade unions are illegal, and yet he is taxed more than his fellow South Africans. At the of 18 he has to pay

a poll tax of £1 15s. p.a. whether he works or not; all other S. Africans are taxable from the age of 21 and then only if they earn more than £250 p.a. Africans, of course, pay income tax on the same basis as whites. But perhaps the worst of all is that the African does not determine what is done with the money collected from the taxes—taxation without representation. Any progress shown by the Africans, material, educational or otherwise, has been gained in spite of, and not because, of the white rulers.

Lastly I would like to state once more that Apartheid is rejected by Africans in its entirety, for it is a policy evolved for the express purpose of maintaining a state of privilege and dominance of the whites over the non-whites for as long as possible.

J. K. I. MATTHEWS.

Adam's figment

Mr. Editor, by your leave, If Adam should fall out with Eve, That is no reason, it would seem; For turning round to vent one's spleen Through Guild News Coffee Talk.

To rant and rave "hypocrisy," Blame our colonial policy, Talk of defending interests, By mass suppression, mass arrests, Is really soppy talk. I would suggest your columnist Curb his undoubted wordiness: Not looking back in anger quite, But, drinking coffee, Black and White, Learn it is not made from tripe.

KIM.

Our first team title of the year!

Badminton

MANCHESTER DEFEATED IN WIVAB FINAL

BIRMINGHAM gained its first major title of the season on Saturday, February 20, when the Women's Badminton Team defeated Manchester 6-3 in the final of the W.I.V.A.B. competition, held at Hull.

Previous to this, Birmingham had beaten Nottingham, last year's winners, in the Midland Division, and then defeated Bristol fairly comfortably in the semi-final.

Much of the credit for the victory in the final must go to Birmingham's brilliant first couple, Barbara Parish and Mary James. Their effortless attacking game left most of the opponents breathless and all three of their matches were won with a total of only 21 points scored against them.

Ann Deith and Lesley Roberts, playing second couple, also rose to the occasion. Although they failed to defeat Manchester's first pair they gained valuable victories in their other two matches.

Chi Chan and Linda Manning won one match at third couple, by defeating Manchester's second pair. We offer our sincere congratulations to all these girls for a really great effort, and hope that the cup will stay in Birmingham next year too.

Swimming

Bristol swamped

THE University team met and defeated Bristol University last Wednesday at Tiverton Road Baths.

D. Gillett swam very smoothly in the 100 yards Freestyle and came in second to H. King, thus giving us a very good start to the match. This lead was maintained throughout in the men's events and we ended with a resounding victory in the Freestyle event.

The Ladies were rather disappointing, however, competing as they were over the ridiculously short distance of 25 yards. Jane Spencer demonstrated her fine stroke in the Freestyle, but came in last—a very rare defeat indeed. She redeemed herself by winning the Butterfly and with first (S. Lowe) and third places in the Breaststroke the ladies lost by only one point.

In the Water Polo match the University were visibly superior to Bristol and won 8-3 in spite of some rather tired marking by some of the team. A cloud of steam rose from the water like a rugby scrum on a frosty day but this worried us less than our opponents who were disconcerted by our long shots from out of the mist!

A.B.W.

Fencing

Excellent form maintained

FOLLOWING two good wins against Leeds and Bristol, the Fencing Club beat Sheffield by the convincing margin of 24-3. The foil was won 9-0, Warner, Naylor and Sayers being undefeated.

In the epee Birmingham won 7-2, Naylor and Sayers losing one fight each in this case. In the sabre Birmingham won 8-1, Warner and Sayers being undefeated and Naylor, who was deputising for S. Allison, winning two fights. At the end of the match Warner was once again undefeated; Sayers had eight fights to his credit and Naylor seven. The most encouraging aspect was Naylor's good performance which came as a just reward for a lot of good hard practice and also made up for an unfair share of bad luck in the previous matches

this season. The Club would like to pay tribute to the friendly and sporting attitude of the Sheffield fencers, who, although losing, were always prepared to acknowledge good hits against themselves which the judges missed.

The Club have had a very encouraging season so far, winning seven out of nine matches with other Universities, only losing very close matches with London and Loughborough.

D.R.S.

Men's Hockey

RENEWED ACTIVITY

ON Wednesday the 1st team travelled to Cheltenham to play a Gloucestershire "A" team. Unfortunately, it started raining when the team was halfway to Cheltenham, and, as a result, the ground was quite boggy, and not fit for hockey of any standard. Another misfortune, from the University's point of view, was that the opponents included five county, and four county second team players. Good play was, of course, impossible, and one might say that Birmingham were rather fortunate to lose by only 4-2. Birmingham were two down at the interval, and another two goals were put in shortly after. However, the University did not give up, but fought back hard, and were rewarded in the closing stages of the game with two goals through Wolridge and Cossar. This match was useful in that it provided a run-around after more than a fortnight of cancelled matches.

On Saturday, the 1st team were away at Rugby against the A.E.I. side, the former B.T.H. side is now called. The absence of three men necessitated a re-arrangement of the side; Green was brought in at outside left, Pereira was moved to inside right, and Miles to centre half. A.E.I. were also below strength, and so the game was quite even. Birmingham started well, and soon got a goal through Pereira. However, after that, things did not go too well. The forwards ceased to function properly, and only a stout defence by Flood, in goal, and Hewell, at right back, prevented a Birmingham defeat. In the last quarter, the A.E.I. were right on top, but could not get that vital goal. It is to be hoped that the absent team members will soon be fit once again so that the team may settle down for the remainder of the season.

Cross-Country

MAJESTIC DURHAM Birmingham run well again

THE annual Hyde Park Relay, which was held on Saturday, turned out to be as exciting as ever this year although it was without the usual crop of surprises. Durham, U.A.U. champions for the second year in succession, emphasised their quality with a superb, solid team display to break Liverpool's record by nine seconds. They were followed home by Manchester and Loughborough, third and second respectively in the U.A.U. championships.

Individually it was all Oxford and Cambridge, Wood, of Oxford, and Tulloh and Minshall, of Cambridge, were the only runners to break 13 minutes for the 2½-mile course and to Wood went the honour of breaking Hyman's "incredible" time of 12 mins. 39 secs. by a full seven seconds. Such is the ceaseless progress of athletics standards these days.

Birmingham, 4th in the U.A.U. (and only six points off the 2nd place), were a little disappointed with their 6th place, yet the team ran much faster than ever before in this race. In actual fact after the fourth leg they were only a few yards away from Loughborough, who were second at the time, but well as their last two boys ran they just couldn't hold the effort.

Dal Davies tore off with over 70 other runners on the first leg in ideal conditions—the sun was warm—the air fresh, and there was a cooling breeze at times. At two miles Dal, running magnificently, was 1st but over the closing stages he had pretty well run himself out and slipped back to 5th, not very far behind the leaders. His time was an excellent 13 mins. 34 secs. Dave Fiddes ran the second leg and took us into 4th place with a time of 14 mins. 5 secs. In front of us at this point were Durham, Loughborough and Leeds.

Away on the next leg went Dave Spence with several teams breathing down the back of his neck. Although he dropped one place and was not quite up to form Dave still turned in 13 mins. 51 secs—a good performance by any standards. Yet another Dave, Shaw this time, leapt away on the fourth leg and soon pulled back Pembroke, Cambridge and Leeds, just falling to catch Loughborough in 2nd place. The Skipper's time was a fast 13 mins. 18 secs. but he is obviously still some way from recapturing his best form.

Aiden Cotter, running in his first Hyde Park Relay ran an absolute blinder (13 mins. 59 secs.) and just kept us in 3rd place although losing considerable ground to Manchester in the process. Mike Down, not really fit enough to run, was up against some tough opposition on the last leg and although he ran even better than expected in the circumstances we finished 6th, Imperial College and Selwyn, Cambridge, slipping into 4th and 5th places respectively.

SPORTS FLASHES

THE last fortnight has been a most successful one for the Netball Club. Both the W.I.V.A.B. finalists, Reading and North Staffs., have been beaten by 27-9 and 22-18 respectively. Unlike last term's fiasco, the game with North Staffs. was played under strict umpiring and proved to be a much more enjoyable and worthwhile match. To date, the club has now won 14 of their 15 matches.

THE ladies aren't the only stars in the Badminton team these days. Research Metallurgist Gordon Lawrie and Arts Fresher Dave Hartshorn have recently represented the U.A.U. against the Scottish Universities at Manchester.

THE Lacrosse team have been in the wars again. They started one short against the Alice Ottley School on Saturday, and then Jones, the goalkeeper, received the ball in the eye and wasn't really with the rest of the game! The ladylike

ENGINEERS A EN FÊTE

ON Wednesday, February 17, a party of Electrical, Civil and Mechanical Engineers journeyed to Manchester in order to participate in the "Northern Universities Joint Engineering Society Gala Day."

At the Gala Dance, the highlights of the evening were a magnificent "Tidy Winks" contest and a lubricative "Schooner" race. Unfortunately the respective teams from Elec. Eng. and Mech. Eng. again found the conditions difficult, this time due to the effects of Manchester's Bar.

Although Birmingham did not bring home the celebrated "Pot," which would have been appreciated in any exalted chamber, a fine day was had by one and all.

Association Football

DRAMATIC CHANGE

ON a pitch made very treacherous by a slow thaw and rain falling during the game, the University were slow to master the conditions in their game against the Birmingham Wednesday League XI on Wednesday. Consequently the first 45 minutes produced an evenly fought game territorially, but the League always looked more dangerous in attack with the University defence finding trouble in keeping its feet, and it was fair reflection of the play when the University turned round at half-time one goal in arrears.

However, the second half produced a very different picture as the University proceeded to score five goals to achieve the most convincing win of the season. The scoring of two goals by Boddy and Fleming soon after the interval changed the whole aspect of the match, and gradually the University gained the upper hand as the opposition wilted under repeated attacks. That the forward line added three more goals—by Fleming, Roper and Sandford (from the penalty spot)—was proof of its ability to exploit the opposition's weakness and as the pressure was reduced, the defence was able to take on a more constructive role.

Roper's goal was a just reward for a skilful and effective game and several openings were the result of "Skipper" Sandford's drive and clever inter-play with his fellow inside-forward, Fleming. During the first half, West, at right-back, proved a very reliable defender, and, after a shaky start, centre-half Gray settled down as an ever present stumbling-block to the League's attack.

K.Y.

Women's Hockey

TRIUMPH AT CARDIFF

ON Wednesday the Women's Hockey Team were successful in their match against Cardiff University. From the start Birmingham were on the attack and led 2-0 at the end of the first half. The forwards distributed the ball evenly amongst themselves, and on the whole the passing was good, but the team lacked speed and there was a general atmosphere of lethargy. Throughout the game the defence played steadily, but without achieving any real brilliance.

Special mention must be made of Eileen Jaundrell, who scored four goals, and Doreen Hall's efficient goal-keeping and acrobatics—we had a perfect demonstration of a backward somersault at the edge of the circle! In the second half the game was faster and we maintained the lead, scoring a further three goals, making the final score of 5-2. Felicity Martin scored the remaining goal.

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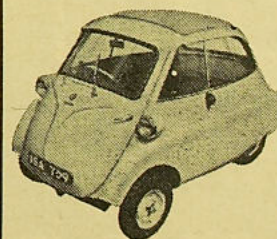
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MERMAID - - - - -

I AM sorry that I have not replied sooner to the criticism of the "Mermaid" that your paper carried two weeks ago for I wish to criticise the article in detail; not because it is badly written—note the confusion of tenses in the fifth paragraph—but because of its unsubstantiated opinions and confused ideas of the purpose of the magazine. Every year the Editor has the same problems and meets the same criticisms. Too often Editors reply: "If you don't like it, then it is your fault, for it is your magazine."

The Editor is responsible for what appears in the magazine. He is limited in his choice by the material that is sent in to him unless he orders articles from his acquaintances. These articles are his effective control over the nature of the magazine. I have tried to choose them according to the following principles.

Firstly, it is not correct to say that "Mermaid" is the "literary" magazine of this University. The word is not mentioned in the constitution. Nevertheless, it is literary by tradition. The critic would agree, yet he is as confused in his mind as many other critics. For he praises an article on film which does not fit into his own definition and, as the grand climax to his indictment says "Let us have—more articles which deal practically with the ordinary life with which the student is concerned. Are we not becoming educated, are we not living in an expanding university whose buildings promise to be unimaginative—to put it mildly?" My aim in printing such articles is stated by the critic himself.

On the other hand he wants "poetry and prose and one or two critical articles." The magazine certainly contains these but they may not be of the right type. If they are we are not told why. If he wishes our policy to be changed he might give us more help than, "After reading the specimens quoted at the end of this article, they are likely to be unacquainted by choice" or "Miss Pullin's poem too, is not unsuccessful." I confess, with shame, that we printed this poem with the stanzas in the wrong order.

There are never more than three or four "Creative" writers in the University at a time. But many of them require encouragement to reveal their talents. Most writers are going through the "derivative stage" at the University which tends to cloud their writing, but with a little "soul-searching" and more experience they will discover the quality of their abilities. I would be glad if Mr. Roberts would explain to me elsewhere what he means by "obscure," and why Mr. Carter has come to the "right" conclusions in his article on "film."

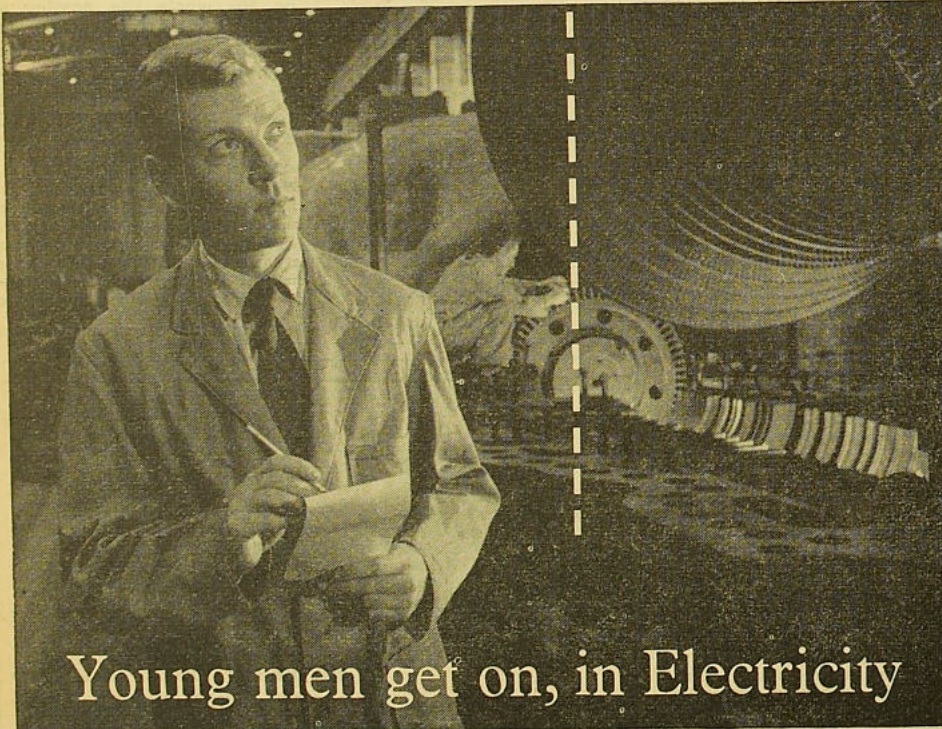
The "Mermaid" aims at printing both articles of "general" interest and "creative" pieces. In particular this year a series on "Education," on the Applied Arts—Town Planning next time—and an "Academic Corner," where students can practice discussing their own subjects. I am sorry that your critic cannot stand the academic.

D. ANDREW.

A man who loves machines

Age: 27. Joined Electricity Supply as a graduate trainee. Put A.M.I.Mech.E. after his name last year. Job: Assistant Maintenance Engineer in a power station. Hobby: Making working models.

It's his responsibility to keep the turbines in action and see they're stripped down for overhaul when they need to be. They're 'his' turbines and he cares for their health like a doctor. In fact, it's because he loves machines—the bigger the better—that he chose to work in power stations. The salary's good, too, and likely to be even better later on when he's Senior Charge Engineer—which he's fairly sure to be before he's forty.



Young men get on, in Electricity

HERE AND THERE

HAVING been revived by the cold northern air in time to save J1 from an attack of post-Founder's dementia impecunius, J2 returns this week to view with customary impartiality and objectivity the seething cess-pool of Guild life. Exec. by any other name would smell as sweet.

Hang, dear readers, hang breathlessly, and ecstatically on every word as we take our pens for the final commentary of the term. It has been suggested that we replace our usual esoteric and facetious harangue by a rhetorical monologue on Purity, Chastity and Charity. It would certainly please the Assistant Editor, though M.R.D.S. would have to refer to a dictionary. No! Something different is needed—how about "National B.O. Week" or "National Who yer taking to Guild Ball Week." We could review the achievements of the Spring Term, but that would be a futile waste of virgin paper. But it is noticeable that with the academic year half gone the runners are lining up for the Big Brother Stakes, 1960-61.

Already this year's officials begin to be dismissed with a shrug. Attention already focuses upon the conspiratorial clusters of the likely runners. At present a conservative observer estimates that there are at least 35 probabilities for the Presidential Handicap and 173 entries for the Executive Gold Cup.

Does the Prophet, we wondered, intend to lead his people out of the wilderness into the Promised Land? Will Ed. St. march ceremonially to Edgbaston led by their political giant clad in Presidential sack cloth and ashes? Or will Solomon decline the throne of his fathers, scorn the idle luxury of Exec. office? And perhaps leave the field open for that henchman of his, who, but for his yellow tie and lorgnettes, might easily be mistaken for a huntin', shootin' and fishin' gentleman farmer from the depths of Tory Warwickshire. Here is a talent indeed. After running our annual October orgy at a slight profit, the lad from Knowle is now making a take-over bid (on a basis of co-ownership, we trust) for control of

the entire Guild.

Who is the legitimate heir to King Stanilaus, of Selly Oak? The line of succession (with apologies to Mr. Jones, A.A. not R.T.) is as follows:

1. From the depths of the globe-trotting dept. comes Count Rastus von Turshil, mustachios bristling with bureaucratic efficiency. Policy: 7,000 committees in ten years.

2. Baron Blady, of Northern U.S. Policy: Student married quarters before its too late.

3. A candidate for the female punter—Feodor Flash Lubenstein, voted by the Tailor and Gutter, the best dressed man in Stanmore Rd. Policy: More beer (for Flash).

4. Dominating the field, vertically speaking, Godfrey, 1st Baron of Mooselore. Unofficial Court jester. Policy: Saturday night Hops at one guinea; entrance restricted to first 24 applicants.

5. Hon. Horace Mevanwi—late of gargantuan struggles in the University refectory.

6. D. Strube, reputed to be a member of the Exec.

7. Lady Violet Star-Weed—that old hoary campaigner for feminine equality. Take your pick—bets may be placed with "Guild News" staff at any time before the Hustings.

The only function we would report this week is the Deb. Soc. Ladies' Tournament. In the words of the sage: "You can take a horse to water but you can't make it drink," or "You can put a name on a poster but you can't make 'em speak." Fie on you Mr. Betteridge—teach your lackeys better manners. The Debate was ghastly—though we would agree with the comments of the learned adjudicator. One thing was outstanding—Mr. Read's rendering of the minutes; we would like to know who writes his material (sic).

J. & J. would like to place on record our appreciation of readers' comments—even if said behind our backs and even if artificially loud and intended for our benefit. We assure you we have no intention of abolishing G.T.G. and also we are not the apathetic destructive critics our fans label us. Thus, hail and farewell, we love you all.

J. & J.

COMPETITION CORNER

FOLLOWING recent Royal engagements we offer a superb prize for the best list of "The three people I would most like to see married." Be as vindictive as you like; rules... open to females only. All entries should have a stamped addressed photograph enclosed.

First Prize: A week-end at the U.F.A.W. Conference with the man of your choice.

DIK.

CINEMA COLUMN

ODEON (New Street): March 6 for seven days, "Operation Petticoat" with Cary Grant and Tony Curtis, and "The Awakening." Last programme 7.25.

WEST END (Suffolk Street): For a season, "South Pacific," with John Kerr and Mitzi Gaynor. Evenings at 7.15, matinee Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2.30. Sunday at 5.30. Seats bookable in advance.

FUTURIST (John Bright Street): Retained fourth week, "Journey to the Centre of the Earth," with James Mason, Pat Boone and Arlene Dahl.

FORUM (New Street): February 28 and week, "Moment of Danger" with Trevor Howard and Dorothy Dandridge; and "Surrender Hell" with Keith Andes and Susan Cabot.

GAUMONT (Steelhouse Lane): February 28 and week, "Odds Against Tomorrow," with Harry Belafonte, Robert Ryan and Shelley Winters, and "Fort Bowie," with Ben Johnson and Jan Harrison.

BRISTOL (Bristol Road): March 13 for a season, "Oklahoma," with Rod Steiger, Shirley Jones and Gordon Macrae; in Todd AO.

SCALA (Smallbrook Street): March 6 for seven days, "Libel," with Dirk Bogard and Olivia de Havilland, and "Mission of Danger," with Alan Hale, jnr.

CINEPHONE: Bristol St.

March 6 for 7 days

"The Mating Urge" (A)

"Dolls of Vice" (X)

WHAT'S ON

Thursday, March 3: The HUXLEY LECTURE 1959-60. Dr. N. T. Bergen on the subject "Some Evolutionary Aspects of Social Communication in Animals." 5 p.m. Concert Hall, Barber Institute. C.N.D. present "Shadow Over Hiroshima," followed by discussion. St. Francis Hall, 5.30 p.m. G.T.G. "A Memory of Two Mondays" and "The Maids," Deb Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, March 4: Danilo Dolci visits Britain. Public Meeting at The Union, 1.30 p.m.; Musical Society—Presidential Visit of Lennox Berkeley introducing some of his own music, in the Barber Institute at 1.10 p.m.

Saturday, March 5: Debate—"The British Policeman is not Worthwhile," in Women's Common Room, 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8: Open Lecture, Deb. Hall, 1.45 p.m., William Clark on "The United Nations and Underdeveloped Countries"; University House presents Christopher Fry's "The Lady's Not For Burning," at 7.30 p.m.

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