

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 542

Thursday, December 4, 1958

Threepence

TOTAL DOWN

We are very pleased to announce that Carnival 1958 has raised over £10,000 for local charities. Although this total is not perhaps as high as we would have liked, indeed all of you are aware of our target figure of £15,000, it is nevertheless a very respectable sum when we realise the amount of help that it can give to many charitable organisations.

But the success of this year's Carnival has not been purely financial. A very welcome achievement was the complete absence of friction between students, the public, and the civic authorities. The incorporation of a number of new entertainments has undoubtedly broadened the scope and appeal of this year's Carnival. The concert given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the International Variety Evening are two functions in particular which deserve mention.

However, we have not been willing to rest on the successes which we have achieved this year. Much has been learned, and in consequence certain innovations and changes have been proposed for next year. Probably the most important of these is a drastic re-organisation of Carnival Day itself, which seems to be the most inefficient aspect of Carnival. Otherwise, all the changes introduced into this year's Carnival were reasonably successful.

An important feature of many of these proposed innovations and recommendations for next year is that they are based on the feelings and experience of Carnival representatives. It is they, the people who are in direct contact

with the students in their departments, who are probably in the best position to mirror the opinions of members of the Guild.

In conclusion I should like to extend my thanks to all those who have helped to make Carnival so successful. First and foremost, this applies to each individual student who went out and sold tickets and magazines. It is upon these that we rely for the bulk of our income. A word of thanks

too, for those who staged all those stunts which have contributed so much to the brightening up of this Carnival.

We are very grateful also for the co-operation shown by the Birmingham police, the Lord Mayor and all the business people of Birmingham.

The staff of the Guild have shown extreme patience with the committee, and their reward is seen in the success of the 1958 Carnival.

DEREK SAMPSON
(chairman).

£10,579-11-9

CAR COMPETITION WINNER

Carnival Committee have announced that the winner of the "Car for a Bob" Competition was:

MISS F. PINFOLD,
8, SERPENTINE ROAD,
SELLY PARK,
BIRMINGHAM, 8,

whose estimate of £10,579
12s. 4d. was only wrong by
7d.

Brilliant open lecture

Few can have been disappointed at Francis Williams' Open Lecture on "The Press and Public Opinion." Throughout this memorable lecture there was, under the lively presentation, a sound and valuable practical basis.

From the initial premise that while the population had increased by 10 per cent., the reading of the national Press has increased by 90 per cent., Mr. Williams traced the growth of the popular press, from the first days of "The Times" to the present day. He showed how certain events had given a dramatic

impetus to newspaper production, citing as examples the renewal of the stamp duty in 1855, the Northcliffe revolution, and the equally effective offering of a set of Dickens or even a domestic utensil to readers of "The Daily X."

One of the most remarkable phenomena of post-war newspaper production has been the unrivalled circulation of the "Daily Mirror" and the "Daily Express." Part of this success has been due to the personal touch; the "Daily Mirror" receives 20,000 letters a day, all of which are answered personally.

A mass newspaper is not concerned with judging affairs but is rather the symptom of emotion. With the prize comment of the afternoon, Francis Williams described the popular press as the "Mine-field through which authority must step at its peril."

On the whole, he considered the popular press does not debase popular taste, and it rarely stoops to what a questioner called "mass indoctrination."

To-day there is no middle-range newspaper; for the high income group there are the papers of low circulation; for the lower income groups, papers of mass-circulation. The economics of the newspaper business are important, and as a result, he concluded, "the death rate of the provincial dailies is increasing."

And so, after a fine open lecture, my friend John and I went away highly satisfied; we may even read a little more of Francis Williams.

YO-YO.

Youth Festival and only a small part of the agenda is devoted to student activities and it was felt that the Union ought not to have a specific policy on the matter. Therefore the motion was not put.

The Council Meeting was very successful and no voting was directly against that of the Birmingham delegation.

SNOWDON REPORTS

Gone are the days of the long heated controversy and the all-night session. The Bangor Council Meeting had the smallest agenda in living memory and the majority of the motions were concerned with routine business; this situation arises probably because Grants and Welfare policy is now exceptionally clear and the Union's main purpose is to have this policy implemented. A detailed motion tabled by the Executive which gave our views on the Minister's decisions on Higher Education Awards as outlined in Administrative Memoranda 563 and 569 was carried. This motion points out that whilst the increase in the level of awards is double that granted in any previous review it falls short of the level shown by the Union survey to be necessary to cover the cost of full time study. The inadequacy of a triennial reassessment is also stressed, Union policy being that an annual reassessment is essential. Although policy is to abolish the Means Test entirely, Council did stress its keen disappointment that no substantial alleviation had been made.

Another motion from the Executive, carried with a large majority, recorded Council's deep disappointment that the Local Government Act, 1958, incorporating the Government's "Block Grant" proposals, contains no provision to protect University and Technical College Awards from local economies, either in the number or the level of grants. This new method of local government finance is to give a local authority a block grant with no regulations as to how it should be allocated. Council felt that this method would encourage certain local authorities to fall below a proper national standard in its higher education expenditure.

After the publication of the Administrative Memoranda the Ministry of Education set up the Anderson Committee to enquire into the whole subject of Student Awards: the N.U.S. had been pressing for the formation of such a committee for some time. Motions on this subject were composed and in the resulting motion Council instructed its

Executive to submit a memorandum based on Union policy to the Anderson Committee, to enlist all possible support from outside organisations interested in Higher Education and to encourage member Unions to publicise N.U.S. policy in relation to Student Awards as much as possible. University College, London, put forward their view that certain academic courses are overloaded thus preventing students from participating in the non-academic activities "which are essential to the obtaining of the full benefit of a higher education." A long discussion ensued as many Councillors thought it was presumptive of the National Union of Students to interfere with what was thought to be the private sphere of the Universities. It was pointed out, however, that the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals had recommended that students be consulted on the composition and administration of academic courses. Council, therefore, passed the

motion which urged that the relevant authorities examine where and how this situation can be remedied and to act accordingly.

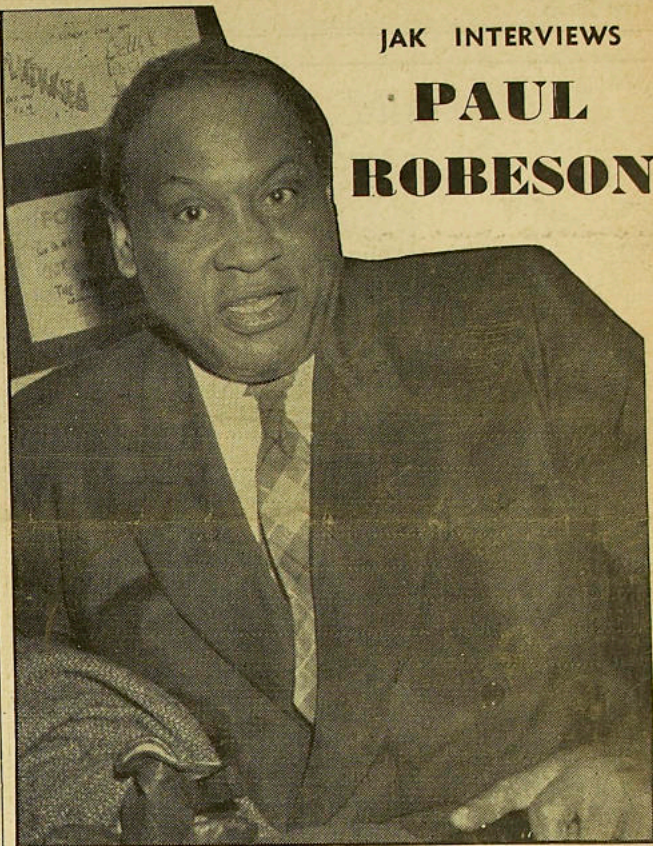
Leeds University wanted a bigger and better N.U.S. Song Book: Council humoured them and the motion was passed.

A motion calling for the inclusion of religious and political discussions in Student News was rejected. It has always been N.U.S. policy not to discuss political matters unless they affect the student "as such." It was felt by many Councillors that, although students look upon the paper as a newspaper, members of the general public may regard it as the official organ of Union policy and political discussion might lower our prestige.

A motion from Sheffield University called upon Council to support the 7th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Vienna. Observers have been sent to these Festivals in the past and discovered that they have a strong political bias. The Festival 1958 essentially a

JAK INTERVIEWS

PAUL ROBESON



'FIRE AHEAD' INVITED MR. ROBESON

Paul Robeson walked down the stairs and crossed the hall of the Queen's to where I was standing. He inquired if I was the person who had just telephoned and woken him from his slumbers. I replied that I was and we moved into the lounge and sat down. "Fire Ahead" invited the beaming Mr. Robeson and I did.

We talked of the prospect of him playing Othello at Stratford next year, and he said he was very pleased with the idea of acting the Shakespearean part as opposed to the Verdi operatic adaptation.

He informed me that he had started his professional career as an actor, and that in his early career had known the playwright Eugene O'Neill and acted in many of his plays.

The first British production that he had appeared in being "All God's Children" in 1928 in which he had starred with Flora Robson.

Questioned on his taste in music Mr. Robeson said he liked any music that was close to the folk idiom and that his favourite composers were Bartok and Moussourgsky. He also volunteered that he admired all jazz, but asked if he liked the so-called Rock and Roll SINGERS he exploded:

"Who would waste two minutes with Presley when there are singers like Leadbelly and Sonny Terry." He added that Rock and Roll, which to his mind was just a tremendously exaggerated form of Dixieland, didn't come into the realm of serious discussion.

Jazz musicians who did come into his realm of serious discussion were Thelonius Monk, Charlie "Bird" Parker, and the M.J.Q.; he also thought that jazz-lovers who appreciated the more modern form of jazz usually listened to modern classical music as well.

Asked whether the rumour that he had come to live in Britain for good was true, he replied that he hopes to make London the centre of his artistic life but that he was not considering giving up the country of his birth.

He joked that while in America he always lived in San Francisco because the climate reminded him of London.

SWALLOW
Fine in the Train - Coats

Guild News

Number
542Selly Oak
1841THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

Editor Cyril Hershon
Assistant Editor Brian Wood
Business Manager Guy Rastall
Sports Editor Peter Coultas
Advertising Manager Enid Burrows
Circulation Manager Mark Seaward
Subscription Manager Caroline Wilson
Staff Megan Jones, Doreen Hall, Margaret Pountney,
Margaret South, Chris Collins, Barry Cooper,
Myra Barrs, Danny Bragg, Pat Doughty

Guild Council elections are now over; the results have been posted up in a prominent position, and they have been noted with care and satisfaction by all the electorate, as well as other interested parties. Or is this really the case? In fact, elections have been the usual fracas of the chosen few being elected by others of equally small number. One might have thought that they were kept a closely-guarded secret, if one is to judge by the way they were conducted. Geography, for example, hitherto regarded as one of the foremost departments in Guild affairs, were unable to muster even one candidate, while the Education Department showed their usual aloofness by not nominating their full quota. This latter department, though consisting of graduates in fact, is allowed all the rights and privileges of every member of the Guild of Undergraduates, yet is unwilling to take some responsibility.

What about the nomination list in general? In many cases it was a matter of friends nominating each other. This "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" attitude has resulted in the past in a moribund council, and one can hardly blame people for condemning the body as quite ineffectual, which it is. Week after week, the same few members speak in the council debates, raising points either of general or constituency importance, and while their particular energy is to be applauded, they must feel that the onus on their shoulders is becoming somewhat weighty, especially when they have to face a continual barrage of criticism of belonging to a clique.

This attitude is prevalent everywhere. In fact, we were interested to see it figure in "Union News," the Leeds University paper, this week. We do not dare to suggest that ALL candidates are put up for personal reasons, but the results of council meetings seem to point in that direction. Too many people go "committee collecting," with a view to how good it will look later on in their applications for posts. This selfishness reaps its rewards undoubtedly, but many societies, outside the Guild circle, suffer as a result. We can but appeal to the new councillors to stir up the complacency of many of the old, to make worthwhile contributions to council proceedings, to help Exec. by constructive rather than destructive criticism, and to take back information to their constituents as well as receive the latter's views on all matters that concern them. Only in this way will representation on Guild Council be justified; democracy is a nebulous term, but if we wish to run our Guild according to its principles, then we must justify it not falling into the hands of an oligarchy.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Dear Sir,
I am sorry that your correspondent, Mr. C. L. Jones completely misunderstood my letter. The basic assumptions I make are that individuals have a right to govern themselves and as a corollary to this to think for themselves.

I would never suggest that "all schoolchildren are intelligent"; though it is true that some are more intelligent than others. I cannot understand how this is related at all to my letter. The fact that the individual is not a potential University graduate should surely not preclude him from taking an active part in the self-government of his school.

I also realise that all children are not always well-behaved. This, I believe, is partly a result of the mutual disrespect between teacher and child. A solution to this problem, I suggested, was that formal pupil-teacher relationships should be changed; that each child should be treated as an individual, and that work be arranged to suit his peculiarities. This I believe to be the most desirable (though not the only way) of overcoming the problem of indiscipline. In the film "Blackboard Jungle" which your correspondent mentioned, the obvious shortage of properly qualified staff made such an approach impossible for the school as

a whole. The success of Glen Ford lay in winning the respect of his pupils by his understanding of their problems and a realisation of their needs.

It is certainly true that many teachers know more than most pupils, but I cannot understand how this statement conflicts with the views in my letter. I did not say that pupils should "have the power to dismiss and engage staff." I suggested that children must be given "MORE" control over the organisation and administration of the schools. One aspect of this is in the selection of staff. Why should not a representative of the children's interests sit on a council representing the teachers' and parents' interests. I can well see the difficulties; but the advantages also exist—that the children feel that they are helping to take part in the government of their own affairs. This, I should have thought is one of the fundamentals of a democratic state.

With regard to "exams and reports," if my original letter is carefully read, it will be seen that the operative words are "MUCH of the paraphernalia of our educational system ... can be dispensed with." I realise that under present competitive conditions exams are sometimes inevitable.

However, this reliability and usefulness of exams as a means of selection is, in many cases doubtful. The mere summation of marks on school mark lists makes the rankings almost meaningless; the 11-Plus examination procedure is now almost universally discredited; and many training colleges have abolished exams completely. I think this tendency has not gone far enough.

In many cases I do consider that "obedience and reliability" are evils; that kind of obedience which is necessary in a repressive totalitarian regime (whether it be Hungary, Portugal, the local church assembly, or that kind of reliability which supports one's girl friend, headmaster, country or theory, whether it be right or wrong).

Lastly, I certainly do not want "unreliable leaders." Ideally, I don't want leaders of any kind, because I don't want to be led. I look forward to a civilisation in which people can lead themselves, in which it will not be necessary for bureaucrats to emerge, to take on the corrupting powers of leadership. To this end I would direct changes in the schools.

Yours, etc.,
DAVID LANE.

SIX CHARACTERS

Dear Sir,
May Edward Street warble once more—and these his last—in these noble pages?

I should not like to seem unhappy, not to say ungrateful, at K.W.R.'s remarks about G.T.G.'s production of "Six Characters in Search of an Author" in last week's Guild News. (Even if he has ignored my appearance as the Mighty Marvo in his estimate of my performance). However, I should like to record this one thing.

"My drama lies entirely in..." no, sorry.

That if I have achieved any measure of success as the father in this play, the credit is entirely due to the patience, intelligence, kindness, and understanding of our producer, Ralph Wilton. It was he who created and shaped this performance, with me lagging weakly behind in comprehension. I think that K.W.R. was not aware of this, and therefore gave a criticism of the production which was out of proportion and unfair. A critic's job, we all know, is difficult. Especially when he is writing so fiercely to time as K.W.R. was. But, just for once, would you, sir, allow a glimmer of the actual facts to appear to your readers in publishing this?

Yours, etc.,
ROGER JEROME.

K.W.R. WRITES

Truth will out! The only concern that the critic has with "truth" is in estimating his own opinion. All criticism is opinion, and when someone comes along and says these are the only truly begotten facts and thinks that he has invalidated a criticism, he is woefully wrong.

The whole situation is further involved when opinion is given on one performance out of six. Had I written on the performance I saw on Saturday and not the first night one, generous and well-deserved praise would have been everyone's portion. Having seen the play again, I should like to acknowledge that Ralph Wilton's production was excellent indeed and that he has set a new standard for G.T.G. plays.

LUNCHEON CLUB

Dear Sir,
With so much of your interest coupled with the difficulties of catering, may I suggest the regular formation of a Luncheon Club, to meet in the Lesser Hall; membership of which would involve attendance at lunch at least three times a week.

The Pirkin Club has regular meetings, some of which are lunches of the kind which I will now outline; on the side tables are set various cheeses, fish, meat and delicatessen, with a choice of meats and pickles. With the luncheon we usually have bottled beer, but can guarantee the excellence of a scheme based on say doughnut goodness, or perhaps the key beers. There is no compulsion and no restriction; certainly no petty jealousy, and I see no reason why draught wines should not remove the pain of their expense.

Anticipating the interest of yourself and your readers, I am,

Yours, etc.,
OLIVER GRIFFIN.

PRESS POST

HANDS OFF WALL

Dear Sir,
I joined "Wall" staff in a spirit of gay abandon expecting to be able to put into print (or rather type-script), anything short of libel or indecency. Now, after not even a full term, I find myself a bitter and frustrated cynic—"freedom of speech"—freedom of the press—"mein Gott! Tell me another! Heaven knows, Mr. Editor, what I feel that articles like the one of Mr. Gunn a fortnight ago and the one of "Medic" in the last edition, are unjustified. The "hot air" for which they have been responsible serves no purpose. I suggest these people and their followers get down off the already tottering soap-boxes and use their time to more purpose by passing on their enthusiasm to students who have so much maligned.

Yours, etc.,
RICHARD JAY.Ed. Street
column
The
unquiet
library

Rumours that this column is to be permanently reserved for the solution of readers' problems are false and should be stopped at once.

I have it on authority that the electricity fuse on Tuesday evening was not due to interference from members. One was unable to see one's food in the dining room—a fact not without many games of chess continued; other activities also flourished. Yet perhaps a bell ought to have been rung two minutes before the lights came on again. I must be significant that an armchair should appear in one of the corridors the following evening.

A correspondent whose letter was published in last week's edition seems to be advocating cash over the coffee cup as a probable form of recreation. If any one read this, some reaction must have been caused regarding the nature of conversation which does actually take place. So I am I can see, there is virtually none which bears much significance. "How many did you put in?—Have you stirred it?—We didn't you get me a saucer?—Those two still going out together?—I had a wonderful time last night," seem to exhaust the range of topic.

It is curious that so much discussion is reserved for places where silence should be observed. The library, in particular, seems to inspire great eloquence even amongst the most taciturn. As to this the clash of knitted needles, the heavy exhalation of eucalyptus—laden breath, the stamping of feet and the hilarity from some no doubt amusing anecdote—these provide an atmosphere most conducive to study for those intent on realising some benefit from that elusive element "the spare hour."

ELECTIONS

Dear Sir,
As an elector in the recent Guild Council elections, I was appalled to read at the foot of a poster giving notice of the election that: "No candidate(s) may advertise himself, etc." or words to that effect. Why is this?

The first-year student, prior to the election, was strongly urged to vote—and show that he (or she) was not apathetic to Guild matters. How can one be anything but apathetic when one knows nothing about the people for whom one is voting? If these people are willing to be elected, what harm is done if they put up posters revealing themselves and their dynamic ideas to the electorate that they hope to represent? At present the election is a farce and candidates may as well draw lots for the jobs.

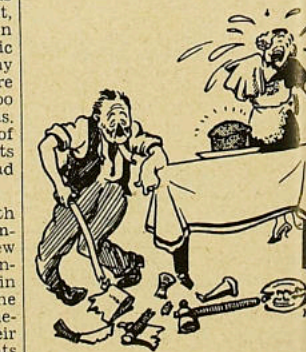
Perhaps some member of the executive would care to enlighten me through your columns?

Yours, etc.,
A. BARROW.

RESPONSIBILITY

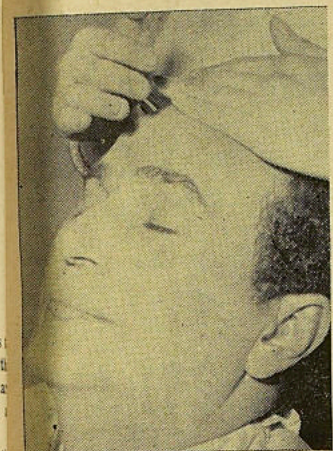
Dear Sir,
In the past few weeks Guild News and "Wall" have contained numerous attacks on the average student, accusing him of being uninterested in the affairs of the Guild and apathetic towards its activities. I do not deny that some of these criticisms are justified, but their authors are far too sweeping in their generalisations. The critics reveal a complete lack of knowledge of their fellow-students and a pathetic lack of ability to read character.

Not all students are filled with ambition or attempt to be "committee collectors," but there are few who are prepared to deny all responsibility. Most students are active in one or many of the societies of the Guild. They do not seek the limelight and yet are sneered at for their modesty. A vast number of students



ARCH-GOON READS 'GUILD NEWS'

Last week our reporter took her life in her hands and went down, armed with that Queen of Papers (as if you couldn't guess), to the A.B.C. television studios at Aston. At last, Arch-Goon, MICHAEL BENTINE, was contacted, surrounded by masses of our national heritage, Spon. (Picture 1). Mr. Bentine was evidently very happy to receive our paper ... it showed in his face.



'FILLS A LONG-FELT NEED'

(Picture 2). The contents proved too strong, and our Goon friend had to be revived with the aid of an ice-pack. (This photograph must be kept away from Mrs. Bentine.)

(Picture 3). Finally convinced of our harmlessness, Michael Bentine faced our reporter with a smile. Pressed for a decision he regarded ... and a fiendish smile lit his face ... "Yes," he beamed, "Guild News fills a long-felt want."

PICTURES BY JAK

THE LOST CAUSISTS

Birmingham University is dead.

This is cheap journalism—so what!

The only causes Wall News (the outlet of University feeling) supports, are Mr. Luby's pipes and Mr. Jarvis.

One always sees the same faces in the Union, and amongst these the few active members of the Guild.

Whatever the University is, or is supposed to be, one gets the vague impression that Birmingham is little more than a glorified school, with some undergraduates, but too small a percentage acting like students. But what should students act like? Should they grow beards (if they can), become existentialists, discuss Marx and dialectical materialism, and if they are women students, dye their hair all the colours of the rainbow? Whatever they do, they should not be like overgrown sixth formers. Grow up boys and girls, take off the spectacles, leave the library for a moment, teacher isn't watching you—and for God's sake let off steam!

Youth, the age of freedom; little responsibility, the time to experiment—experiment with ideas, experiment with machines, experiment with g...., but do experiment, be active, be venturesome, go on chaps, do. For the rest of our lives most of us will be paid servants; here is the golden opportunity to live! We hit the high spots—every Saturday night at the Hop? An over-large cattle market!

Interest in politics? No membership figures available—but the activity of most undergraduates is nil.

Many students have one idea besides working for the future letters behind their name: the opposite sex. This is very commendable. This is a cause? Perhaps a true one. One that has resulted in the downfall of most of mankind.

What dire offence from amorous causes springs, What mighty contests rise from trivial things...

Say what strange motive, goddess! could compel A well-bred lord t'assault a gentle belle?

I blush! The old rogue! He was a cripple; but still he was interested. Mr. Pope once claimed he wrote—

"To pass away this long disease, my life," Most of us here have a disease (not that one, boys), a disease

'GUILD NEWS' PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY

STANLEY DOLPHIN

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COFFEE TALK

You will see occasionally about town, elsewhere, small vans bearing the words "So-and-So, Office Furnishings and Shopfitters." Shopfitters, that is the word and I must impress it on my mind. Shopfitters. Whenever I see this word, by some trick of the eye or twist of the imagination, I read it as shoplifter. The van always passes too quickly for me to re-read the words, but it is shop-fitter, not shop-lifter ... I think.

"Cousin Albert, I could not think you so absurd. To actually have the words written on our vans. What would Great-Aunt Maud say?" Cousins Albert and Fenton lift their eyes reverently to the portrait of the firm's founder. "Really, Cousin Albert, the situation is too ridiculous."

"I cannot agree with you, Cousin Fenton. Ever since the day Great-Aunt Maud was seen to be secreting the complete works of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, in her bustle and was accosted by Mr. Smith... was it W. H. or the son? ... She cut him dead of course and walked out. Ever since that day, I repeat, audacity has been out watchdog."

"Those were golden days, Cousin Albert."

Ah yes, golden days. No three

lipsticks from Messrs. Boots, two paste brooches and a pair of stockings. These, mark you, were Miss Smithers' swag on Tuesday, November 12. Three lipsticks as swag!!

"Swag, cousin?"

"Yes, swag. The etymology is obscure, but it is the word used to denote one's haul."

"Ah the loot! Dear me, a mere three lipsticks. Why, I mind the day when dear Aunt Maud—you were just a lad at the time—came in with four rolls of calico before lunch."

"That was audacity, cousin Albert."

"And initiative, cousin Fenton."

"Yet to put the word, to have it painted large, to write shop-lifters on our vans. A little foolhardy, cousin Albert."

"One must move with the times, Aunt Maud was a great woman, but one cannot live entirely in the past. To-day one must advertise."

But "Brownridge, Office Furnish-
ing and Shop-Lifter". A little brazen, cousin, a little brazen.Nonsense. Pray excuse the word, H. or the son? ... Nonsense. People will think it says "Brownridge, Office Furnish-
ing and Shop-fitters."

Then I don't see the point...

No more do I, cousin Fenton. No more do I."

SCIATICUS

This week in
The Listener

(ISSUE DATED DECEMBER 4)

CHRISTMAS BOOK NUMBER

Reviewers include:

Phyllis Bentley, C. E. Carrington, Peter Fleming,
E. M. Forster, C.H., Christopher Hollis,
Marghanita Laski, Sir Francis Meynell, Sir
Herbert Read, Goronwy Rees, A. L. Rowse

Other features include:

THE REITH LECTURES

by Professor A. C. B. Lovell, F.R.S., on
"THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE UNIVERSE"
4—ASTRONOMY AND THE STATE

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

(the first of four talks on 'Looking to the Future')
Lord Samuel, O.M.

PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST

Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskell

THE FUTURE OF BROADCASTING

Sir Arthur Forde

MARRY FORSOOTH!

(on conventions in the historical novel)
Margaret Kennedy

and other features

A BBC PUBLICATION

EVERY THURSDAY

FROM NEWSAGENTS & BOOKSELLERS

6

Stanford & Mann
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LOWER CORRIDOR, MAIN BUILDING

In Town: 72, NEW STREET, 2

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND STUDENTS

The cultural and recreational needs of the people of the Republic are well supplied by the trade unions, the Czechoslovak Youth Movement and the State ministries.

By
COLIN
YARDLEY

For example, in Gottwaldov, an industrial town of 50,000 people, there are three cinemas, a sports stadium, theatre, concert hall and art gallery. The town has 40 cultural clubs, with an average active membership of 50 each. These clubs are organised and financed by the local trade union, which has at its disposal a large workers' club centre. This is the home-town of the Svít (Star) Ensemble, which delighted many British audiences with their folk songs and dances last spring. The Ensemble well remember the grand reception they had in the Union Debating Hall and send their greetings to the students of Birmingham.

It is the common experience of visitors to Czechoslovakia to find that the people are very culture-conscious. This impression stems partly from facts and figures—14 professional symphony orchestras, 11 operatic companies and 3,500 cinemas etc.—and partly from the packed theatres, abundant book and record shops, and the flourishing amateur groups in village, town and factory.

The easy accessibility of culture, in all its forms, to all sections of the population is but another manifestation of the very marked freedom of society in Czechoslovakia. Economic reorganisation and, advance social security and sound education have removed not only financial class distinctions but also are intellectual barriers being progressively eliminated. Everyone can now afford to visit the theatre and buy books, and most people do so; cultural enjoyment is no longer the prerogative of the rich.

What of cultural exchange with other countries? British art, for example, has a far wider audience in the Republic than has Czechoslovak art in Britain. There is a very wide following for jazz in Czechoslovakia as is evidenced by the many jazz clubs. Especially popular is Dixieland style. Karel Vlach's Dance Band, widely known on the Continental radio, Benny Goodman, Ellington and Gershwin are widely appreciated on radio and record. British and American films are often shown and in August, "Doctor at Large" and revivals of "The Kid" and "Syncopation" were having long runs in Prague.

Has State control of the arts led in any way to their stagnation or confinement? The Czech's answer to have the arts so flourished as since

they came under the control of the State—that is, under the control of the people. Actors and musicians no longer suffer unemployment "rests." There are plenty of jobs to take up this question is that never before all available talent, and the greater the talent the greater the reward. State control has built 20 new theatres in Czechoslovakia since the war. In this time, how many new theatres has private enterprise built in Britain?

Will not Socialist realism lead to the death of art? Millions of people saw an answer to this question in Brussels, where Czechoslovak architectural design took first prize. Another answer can be found, for example, in the Prague art galleries. Surrealist painting forms a smaller proportion of exhibits than in British galleries, but the artist is completely free to paint it if he wishes. There is, however, less chance of his work being bought, because it is, at least for the present time, very esoteric. Surrealism is seen—perhaps where it belongs—in the interior decoration of night clubs. Arts Council buys that which it thinks is good for the public, in Czechoslovakia public money buys what the public wants.

Socialist realism attempts to show the world as it is really is. In painting a portrait the artist will penetrate beyond the aspect of a single man in order to create the likeness of all men in that job, with that education and of that temperament. The painter's experience and his eye for facts, rather than superficialities, will produce a generalisation; the general is depicted in the particular. The picture, besides being enjoyable, displays something of significance and is socially educative.

The flourishing culture and general awareness and vitality of the Czechoslovak people are the direct results of their struggles for better conditions of life. The youth of Czechoslovakia, by manning the farming and construction brigades which are completely voluntary and very well supported) have helped in the building of their country. By raising the economic standing of the whole nation, they have won for themselves better living standards and educational opportunities than have ever existed before. In an industrial country like Czechoslovakia new techniques lead to expansion in production to the benefit of all the people.

PROFILE

Ken Williams, of E.P.S., is a familiar figure in the Union, slightly-built, impeccably well-dressed, cheerful and friendly, and rarely seen without his little antique pipe which belonged to his great-grandfather.

He is something of a paradox. He gives the impression, and does in fact confess to being utterly impractical and to loathe work in all shapes and forms. Yet, early this term, he occupied the post of vacation work secretary. From there he moved on to become local N.U.S. secretary, and has also been on Guild Council. In all these posts he has shown extraordinary powers of organising ability and a great capacity for intelligent planning. So much for his impracticality!

He recently attended the annual council of the N.U.S. at Bangor. He is of the opinion that undergraduates are not sufficiently aware of the work of the N.U.S. and fully supports the future campaign intended to publicise the N.U.S. and its policy. He does not believe in the cult of apathy. "Students are not apathetic," he says, "they are simply uninformed. They do not realise that, although a degree is of prime importance, a fully developed personality through social training is of very great value to them in life." He supports the view that university courses are so heavily

loaded that the student does not have sufficient time for those activities which are vital for his education as an individual.

In matters of culture, Ken continues paradoxical. While admiring drama, classical music, modern jazz and Bartok, his favourite literature is.... "Wail." The highlight of his week is reading Crax. In his darker moods, he is reported to be a misogynist. "Women," he says aggressively, "are quite irritating, and I can't stand them in slacks!" This is apparently a result of co-education in Gloucestershire, where Ken comes from. He has no patience with sport, "others can do it if they like, but not me!"

Apparently casual and carefree, he is actually most enthusiastic and hardworking in the interests of the Guild. His friends bear witness to his warmth, generosity, good humour and wit. He is a good advertisement of the policy he supports. While emphasising the importance of the academic side, he is also determined to get the most out of university life by devoting to it much of his energy and enthusiasm. M.W.J.



Ken Williams

OUT WITH CHRISTOPHER

Major W. H. Keys is the head of a large industrial firm in West Bromwich, and a busy and successful business man; nonetheless, he finds a very great deal of time and energy to devote to West Bromwich Albion in particular, and football in general. The extent of his general interest in soccer is shown by the fact that he is a member of the F.A. Council and also of both the Rules Revision Committee and the International Selection Committee of the F.A. In all these capacities, and many others, he has given great service to football as a whole.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION

As to the club in particular, his interest is both personal and family, for as well as his love of football as such, it was his father whom he succeeded as chairman in 1930—his father having been a director of the club since 1896—so, realising the founding of the League was in 1888 one can see just how great a part the Keys family has played in West Bromwich's history. Major Keys is indeed a very good example of those business men all over the country who do so much for football—so much and so inconspicuously. And these men, unlike most promoters (for want of a better word), of professional sport, do it purely for love of the game, for they obtain little financial return from it. Take West Bromwich, for example. Although the club assets are more than £80,000 plus the value of the ground, there are only 496 £1 shares. Thus, however successful the season, the maximum amount paid out in dividends can only be about £26—the rest

is ploughed back into the club. Moreover, these shares are widely held; Major Keys himself only holds 12, hardly a position of excessive profit.

West Bromwich without doubt owes a great deal to Major Keys and his board of directors, and also I believe, to the harmony and co-operation existing between its directors and manager. One of the most interesting points made to me was that a board should accept and

share with its manager the responsibility for its team's performance and form. If more clubs did this I'm sure the position of manager would become a very much less precarious one. To my mind manager should never become a scapegoat; moreover, harmony between directors and manager is a fairly leads to good results. If West Bromwich's present record and the over the past few years be taken as proof.

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NIGHT CLUB OPENS

At noon on November 29, the new Rednal night club was opened by singing star David Whitfield.

As I approached the picturesque wooden building nestling at the foot of the Lickey Hills, I was surrounded by a pack of screaming teenagers who tried to stop me entering the premises, they were no doubt under the impression that I had their golden haired idol, David Whitfield, secreted about my person. Finding that I hadn't they at last let me gain access to the building.

I was struck by the spaciousness of the decor and the availability of seating accommodation, but my perusal was soon interrupted by a white-coated waiter who pressed a glass in my hand and asked if I would like to join the "press."

I walked to one of the two bars and was soon in deep conversation with a man from a national newspaper, who gave me a few tips on how to obtain the most unsavoury tit-bits of news. David Whitfield arrived amid a chorus of female screams and a barrage of flashlights popped.

David Whitfield had a drink with Mr. Morgan, the owner of the Chalet, and another barrage of flashlights popped. I felt I was situated in the centre-piece of the Blackpool Illuminations, for every move the celebrated singer made was photographically recorded for posterity—or at least for to-morrow's editions.

A respite from the neon-filled tubes was afforded when dinner was served.

There was quite a wide choice of dishes for this grand inaugural luncheon and I plumped for Melon Cocktail, Chicken à la populaire and Caramel Cream. The food was well cooked and served although neither was in any manner exotic.

After the meal I managed to have a few words with the cigar-smoking Mr. Whitfield. He was enamoured with the club and thought it should be a very popular spot both as a luncheon and dinner habit. The conversation moved on to the topic of show business and he talked of the show he was in at the Coventry Hippodrome and asked me if I had seen it. David (for by this time we were on Christian name terms) asked if I would like to see it that night and that he would drive me over there for that very purpose.

YOUR GUILD NEWS REPORTER GOES TO THE OPENING OF THE CHALET COUNTRY CLUB

When I came back to reality the cabaret was in progress. Two attractive young ladies, who I think went by the name of the Rainbow Sisters, were rendering one of the popular ditties of the day.

After their performance a virile youth approached the mike and proclaimed that he was "The only man on the island," and the cabaret was over. The resident band returned to the rostrum and played music for the club and I was informed that Mr. Whitfield was leaving and was I ready to leave also.

We made our way out through the still screaming pack of teenagers, to the gigantic pink and black Fairlane.

I arrived at the theatre just in time to see the curtain rise on the 21st Birthday Show.

It was a well dressed and well produced show, consisting of various variety turns interspersed with production numbers. These were extremely colourful and I particularly enjoyed the carnival scene at the end of the first half.

In the interval I was invited to the artists' bar and introduced to several members of the cast. I was glad to find that Cedric, of the Three Monarchs' act, was as mad off the stage as on. Back to the show and to the polished performance of the Three Kaye Sisters, the near-the-knuckle jokes of Jimmy Wheeler and of course the perfected singing of "Our David."

David Whitfield's room was filled with congratulatory telegrams, golf clubs and photographs of his family, and to me this decor showed the kindly nature of this post-cement-mixer star.

He mentioned a TV show on December 13 and rehearsals for the Birmingham Hippodrome pantomime in which he appears on Xmas Eve. The show runs until mid-March when he will make a short variety tour before he takes an early vacation in Majorca after which he will play a summer season probably in Brighton.

CONCERT DIARY

SIBELIUS has always remained close to the hearts of music lovers in this country, and to many it is incomprehensible that such a great composer should be afforded such scant attention in other countries.

Germany is positively hostile to anything but Lemminkäinen. Only in England are we given the opportunity of hearing all seven symphonies. America, I'm afraid, no longer responds to Sibelius's particular brand of Celtic twilight, and only his Second Symphony appears with any degree of regularity in Transatlantic programmes.

Whatever the response, Sibelius's symphonies, to quote Alec Robertson, "stand out like mountain peaks," and to dismiss them is to show scant respect for the work of genius. Apart from his first tentative excursion into the form, Sibelius wrote great symphonies. Works which for all their remoteness carry with them an incredibly personal quality. If they are cold, their coldness approximates to great heat. Here, par excellence, is the musical catharsis. Anyone in doubt of the stature of this Finnish composer should listen to the Fourth and Seventh Symphonies and ponder on the apocalyptic visions contained in them. They are not, as has been suggested, mere nature studies, mere snowscapes or evocations of pine

forests. Rather are they the work of a mind at one with its environment. Sibelius's swans fly northward to some non-existent sun, they do not adorn some lakeland scene.

If one is a little disappointed with the Second Symphony, it is only because Sibelius said so much more in the Seventh, a work which dwarfs all contemporary efforts and many others beside. For all that, however, the Second is a vastly enjoyable work. It has a great nobility, created in part by the brass chording and sustained string passages, while the themes themselves have that rugged heroic quality so typical of the composer's early works.

Harold Gray himself thinks the Fourth Symphony is Sibelius's greatest work, but his reading of the Second last Sunday showed how highly he regards this work. His performance was, in fact, a tremendous one. The work unfolded logically with no exaggerated tempi and with a particularly well judged dynamic range. The climaxes were really climaxes and the quiet insistent pizzicato of the second movement was managed perfectly. The orchestra at its best was very good, but scrappiness tended to rob Mr. Gray's interpretation of its true stature. Even so, it was still a great performance. —K.T.

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FASHION COLUMN

The problem of everyday dress is an acute one for women students.

Obviously, on a limited income, separates are the best solution but it is surprising how unimaginative the usual approach to this subject is. Most students confine themselves to a number of interchangeable sweaters and skirts with dreary results. In this article I hope to suggest a few pretty and practical alternatives to the skirt and sweater cliché.

We must acknowledge America as the leading centre for college girl clothes. The first thing they gave us was the jumper or pinafore dress. This adapts itself very readily to the new Chemise and Empire lines and is especially striking when teamed with a fringed stole—a welcome change from the ubiquitous scarf. Another very wearable new shape is the Trapeze and here I have sketched a Trapeze line suit worn over a sweater which would be most useful and would look well in the latest fashion fabric—mohair.



Mohair in its very fluffy form also makes nice cuddly skirts. The present emphasis is on texture as much as on line or colour, and a mohair skirt, although rather expensive, would go hopping as well as to lectures. A cheaper alternative is a skirt in travelling rug checks—made in an evening from a real travelling rug.

The overblouse is another fashion which is an obvious choice for

university wear. Made in a needlecord, jersey wool or even a light tweed it is equally as useful as a sweater and more economical to make. For the knitters in our midst, the latest Vogue knitting book is devoted to overblouses.

Finally let me add a plea for a well tailored blouse. London Pride last year brought out a new range of



'MAB'

JAZZ NOTES

ANOTHER GEORGE MELLY?

"HAVE A DRINK," invited the sweated, bearded and bearded individual, handing me a bottle of Scotch. "You know," he continued, "last night was the first time I have sung in public." It seemed that several friends had inveigled him to the Midland Jazz Club the night before, and had persuaded Len Bunch to let him sing with the band. This he had done, and the enterprising Mr. Bunch had been so impressed that he had invited him to sing with the Second City Jazzmen at the Town Hall the following evening.

Our newcomer informed me that he liked to sing folk songs to his own guitar accompaniment, though he naturally also liked the blues. My mind swung to thoughts of either "Last Train to San Fernando" or "Careless Love," but I was surprised when he announced that he intended to sing "219 Blues" tonight. This was pleasing, for it showed that he was not a transient skiffler, a type who was not to hear in the second half of the concert when Johnny Duncan played.

All too soon the Scotch was finished and it was time for my new-found friend to perform. I watched him as he combed his beard and climbed the stairs to the stage, and Pete Wilks, for I now discovered his name, walked to the mike and started to sing. And I do mean sing. Although still a little rough around the edges, his voice has a rich, full sound, and he had very good intonation as well as a reasonable stage technique. I think that we shall hear a lot more of Mr. Wilks in the future.

A RHYTHM CLUB EVENT

Although the atmosphere outside was cold and unwelcoming, the scene inside the Founders Room on Wednesday evening was warm and inviting to the would-be jivers and jazz enthusiasts who attended the Rhythm Club social.

Music was provided by the N.U.R.K.S., The Seals, The Arnold Birtwistle Quartet and a freshers' group. Most memorable moments of the evening were the trumpet duets between Brian Sealey and Ian

WITHERED BLUE GRASS

Johnny Duncan apologised for keeping me waiting and answered my inquiry about his future plans. He was taking his Blue Grass Boys to Germany in the New Year, and after that they were going to tour the whole of Ireland.

I asked who his favourite singers were and he, with a haughty, far-away look in his eyes, remarked that "Big Bill" Charity Concert. He informed me that I had read much in the musical press about accusations that the upright Mr. Duncan had been paid for his services, but this was not true. In point of fact they had not received a penny for playing, and they had had to dash all the way from Glasgow to appear. Moreover, it had taken them from 11 p.m. until 5.30 the following evening to reach the theatre. I think that they made their point: I only wish their performance had too.

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And if ever you're in hospital you'll know about that quick enough. A fully qualified nurse gets the same wage as a second-rate typist. At the moment they are the poorest paid, most hard working people in Britain, and it is still considered unethical, and frowned upon by the authorities, to accept tips. And, surprisingly enough, few nurses will accept money although most accept the odd pair of nylon. At the Q.E. the shorter working week for nurses has been commenced, two months after the Government order; but you can bet your hand-made leather shoes that they won't get off on time, and they are not paid for overtime. I have noticed a change in the attitude of the male University students to these

MED. SCHOOL COLUMN

budding Florence Nightingales, they are no longer considered purely for their undeserved reputation of immorality. If you haven't changed your traditional view, change it now otherwise you may be passing up the best bet for a wife that there is.

We're still building at the Medical School but winter seems to have affected the speed of progress, no longer are we deafened with pneumatic drills all the time, only part of it. All the scaffolding has gone from the new library-cum-refectory-cum-lecture-rooms building, who knows, we might be using it next year at this time? Meanwhile work on the research buildings continues. The end of term is approaching and peace will once more settle on

the Union. The only inhabitants will be Medical, Dental and Research students, and there will be no queuing. It will be delightful, although the food will probably be of the same standard. If, however, the programme follows the same pattern as last year, there will be innumerable students with nowhere to eat for at least a week.

SPORTS SHORTS

SWIMMING

On Wednesday the swimming team visited Oxford. The result was as expected, but the team put up an even feebler display than was anticipated. The polo side was somewhat depleted and lost 13-1 to a very strong side, but it was the swimming that really disappointed. It is to be hoped that the team will soon realise that results do not come without training.

LACROSSE

Trials for the English Universities lacrosse team were held on Saturday, at Motspur Park. The first match was between Southern Universities and Northern Universities teams, and the south won comparatively easily 7-1. S. Andrews, from Birmingham, played in this match and was selected to play for W.I.V.A.B. in the second match against Oxford and Cambridge. On the strength of her performance she was then selected for the full England side.

NETBALL v. SOCCER CLUB

The Soccer Club sportingly took up the challenge of the netball team to play a game of netball. The soccer team was the more aggressive side but were heavily penalised because of their ignorance of the netball rules. Surprisingly enough there were only a few injuries, and netball ran out winners by 14-11.

HOCKEY

In the "B" team match against Kidderminster Ladies, only seven opponents arrived to play the University side, and the match was reduced to a nine-a-side. Although fog and nightfall slowed down play towards the end, the match was an enjoyable one, the final score being 3-1 in the University's favour.

ATHLETICS

Loughborough College were entertained to an out-of-season match on Saturday. The team was weakened due to the absence of several members who were playing rugby or competing in the cross-country. Loughborough were able to win all the track events, but Howard Payne won the discus and was probably prevented from winning the hammer by the fact that "Brums" only one was at the time broken. Altogether an enjoyable out-of-season event.

RUGBY

This week provided results better than the previous one, victories over both Bristol and North Staffs. being recorded. Against Bristol, what should have been an easy victory was reduced by poor finishing to 6-0. On Saturday, however, the side played with much more cohesion to thrash North Staffs. by 44-3. Robson was kicking well and had two conversions, and Renolds was going through repeatedly. Mannion at stand-off, Saunders at full-back and Hayward on the wing, all had good games. If any criticism, it was of the forwards, who were on occasions a little slow in covering. The North Staffs. points were obtained through a dropped goal.

CROSS-COUNTRY SMASH LOUGHBOROUGH!

On Saturday the cross-country club held a triangular fixture against Loughborough and Bristol University. Loughborough had won all these events since the war, and they were expected to repeat their success, but in fact, the University responded magnificently to the opposition and

recorded an easy victory. Loughborough were second and Bristol third. A feature of the race was a thrilling race for first place between Dave Shaw, of Birmingham and Clive Plumpton, of Loughborough. This resulted in Dave's first defeat this season, but the performances of other members of the team made up for this and overall, the result was the most pleasing of the season so far. Outstanding for "Brum" were Geoff Tildesley and Glyn Jones, who came third and fourth, and Dave Royle and Dave Spence who placed seventh and eighth to give Birmingham five out of the first eight runners.

NEW UNIVERSITY CLUB

WEIGHT-LIFTING AT BIRMINGHAM

It has only been quite recently that resistance exercises with weights have become a recognised part of an athlete's training programme. Hitherto instruction in the use of weights has only been available to the top performers in most sports and its use has been restricted to a few activities. This was probably due to the average athlete's fear of straining himself or, of becoming muscle-bound (whatever that is).

It, however, weight training was slow to catch on in this country, its rise to popularity has been most impressive. This has been largely due to the efforts of our professional coaches and in particular to Mr. Al Murray, the British Amateur Weight Lifting Association coach. Many sportsmen now realise that weight training can help them improve their performances and its use is becoming widespread.

Parallel with the increase in weight training has come an increased interest in Olympic Weight Lifting. It was inevitable that weights should eventually feature in University sport, classes being conducted under the first year recrea-

tional scheme, and a club has now been formed to give opportunities for further development.

Weight-lifting is a sport in its own right, the object of which is to lift as much weight as possible. A match is a very exciting spectacle, as one sees not only a competition between teams, but also the struggle with the bar, which characterises heavy lifts. The University team will be holding its first match against Sheffield University and the Digbeth Institute in the gymnasium on December 6, and it is hoped that as many as possible will come along to see what weight-lifting is all about.

HOCKEY SUCCESSES

Further representative honours were gained by three members of the club following the Southern Universities XI match against the Northern Universities XI at Motspur Park on Saturday.

We should like to congratulate Annabel Thompson, who captained Southern Universities XI, and who, together with Verona Bolam and Rita Thompson, was selected for the W.I.V.A.B. team. Later in the afternoon she captained the W.I.V.A.B. side in the match against a London-Cambridge team. Following this match, the same three players were selected for the Combined English Universities' team, and Annabel Thompson was appointed captain.

"A" TEAM v. KIDDERMINSTER

An "A" team travelled to Kidderminster, due to the absence of several players in the W.I.V.A.B. matches mentioned above. Due to its miscellaneous composition of the side, the Birmingham side never reached any degree of efficiency, and was beaten by 5-1.

The opposing forward line, including an international, M. Hickey, was outstanding in both control and

cohesion; scoring three times in the first half without any reply from the University. Fortunately, however, their shooting deteriorated in the second half and they scored only twice more. The University's goal was scored by V. Catliff.

JUDO TRAINING SCHEME

The Judo Club was privileged, last week-end to receive instruction from Warwick Stepto, a third Dan who has just returned from training in Japan.

The course, which commenced on Saturday afternoon, was highly successful, due in no small part to our excellent instructor. On arrival he commented on the smallness of our contest area (which we had thought quite large), and we had to promise not to throw him off the mat!

The programme started with warming-up exercises, followed by instruction in throws and unihiki (standing practice). This was interspersed with randori and team competition and so we had plenty of opportunity to practice what we had learnt. After this we were shown some arm-locks and ground work—with instructions to go easy on the victim.

Mention must be made of the team's beginner, Gordon Lawson, who unwillingly provided some light entertainment, at Loughborough. After a little practice this week-end he won a four-a-side team on his own!

In a final demonstration Stepto showed how a series of throws can be used in combination for greater success in contest. After this he asked for questions, and the absence of these from most members indicated that all, except the club's highest grade, are now up to third Dan standard.

Footnote: Stepto's method of relaxing was particularly appreciated—the general idea is to lie on the floor, raise one's legs six inches in the air and stay there.

SOCCER

Play was even throughout

Cresconians 1
Birmingham University .. 2

On Saturday the soccer team travelled to Langley to play the Cresconians side in a Birmingham A.F.A. League match.

Play was even throughout and although the University goal had some narrow escapes, especially in the second half, two well taken goals by Horton and Williams gave the University a narrow win and two points.

The game was played in a slight fog and in the second half the light became very bad making it very difficult for players to judge their interceptions. Cresconians scored first when their centre-forward diverted a cross from the left wing. The University fought back well and equalised following a movement from their own penalty area, with Horton supplying the finishing touch.

The game was played at a fast rate throughout, with Birmingham tackling strongly, Sandford at left-half being prominent in breaking down Cresconians' attacks.

The forward line with G. Williams at centre, and A. Boddy playing his first game on the right wing, moved well at times, but could not match the form of the previous Saturday's team.

With the light falling badly in the second half, play became rather scrappy, and Cresconians came close to scoring on several occasions. However, it was the University who scored the deciding goal following a sharp raid when centre-forward Williams cracked home a hard shot into the top of the net.

Table Tennis—A draw

At Birmingham last Saturday, the University first team held a strong London team to a draw. This was particularly encouraging as the Birmingham number one was not available for the match. The result indicates that the team, as yet unbeaten in University fixtures, has an excellent chance in the U.A.U. team finals.

MEDICS ON TO

Medics. 8pts. Old Eds. 2nds 14
Medics. 46pts. Old Eds. Exiles
Medics. 14pts. Utd. B'ham Hosp.

Over the last three weeks the Medics. rugby team has played consistently well. They lost narrowly to the Old Eds. 2nds, after leading in the last minute when a try followed by a conversion gave the Old Eds. an undeserved win.

Against the Old Eds. Exiles game went overwhelmingly in favour of the Medics., this fixture in fact will be a try-out for younger players. On Sunday, November 30, the team played the United Birmingham Hospitals XV. It was a fine match, hospitals' team showing an unexpected degree of fitness and skill. Although the score would suggest otherwise, the teams were well matched, good hard rugby resulted on a pitch with the ball difficult to handle. The Medics. forwards played well in loose and set scrums, although the lighter pack they had the best of the scrum and heeled well and successfully. In the line-outs, against the taller team than is usually met, advantage that has been obvious in most games was lost. Tackling in three was once again of high standard with excellent marking preventing any breakaways on both sides.

INTERNAL RUGBY

Chancellor's Hall ... 9pts
Mermaids

This game is always a keenly contested one, and the match promised well, but regrettably it degenerated into becoming more and more robotic. Indeed in the second half there were periods when constructive rugby was impossible. To blame an inexperienced referee would be unfair, but it is to say that a firmer man and a little more use of the whistle would probably have cleaned the game up considerably.

The first half was marked by some fine defensive play by both teams, particularly by the backs. However, the Hall pack were functioning better, playing more as a unit, and this resulted in a fairly definite advantage for the home side. Despite this the scoring was restricted to a penalty which was well taken by Wilson from a long way out.

After half-time play rapidly deteriorated still further, resulting in penalties for both the Hall and Mermaids, off which Wilson converted for Hall. For long spells play was undistinguished, but in the last few minutes, Wilson at full-back gathered evaded several attempts to tackle and emerged with some other forwards well inside the Mermaid half. Swift passing ended with Underwood running in to score into the posts.

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