

THE SCENE THAT 'SHOCKED' THE CITY

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Williams Page 7

12.30 a.m.: Measure for
Measure cancelled.

A major row has blown up in the local and national press over two incidents during the Drama Festival at Cannon Hill Arts Centre.

The row which has sprung up between Birmingham city officials, the Midland Arts Centre and the Guild has been taken up not only by the Birmingham press but by most of the national daily papers. The controversy is a result of two plays during the International Student Drama Festival at Cannon Hill last week. In the late night performance on Tuesday the German group as part of their performance stripped off and threw paint at each other, and on Wednesday, again in a late-night performance, the Swiss group went through the motions of sexual intercourse in their play. These two isolated incidents were seized upon by the press, resulting in much adverse publicity, both for the Drama Festival, and for Festival itself.

Nude storm: 'Shut Art Centre'

STUDENTS IN FRESH ROW OVER 'SIEGE'

A BIRMINGHAM city councillor last night called for the immediate closure of the Cannon Hill Arts Centre and for the dismissal of its director, Mr. John English.

And a former Lord Mayor of the city asked the Birmingham City Council to consider the possibility of a "siege" being laid on the centre by "immoral" young people who are "sexually active" and "sexually promiscuous".

The councillor, Mr. Frank Price, said: "I am not a moralist, but I am a parent, and I want to know what is going on in the centre. I want the whole thing out in the open."

He said that he was aware that many young people were not present in the audience on these occasions, but claims that many parents are withdrawing subscriptions for their children. "I want the whole thing out in the open," he said.

"What is the centre doing for young people?" she said that she had heard that its recent production of "Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs" was unsuitable for the young audiences it played to. She also claimed that drugs were passed among young people at the centre. "If there is no inquiry," she said, "then the city council must have one."

On Monday a "Times" story was headlined "Nudity at arts centre brings protests"; a "Daily Telegraph" headline ran "Inquiry into student 'strip act' sought"; and the "Daily Mail" said "Students' sex on stage starts inquiry."

The inquiry is being called for by Councillor Mrs. Nora Hinks, who in a letter to Sir Frank Price, chairman of the executive committee of the Centre, called for the closure of the Centre until an inquiry be set up. In her letter she said, "I ask you to close the centre immediately pending an inquiry by the committee, and ask the directors to give you an assurance that this will not happen again. If this assurance is not given they should be asked to resign."

Yesterday, Mrs. Hinks told "Redbrick" that she didn't want students to think that she was "another one against us." She is not against students, or student rage, she said, and thinks that students have a "hard job" in the face of public opinion at the moment.

She is pressing for the closure of the centre while the whole workings of the centre are examined and an inquiry is held into whether the centre is fulfilling its purpose for young people. She said that she was aware that many young people were not present in the audience on these occasions, but claims that many parents are withdrawing subscriptions for their children. "I want the whole thing out in the open," he said.

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By PETE DONOVAN

In many national papers, Mrs. Hinks is quoted as saying, "Many women's organisations have contacted me about the recent regrettable incidents which have happened at the centre." On the question of the actual number of these organisations, who have contacted her, Mrs. Hinks is non-committal, but says that many were making their own protests.

In Monday's "Times," she was quoted as saying, "Birmingham is becoming a decadent city." Asked to comment on this, she told "Redbrick," "Birmingham is a sink of iniquity, a place where you get the thought, 'dull'." She said she added that now there are calls for legalised brothels, there is a large traffic in drugs, and plays such as this are seen.

Replying to Sir Frank Price's statement in the "Times," that any suggestion of closing the centre was "stupid," she said that this was untrue, and that the request was a reasonable one for all sides, and "fair to all concerned."

Monday's "Daily Mirror" claimed that parents and children had found themselves in the midst of a display of nudity, and also that Mrs. Hinks had called for the sacking of John English, the director of the centre. This she denied strongly, saying that she was very annoyed, and disliked the word "sacking." Birmingham's "Sunday Mercury" carried a very strongly-worded article, and a picture with a somewhat misleading caption.

Adverse news coverage was also given on Monday morning in the B.B.C. radio programme "Midlands Today." There was a detailed attack on this single aspect of Festival, and little mention of the Community Action programme, while previous coverage had been extremely fair and encouraging.

Yesterday, in a "Times" story headed "Vice-chancellor orders nudity case report," Sir Frank Price was quoted as saying that demand for John English's resignation was "ludicrous." The article covered Brockie Hunter's call for a report from the Guild on the incidents.

Alan Booth writes: P.5

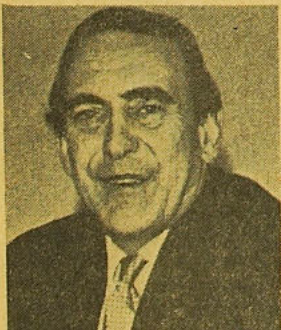


Cologne University students in their performance last Tuesday night

Photo: Eric Sanerson

PATRICK WALL TO SPEAK

AT the invitation of the University Conservative Association, Patrick Wall, is to visit the Union on Friday week. On previous visits to universities Major Wall has been the subject of violent protest demonstrations; at Leeds last year



he was mobbed as he left a meeting and his wife was kicked on to the ground. At Coventry recently a large crowd protested at his speaking.

Major Wall is the author of a recent Monday Club pamphlet on "Student Power," and his speech is expected to contain reference to recent student unrest all over the world. Graham Frost, Tory Chairman, said last week that he was expecting some trouble at the meeting, especially from "extremist left-wing disrupters" and he was considering precautions against such disruption. However, one leading member of Socialist Union said yesterday, "I don't see why he shouldn't be allowed to speak. I'm not going to break the meeting up."

APPEAL — BUT TODAY'S MEETING GOES ON

ROLAND CHAPLAIN announced on Friday that he will be appealing to University Council against his dismissal reported in "Redbrick" last week. He has had an interview with the University Secretary, and at a meeting of Guild Executive on Monday he said that he was confident that Council would institute a full inquiry.

The appeal is down on the Council agenda for its meeting today and Ray Phillips and Chris Tyrrell will be attending as representatives of the Guild. Roland Chaplain does not wish to attend this meeting as he believes that he can gain more by waiting until the Enquiry has its first meeting.

During this week Roland has received a large amount of

support from clients of the Observatory and its retired Director has sent him a letter of encouragement.

At a meeting of Guild Executive on Monday, it was decided to press for a full independent Enquiry and, failing that, an Enquiry with student representatives. Chaplain has said that he would not mind the Enquiry meeting in open.

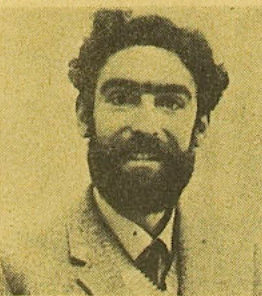
The General Assembly which will take place at 1.15 today in the Deb. Hall was called by a meeting last Thursday which agreed that the issues involved in the Chaplain case should be discussed by a larger body.

Amongst the 100 people who attended meetings should announce today and Ray Phillips and Chris Tyrrell will be attending as representatives of the Guild. Roland Chaplain does not wish to attend this meeting as he believes that he can gain more by waiting until the Enquiry has its first meeting.

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Roland Chaplain

By JOHN KEETLEY

Teach-in concessions

AFTER a 2½-hour struggle yesterday, the University authorities have made considerable concessions to the Guild over the format of the University Symposium, to be held on March 15th/16th. The argument occurred at a meeting of the Symposium Steering Committee at which Ray Phillips and Clare Dutton asked the University authorities to make concessions in the plans which they considered too structural and establishmentarian.

Originally the Symposium others, that the inviting of was to consist of three main these established national speeches by prominent national figures was part of a Public Relations campaign, the University's representatives on the Steering Committee said that in reply to the criticism, the speakers were established made by "Redbrick" among only in the sense that they

With the support of Chaplain the meeting decided to adjourn until today, and a collection of £9 was made to pay for handouts and posters. A petition was also written and is being canvassed this week.

After his meeting with the University Secretary on Monday, Roland decided that it would be unwise to attend today's meeting. He therefore suggested that invitations should not be sent to those who were to have answered his case.



Cecylia Lichtig, a member of the Polish Mime Troupe

were the top people in their own particular field.

Now, however, they have acceded to the request that the Guild should be allowed to choose the speakers for the Open Forum after the main speech by Professor Armitage on the Saturday morning and the speaker for the Sunday afternoon.

The original rigid structure of speeches on three main topics each followed by a discussion group has been replaced by a more flexible plan. This is, to start the Symposium with a main speech on the Saturday morning, followed by a plenary session with a number of radical speakers chosen by the Guild both from within the University and outside.

There will then be discussion groups centred on three main places — The Union, the Great Hall, and the Refectory. Participants in the Symposium will probably be divided into discussion groups irrespective of Department or Faculty.

Independent of the official arrangements, the Guild is organising its own events for Saturday evening, in which, it is hoped, several noted national and international student leaders will participate.

Wall goes commercial

YOU may be under the impression that "Wall" hasn't changed its inbred display for the past two weeks, but if you peer at it more closely, especially if you have an eye for a large, sun-tanned breast, you will have the pleasure of reading a brilliant piece of incisive satirical wit which is very cleverly disguised as an advertisement for a certain "Mick's Cafe." Now, we are reliably informed that this magnificently tempting article of gastro-

nomic invitation was not written by any student on "Wall" staff, nor submitted by any member of the university, but is actually a straight and serious advertisement (surprised?) written by the proprietor of "Mick's," no less.

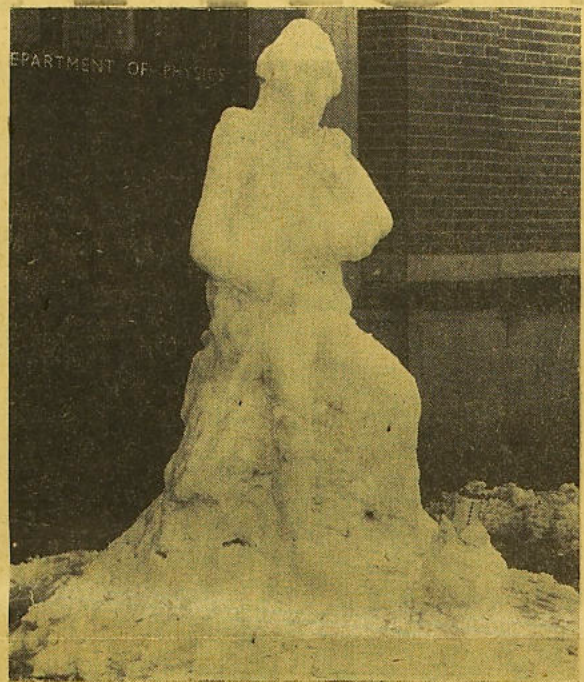
This is, of course, a surprising phenomenon, occurring as it does in the centre of a delicately "satirical" organ. We remember, moreover, that Editor Mike Simmons declared to Guild Council, before he was elected to the post,

that he would not display "the naked female body viewed from the front." Apparently he has lost his nappy, as well as any vague idea he might have had as to what constitutes satire. Incidentally, Simmons pocketed the ten shillings fee he was offered for the display of the advertisement. Perhaps advertisements for small cafes, tinged with nudism, will become a regular feature of the new, heroic, frank and fearless "Wall," who knows?

back to front

Death-throes for Guild Council

WE spent a careful ten minutes or so scrutinising the official list of nominations for the vacancies on Guild Council 1969-70. It was encouraging to note that for thirty-four of the vacancies, which is approximately half, no nominations had been received, and almost all the remainder are uncontested. Possibly, the events of Festival Week could be put forward as representing a positive distraction from the more important concerns of student politics but isn't it more likely that negative apathy is the reason for such a total lack of response? It could be the beginning of the end for Guild Council in any case, and many people seem to think that might not be such a bad thing.



Festival apparently left a few of us with time on our hands last week. Exquisite example of Community Action, though, isn't it?

Horse sense

IF you passed by the Equestrian statue situated near the Barber Institute of Fine Arts on Monday, you may have noticed a ladder leaning against its pedestal, a large plastic sheet sheathing its rear end, and an extra pair of legs standing underneath it.

Further investigation would have revealed a workman busily scrub-

bing the horse's vital parts, which had been liberally but artistically daubed with orange paint.

After an interview under the sheeting with the man on the job, we emerged breathless with the discovery that last year the statue went yellow, and that he, for one, is no longer laughing. Well, how would you like to . . . ?

P.S.: A quick word with Young Bumley, whose deeper researches into the subject of equestrian statue defilement are printed on this page, confirmed that the horse himself is still very definitely grinning.

Arran's pet pills



Continuing Back to Front's very worthwhile preoccupation with contraception, we include a small picture, taken at last week's Union debate, of Lord Arran, which is intended for your "Redbrick" Contraceptive Scrapbook. Lord Arran has assured himself of a place in history by proposing in the House of Lords last week that contraceptive pills be manufactured for use by cats and dogs. Encouraging promiscuity in this nation of pet-lovers . . . ?

Personal

ELECTION. MARTIN LOWE and Gerald Hittman wish to apologise for not signing the Chaplain hand-out issued last Monday.

MASON ELECTION. ECLECTIC delights at Mason Hall on Friday, March 7th.

"STUDENT Power is a futile whim," debate tonight, 7.30, in the Council Chamber. Be there.

"OSWALD MOSELEY and the Aims of the Union Movement," speaker meeting, Friday, 1.15.

JEWISH? What does the Jewish student want from University life? If it's not what Jewish Soc. is giving you, come to air your views at an informal coffee evening, Thursday, February 27th, 7.1 All Saints' Road, about 8.30 p.m. (No. 2 bus from Dawlish Road/Bristol Road, to terminus). Or contact Rod Falk (Med. II), Sue Nieman (Chem. II), Union P.H.

MICKY BOY, the Teesside docker, laid a broad in Leicester. STUDENT Power debate tonight, 7.30, open tournament final.

ADVENTURE — Sahara. Mixed party of sun-seekers leaving June 27th, three weeks expedition. Interested? 200 Harbourn Road, Oldbury, Warley, Worcester, (021-429-4184).

SUNDAY: Music for you by you! Hillel, 8 p.m. All welcome.

MUSICAL? Hillel House, March 2nd, 8 p.m. Display your talents!!

HISTORY DEPT. presents "Life of Hitler" film, Thursday, 7.30, Commerce Theatre, plus Milligan and Goons. Members 1/6, non-members 2/6.

J. SOG. Musical Evening, Hillel House, Sunday, March 2nd, 8 p.m. TWO males wanted to share Edg-baston flat, end of March—J. S. Roberts, 236 1532.

ELAINE, three great Annes, Elise, Eve, Chrissie, Linda, Jules, Geoff, Noj, Gus, Bob and Andy; thanks, Laurie and Tony.

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AUCTION, Deb Hall, March 6th.

AUCTION Jumble, Deb Hall, March 6th.

JUMBLE Auction, Deb Hall, March 6th.

INDIA by Landrover—has anyone been going, all or part of the way? Advice concerning vehicular requirements in particular, urgently needed—Please contact J. Laurence, via Union Pigeon Holes.

HEIL Hitler, Thursday.

HAPPY birthday General Hamilton, may the assault practice prove beneficial.

REDS for a floor, wanted by Wendy in the Welfare Office.

SALES AND WANTS

FOR Sale two tickets for "Hair," Friday, March 7th, stalls, 15/- each.—Contact Paul Martin, via Union P.H.

FOR Sale tickets for Lake/Wydd "do" featuring Roy Harper in cabaret, only 5/6, from any official seller.

FOR Sale posters for Lake/Wydd "do" three-colour, 5/- each.—Contact Pete Zackman, via Union P.H.

FOR Sale, almost new full-size table tennis table and net, £20.—Write: H. T. P. Mullens, 30 Lisimore Drive, Osmonston Park, Harborne, Birmingham, 17.

FOR Sale, Vox "Consort" guitar (solid), three pick-ups, sunburst finish. Hardly used, really good condition. £25 inc. case.—Contact Dave Entwistle (Jemima Sparbracket).

SEPTEMBER IN THE SUN

In a delightful COSTA BRAVA resort, ideal for fun-loving groups. Top-quality villas plus top-quality service. Low season prices plus student reduction can bring the cost down to £8 per person per fortnight or only 10 gns. for the month.

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SPECIAL THREE-COURSE LUNCHEON FOR NLY 5/-

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The Polish Mime Troupe who made a lot of friends last week.

This was a Festival of drama

IT is not our purpose, and certainly not our wish, to make sour reflections on any of the more unfortunate incidents which occurred during Festival last week. The facts are probably well known and represented adequately elsewhere. However, one or two upheavals do seem to have occurred, and it was intimated darkly to us that, as far as Entertainments/Events Committees are concerned, these were only the beginning, but that's another story. . . .

SH

Looking therefore on the brighter side, people entering the New Entrance Hall on Saturday were greeted by a "female" tailor's dummy which was standing precariously in front of a strictly non-functional bidet. Not everyone will know that this was only a small part of a gigantic hoax arranged by the disfavoured Cologne University Drama Group. Upstairs in Committee Room 1 were many large pots of paint (they still had some left after painting Cannon Hill), whistles, cellophane etc.; in fact, all the paraphernalia of preparation for a truly riotous "happening" which had been causing Guild officials

to be not a little apprehensive; they even feared that the dummy would "excrete" profusely if its removal was attempted. But Cologne had left quickly, leaving a small note which read "do it yourself." And as far as we know, the dummy remained unrelieved . . .

G.T.G. MEMBERS SPLIT

The furore which arose over the activities at Cannon Hill Park of the Cologne troupe is beginning to die down, but we notice permanent scars on G.T.G.'s pale and haggard, but generally unruffled face. Already, it looks as though "Measure For Measure," which is their next large-scale production, will encounter grave difficulties, due to the sudden attachment, which Messrs. Bergman and Garlick, who had leading parts, formed for the Swiss drama troupe who were taking part in last week's International Festival. Messrs. Bergman and Garlick are reputed to have left Birmingham with the Swiss . . .

"PATTING UP CHATSY"

HOWEVER, not all the foreign drama troupes who came here last week wreaked such lasting havoc. The Polish Mime Troupe endeared themselves to many by bringing with them a seemingly inexhaustible supply of bottles of (so we are informed) very potent vodka. They threw at least three parties on the strength (har! har!) of this, and the only damage done, so it is rumoured, was to the insides of Ray Phillips and Chris Tyrrell, and the places in which those two worthies were sick. While Ray was crawling along Executive corridor, Chris informed us that he was "patting up Chatsy," which puzzled us exceedingly.

Perhaps the most diverting displays were provided by Elvin McDavid who, after consuming a great deal of white man's fire-water last Sunday, proceeded to inform everyone within croaking distance of his importance and infallibility, and that Festival was "doomed to succeed." We feel that this celebration may have been a little premature, after all, it was only the second day of Festival.

EXCLUSIVE PARTY IN UNION SANCTUM

WHILE we're on the subject of premature celebration, a reception was given in honour of those generous Poles in the Union Library on the night of the Guild Festival party. We understand that a number of hangers-on from Cannon Hill, besides members of Guild Executive and those more immediately concerned with the Poles' mime production were there, and that something of the order of thirty bottles of wine and nine dozen of ale were consumed. There has been a great deal of argument as to who is footing the bill for what, by all accounts, came little short of being a Buchananian orgy. The most likely source seems to be Festival profits, but no-one has as yet any idea what profits, if any, have accrued during Festival Week.

Of course, the Polish mime troupe deserved a reception; after all, they'd been entertaining various small groups of people at spasmodic intervals throughout the week with their vodka, and had more or less dissociated themselves from the unpleasantness surrounding the Cologne incident. "Good old Poles" proclaimed the posters. But it seems not a little irresponsible on someone's part to spend money, which was collected by hard work for the general Festival effort, on a booze-up for a minority group.

Dismay over Sunday flic?

THE Sunday flic saga continues: "Divorce, Italian Style," that breathtaking piece of modern cinema was supposed to have been screened in the Union on Sunday night. The chairs were laid out in neat rows, when a stentorian voice announced over the Tannoy that the film would not be shown. Hurried investigations produced the (startling?) revelation that John Burkill, Chairman of Entertainments Committee, had forgotten to collect the film on Friday; hence, no Sunday flic, but our private opinion is that nobody minded very much.

THINKING OF EUROPE THIS SUMMER? . . .

STOP! . . . first read "Cheapest Europe for Student Travellers"—a unique, exciting handbook detailing all the amazing methods that thousands of students use to spend their whole summer in the sun with hardly any money! All you need to know about ultra cheap travel, accommodation, meals, student reductions, etc.

—You can save lots of trouble and lots of money by sending 7/6 for your copy to H. Nortfolk, B.A., 17 Park Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

(This ad. will not appear again in this paper.)

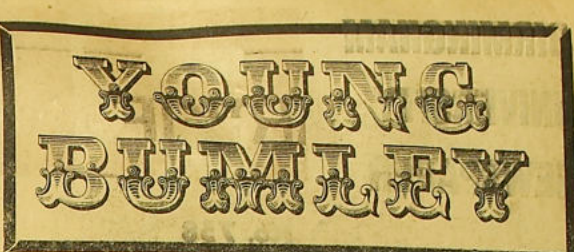
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INTRODUCTION NOTES CONTACT: Roney Watts, via The Union P.H. or Dept. of Medical Biochemistry



What 'Shot-Peening' can do

BY God, it's been a dirty week and I'm not just referring to the filthy weather we've been having of late. It all started last Thursday afternoon—I was browsing through a copy of the Birmingham Post Year Book for the year 1958-60, concentrating mainly on the occasional photograph portraying a sort of idyllic, rural-type Birmingham.

Now this publication is the last place one would expect to find smut of any kind and it was some-thing of a shock when I came across this advertisement for some engineering process which goes by the doubtful name of "Shot-Peening."

There was a picture of a more than adequately bosomed woman with a come-and-get-it look on her face. Her left hand was supporting a huge phallic propeller blade (courtesy of De Havilland)

and her right hand was resting casually on some strange engineering product. To the side of this tableau were the words "Shot-Peening—What it can do for you." What can it do for me? The mind boggles. Read on: "Shot-Peening lengthens the fatigue life of any part that is subject to bending or twisting stress . . . the increase in life is amazing."

I am aware that advertising techniques of today rely a great deal on sexual implications but this was back in 1959 when advertising was comparatively straightforward, especially for industrial products. But it was a successful advert—it made its mark on me. In the future, when any part of me that is subject to bending or twisting stress begins to feel fatigued, I will remember Shot-Peening and what it can do for me!

The mortal paint brush strikes

Outside the Barber Institute, in a private paddock of its own, there stands an imposing equestrian statue, considerably defiled by the droppings of our feathered friends. But it seems that others have been making their marks upon it besides the birds.

I know that it has been "rest brass-monkey weather" of late, but I feel sure that the extremes of the elements cannot be held to account for the vivid orange colour of certain parts of the poor animal's anatomy. (My apologies to those prudish by nature, but I said it had been a dirty week.)

Since it is only a statue and consequently not liable to any disease of which discoloration of the flesh is a symptom, one can only conclude that this remarkable effect was caused by a common or garden paintbrush, wielded by a divine or, more likely, mortal hand.

The rider of this luckless mount does not seem to have suffered in any way, though on walking round

to the front of the pedestal one wonders whether in fact the horse is suffering—he seems to have a contented smile on his face.

So now we have a rather obscene looking horse guarding the Edgbaston Park Road entrance to the University, though for how long I cannot say. Apparently the last time the paint was splashed in the horse's direction experts from London were called in and they found the only cure was a sort of castration operation and a subsequent remodelling.

(P.S.: Since I wrote this attempts have apparently been made to remove the paint. A sort of screen was erected around the statue, presumably to add an air of dignity to the proceedings, and a couple of men went to work scraping the animal's private parts. At time of going to press, I have not had the chance to observe the outcome of their labours but I trust the horse's grin has broadened.)

Raise your haul

What strange goings-on at Cannon Hill, eh? Stories of naked orgies and "freak-outs" abound in the Press. Word first reached Bumley's ears on Friday, by which time the "offending" troupes had been banned from appearing at the Arts Centre.

However, I managed to procure tickets for Saturday evenings performance by the Polish mime troupe which contained nothing offensive but nevertheless was excellent. (I don't mean to imply that I want with eyes glinting and rubbing my hands in anticipation of what might be in store!)

If the performance contained nothing offensive, the loss was adequately covered by the attitude of a certain gentleman, smartly dressed in evening attire, whose job appeared to be general overseer of the audience. If anyone stepped out of line, so to speak, he immediately made his presence felt, not only to the offending per-

sons, but to the entire audience. Some people who entered at the side door after the interval and apparently did not possess tickets came under heavy fire. This guardian of the theatre did not approach the offenders and quietly and politely request that they leave, but instead his voice boomed across the audience: "Excuse me, you don't have tickets, do you (not put as a question, but as an unequivocal statement of fact). Would you mind leaving" (again not a question).

I was pleased when I saw them sneak in after the lights had gone down. Even if you weren't an offender you stood a good chance of a vocal attack from this "sergeant-major". "Where are you going?" one unfortunate young lady was asked as she went in search of the little room. Perhaps she should have raised her hand before trying to leave.

Bumley

The National Westminster Bank Group

has a number of vacancies for Graduates in 1969 and their representative will be available for interviews at the National Provincial Bank Ltd.; 8 Bennett's Hill, Birmingham, on Wednesday, 19th March, 1969. Application forms may be obtained from the Appointments Office and should be forwarded to

Mr. P. D. Salter, Appointments Manager, National Provincial Bank Ltd., P.O. Box No. 297,

12Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.2.

JE PARTICIPE



C. A. B. 2. 2. 2.

PARIS— WINTER UNREST

In this article I am concerned mainly with attitudes that pervade students and academics in Paris at the moment, with the impressions of Parisians outside the University, and with a few hard facts which tend to make one believe that things are getting worse at least in spirit, although there have been a few material improvements. The situation is far too complex and incompletely understood to give an objective analysis. Some of the figures quoted may have been inflated by disillusioned, disgruntled students, but I believe them to be largely correct. Their importance lies in the attitude they reflect.

JUDY BRAZIER.

THE impression everyone has is of a show of force to suppress the enemy. Edgar Faure's simple but thoroughly efficient method to suppress opposition is to terrorise Parisians and to make an impression on the Student Body. People now vote because they dare not do anything else. Nobody seriously believes in the "participation" offered by De Gaulle, but they vote just the same. The participation offered has been referred to by the more radical students as the "fascisation" of the University. However, the "fascist" forces are not in direct conflict with the revolutionaries as those making analogies with the '30s would have us believe. The authorities' attack is far more subtle. They want to break any revolutionary or militant tendencies within the moderate block of students and make it once more apathetic, an effective tool for the authorities. Yet for the militant body the real enemy is not the skeletally weak structure of the Gaullist government, supported in theory by over half French voters, but the police who, especially in Paris, have a notorious reputation for brutality. Swamped by the apathetic, the more militant body would seem to stand little chance in the present situation.

In principle the educational reforms provided for University autonomy in administration, teaching methods, courses, discipline and even finances. Some political activities on University premises became legalised. Orthodox Gaullists attacked Faure for the reforms, especially Michel Debré, who would like to maintain centralised control; Raymond Marcelin, Minister of the Interior, and thus responsible for public order; and Robert Poujade, Secretary of the Gaullist party and Deputy for Dijon. De Gaulle gave unconvincing support to the reforms.

INNOVATION HERE AND THERE

There is strong feeling in all quarters that authority will not be shared by "participation." Very little has changed since "les événements" at least in the day-to-day running of the University. The same lecturers are giving the same lectures in the same way, preparing students for the same examinations. This holds good in 90 per cent of the Faculties. Here and there has been an innovation: continual assessment is one, but this will be made on the same old syllabus. Instead of changes there is a desperate struggle amongst all forms of authority to regain control. This is the power they are meant to be sharing with the students—how can they when they do not have it themselves, and in the present situation, never will?

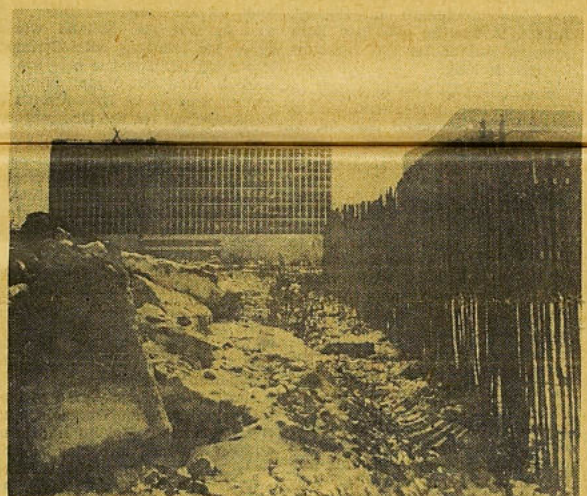
By Faure's reforms new University presidents will be responsible for law and order, and not the state-appointed rectors. The presidents are to be elected by councils which should have up to 50 per cent student representation. But they will have no control over degree awards or the appointment and promotion of staff. Even so, it is a fact that the "doyens" (deans) do not have any real power—before closing their faculties they must consult the police. Thus it really does seem that Faure's "loi d'orientation" is only window-dressing as far as real reforms are concerned.

In addition, it seems that it is going to be difficult for the students to take part in the participation that has been offered. The quorum demanded is 60 per cent of any particular student body voting on an issue. This means that unless two-thirds of students vote, their representatives are not elected. There are sanctions even on this restrictive ruling: the number of representatives elected is to correspond to the number of students voting. Therefore, student participation can only be 100 per cent if 100 per cent of the students vote. The left wing National Students' Union urged students to boycott the elections to the Councils, without which the reforms cannot be implemented. Right wing students made similar requests to boycott after the Dijon communiqué condemning the reforms.

LA FOLIE

To see what was going on on the spot we left the Gare St. Lazare in a railway carriage packed with students. We all got out at the station, where the platform is still temporary, where the ticket

office is still a wooden hut, and where the shelters are scaffolding and corrugated iron, not the usual clinical French concrete. This station, say the platform boardings, is "La Folie—complexe universitaire." Ironical indeed, having named it La Folie, they should have gone the whole way and called it Université complexe, too. For this



The New Law Faculty at Nanterre.

is the station for the campus of Nanterre. Slipping on the snow and sliding in the mud, we made our way along the unmade-up pavement to the campus entrance.

The campus at Nanterre consists of three principal blocks: an autonomous Faculty of Arts and Social Science, an annexe of the Law Faculty of Paris, and a student residential section. There is no library on the campus and none of the "distractions" of the city: no cafes, no cinemas, no theatres. The residents, deprived of intellectual stimuli and means of relaxation, have to put up with particularly sinister, barren scenery. Muddy, churned-up expanses, where the builders' huts and piles of concrete girders were dumped during construction, blocks of dismal flats, factory chimneys and a shanty town between the campus and Paris. Opened in 1964, the University was constructed "almost overnight," proud Parisians will tell you, on an old military dump. It now has 13,000 students on its register. It has no academic atmosphere, but is merely an assemblage of buildings, functional and concrete, where students come to receive instruction that will permit them—or prevent them from, as the case may be—to be slotted into the "system."

OPPRESSIVE AND DESOLATE

The campus is oppressive and desolate at the best of times. However, on entering "bâtiment A," a huge building consisting of six blocks joined by a central corridor, one is confronted with what is possibly the best assemblage of student protest graffiti anywhere in

the world. All down one side of the corridor—about 15 feet wide and 100 yards long, the wall is plastered with slogans in all colours. Where there is room there are posters as well, mainly mocking the puppet-like nature of the participation offered by Faure. At intervals representatives of the various comités d'action sit behind information desks distributing propaganda and general encouragement to the now apathetic and often disgusted minority of students.

De Gaulle made a public warning during the monetary crisis that he would no longer tolerate "tumults or agitations" anywhere. As a result Faure issued a new decree threatening any student disturbing public order with exclusion from the University and the loss of their eligibility for a degree. By the same "loi du 13 décembre" the rectors have full powers to call the police into the University at their own discretion. For over a month now, 80 plain-clothed security police have been on permanent patrol round the campus at Nanterre. This, naturally enough, arouses suspicion amongst students and staff alike. Outside the 10-foot wall which surrounds the campus, police wait by the vanload for the slightest provocation to go inside. The C.R.S. are also reputed to be there, but we did not see them.

WHIPS TAGGED WITH LEAD

The most recent bout of trouble started on Friday morning, January 31st. For several days students had been protesting about the arrival of Chaunu from Caen to maintain his thesis. Chaunu had become well known in the suppression of student unrest in Caen. Towards mid-day a demonstration started in the campus cafeteria. A few stones were thrown at the administrative block in protest, with no apparent effect. The demonstration broke up, but later rebounded. It broke out in full force with a reinforcement of 70 men. They attacked the demonstrators with truncheons, iron bars and whips tagged with lead pellets. A student who had witnessed the fight, said the police also had bottles and bicycle chains. After the battle 20 students were taken to hospital where two were still detained over a week later.

'HE'S GOT LONG HAIR'

Those who could, sought refuge inside faculty buildings, upon which the police began a "raid." They interrupted lectures and victimised students regardless of whether they had taken part in the demonstration or not. It would seem that "He's a black" or "He's got long hair" was sufficient excuse for arrest. Thirty students were taken to the divisional commissariat in the 16th arrondissement. They were all charged with taking part in the demonstration and of being "in a lecture where arms were being distributed." At about 2 a.m. one of the University security police came down for identifications and the next day 15 more came down for further identifications.

After 24 hours half of them were released. Eight of the remaining 15 were released the next day, having first come before a judge at the Conciergerie. The other seven are still in prison at Fresnes.

This event has stirred the comités d'action to renewed militancy. They feel that the presence of security police is only a symbol of even greater repression that could kill all academic and personal liberty within the University and eventually kill the institution itself. They have not given up the struggle of trying to win back those who, realising the ugly mood of the authorities at the moment, have become passive and apathetic.

STRIKES

Yet the militants are by no means an insignificant body. On Monday, February 3rd, after the weekend's disturbances, 3,000 students attended a meeting where, supported by members of the S.N.E.Sup. (Syndicat national de l'enseignement supérieur) they agreed to strike until the seven students had been released and the security police had been removed from the campus. Meetings and subsequently strikes were organised in sympathy at the Sorbonne and at Centre Censier, an annexe Faculty of Arts. These strikes have been particularly successful at Censier.

Apart from isolated strikes, apparently everything has returned to normal in the Latin quarter, but one does not have to look too far to see that this normality is only skin deep. There are many more

police in evidence than there were in September, when demonstrations were taking place over examinations in the Faculty of Medicine. The police no longer try to remain unobtrusive, but patrol around by the dozen, arm-in-arm across the pavement, and drive round the quarter by the bus load. Whatever the action of militant students, the presence of so many police in the immediate vicinity of the University does not create the atmosphere of trust and goodwill that is needed for the academic body to pull itself together again and function properly. In the biting cold of February snow there were few students in the Central Court of the Sorbonne (police are forbidden by tradition from entering this court, their incursion there in May had great symbolic value and contributed to much of the trouble), however the posters left no doubt as to the mood of the moderates and of the extremists; everywhere the feeling that they had been betrayed by Faure's "reforms" and de Gaulle's "participation." One such poster, scrawled on brown paper, read:

"What is this 'knowledge' that is put in front of us?"

And what if the students of tomorrow will not keep quiet?

Will we give them the same answers as they give us today—that of the forces of order called in by the University?

Let us at last find out what real 'work' means.

Let us participate in real, co-ordinated political activity.

Yes—discuss matters everywhere—in lectures, in practicals—discuss this 'new' running of the University.

Yes—let us participate in our courses, by thinking instead of listening, by discussion instead of silence."

The "libération de la parole" so widely acclaimed in May is still playing a significant part.

DISILLUSIONMENT

The outlook then, is not bright. The University authorities, afraid of losing control again have made direct recourse to the police. This is looked upon with sadness by liberal staff, and with dismay by more radical staff. The joy de vivre has moved away with the summer sun, and a mood of disappointment, of disillusionment, of despondency has set in with the winter cold. The situation has become more and more complex, so that even the most active do not really know what is going on outside their own faction. One cannot help but feel that whatever the students have been through, they are worse off now than they were before "les événements." Academic anarchism, many will tell you, is better than forceful repression. After all, who wants fictitious participation if it means losing the traditional freedom of the liberal University? One can only see the situation growing worse, not better in the present situation.



A van load of police patrolling the Sorbonne.

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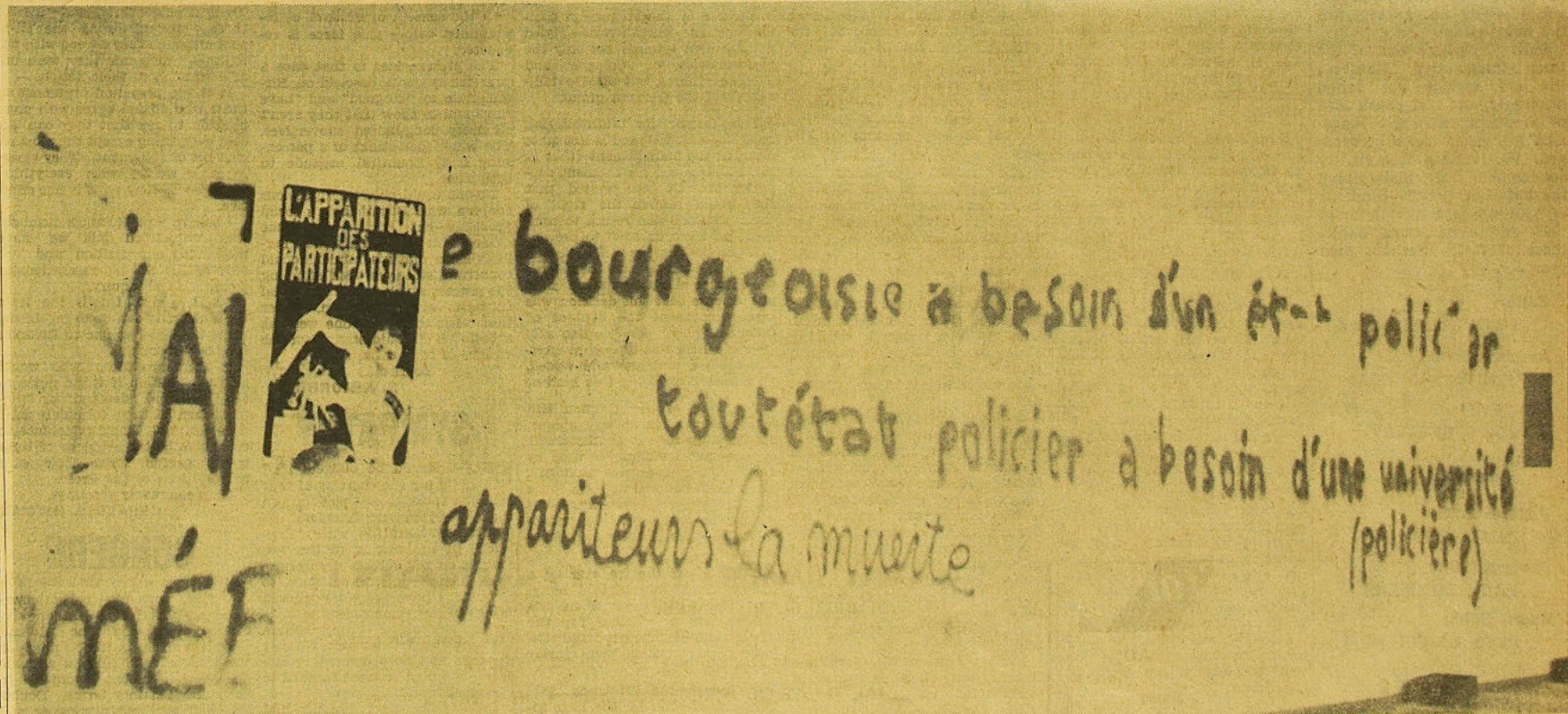
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REDBRICK

editorial

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING US

The presence of a Registry Assistant at the Chaplain meeting last Thursday was symptomatic of the present set-up in university administration. Peter Gowan last term described it as "an elaborate spying system."

Every leaner or handout that appears in the Union or rectorial very soon arrives on the Vice-Chancellor's or Registrar's desk. It's not so much that they shouldn't read them, as that they should not have to go about it in such an underhand and secretive manner. It is a manifestation of the secrecy in which they cloak any matters regarding the administration.

This applies also to the affair at the Observatory. The authorities have proceeded in a manner which cannot inspire confidence in their management. They have not made their position at all clear. What is needed now is a full enquiry. We cannot be certain that justice is not being done, but it is not being seen to be done. While such considerable doubt exists only a full investigation can settle the doubts.

FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL should have been the biggest thing the University and indeed the city had ever seen. Instead, owing to several unfortunate circumstances it did more harm than good in our public image. The notable exception was Community Action, which has involved students to an unprecedented degree; even the regular press reports of social projects were laced with comments like: "It's a pity they have such a long way to go in improving their image with the people of Birmingham." The public outcry (if such it can be called, having been the creation of the Press) has shown the Birmingham people at their worst, as money-minded prudes who think the theatre is Brian Rix or "My Fair Lady."

Intrinsically though, the Drama Festival was a great success, not only for the quality and variety of the programme, but also for the involvement of the campus in the events; there were packed houses mainly of students for every performance. Of the performers, the Polish group best personified what Festival was all about; they did more to improve international friendship transcending political boundaries than any other group, and probably more than any other visiting group for years.

Apart from the immensely successful Community Action week and the International Drama Festival, the other sections have made little impact; Internal Art featured an exhibition in Concourse, and an art show in St. Francis Hall—both of which passed without attracting much attention. And the Charities section, although let down by the weather, has failed to come up with anything new. The old old stunts—marathon bar football, doughnut eating, whatever you like—do not exactly fire the imagination.

Barb is perhaps one of the least imaginative features; the old format has failed miserably, and last year's idea of producing a proper magazine has been foolishly dropped. Festival has been rightly condemned for maintaining the old style "rag." Students of 1969 are not like those of 1959 and even more unlike those of 1949. Perhaps next year...

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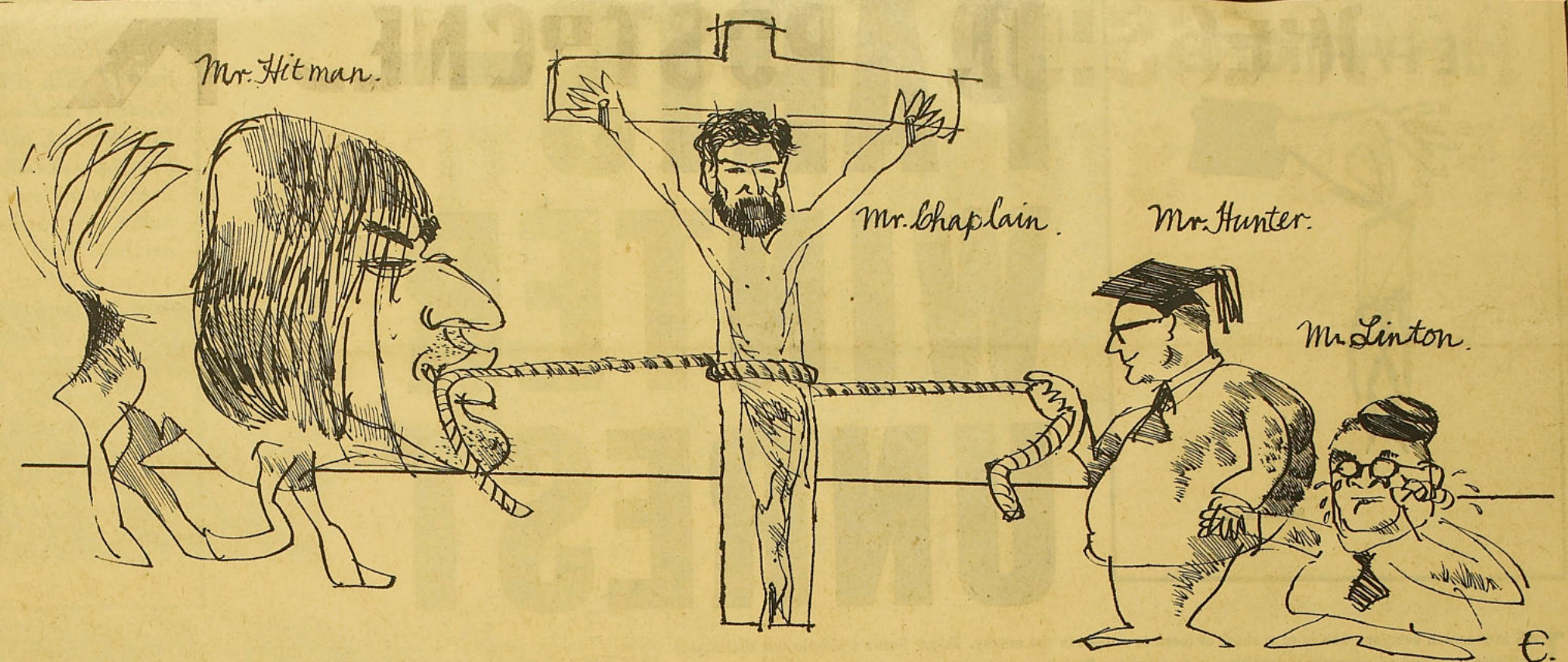
PETE GRIFFITHS

Back-to-Front Editor

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MIKE SPALTON



Roland Chaplain and Edgbaston Observatory

A REDBRICK INQUIRY

THE story of Roland Chaplain's stay at this University really starts in 1960 when he came up to study Theology. He was not the only person to find the syllabus and examination irrelevant to the present day but in his third year he co-operated with students in that department who intended to boycott their first-year exams. Finally he was one of the people who persuaded them that this was not the best means of action available to them.

When he had gained his degree Roland started work for the private consultancy of Dr. Stringer who is now the Scientific Director of the Edgbaston Observatory. During his stay at the University Roland had taken Extra-Mural courses in Meteorology and had taken some instruction from Dr. Stringer on weather forecasting.

It was at this time that the University took over the Observatory from the Birmingham and Midlands Institute. Dr. Stringer had hoped that he would take it over but when it was taken over by the University he was made Scientific Director. He was away in Canada when Roland joined the Observatory staff but subsequently expressed pleasure at his appointment and led him to believe that he would become Director when the present Director retired. So much did Dr. Stringer have Roland in mind for the Directorship that on two interview boards for Observatory staff he included Roland and even excluded the present Director who was being phased out.

At this time there was no indication that the Scientific Director had any doubts as to Roland's ability to take on the job. Roland was the member of staff who had direct contact with Dr. Stringer on matters of policy.

Although the Observatory staff had agreed to it being taken over by the University they were dissatisfied with the Administration on several occasions. Equipment was old and replacements were subject to inordinate delays. New staff who were desperately needed could not be found (largely because

of the pay) and neither the Scientific Director nor the Observatory Committee paid visits to the Observatory to find out how it was run.

At this time there was no indication that Dr. Stringer or Prof. Linton felt that Roland was unsuitable to take over Mr. Kelley's responsibilities when he retired as Director. He was carrying out very important work in developing the work of the Observatory and had conducted high level negotiations for the purchase of land for the expansion of the Observatory.

One of the most important developments in the Observatory was the decision that the Observatory should start providing a 24-hour service for its clients. This idea was first mooted in the Spring of 1967 when Roland and Dr. Stringer entered negotiations with the C.E.G.B. about this. It was agreed that the service would be implemented by October 1967 but in fact it is not yet operational. In the winter of 1967-68 it was agreed that the 24-hour coverage would be necessary for the next winter.

In the summer of 1968 the committee decided to implement these proposals which had the support of Linton, Stringer and Roland by January 1969. Roland then started a period of intensive work canvassing the service among industries and local authorities. This work was done with the encouragement of Dr. Stringer.

When the winter came, however, there was not enough staff to give the service that had been promised. There was evidence that the Personnel Officer had wasted two months before advertising for extra staff. Roland considered that this was completely unsatisfactory and there is evidence that many of the Observatory's clients were very impatient. Their enquiries were not however dealt with urgently.

While the new service was being successfully promised and put off there was a growing correspondence between Roland and Dr. Stringer.

On September 23rd, 1968, some referred to Dr. Stringer and Prof.

Linton said that they had not adequately represented the views of the staff to the Observatory Committee. The reaction of both Prof. Linton and Dr. Stringer was both swift and extreme. Prof. Linton wrote back saying that Roland's attitude was irresponsible and impractical and refused all the requests.

Roland was relieved of all his most important duties including the acquisition of new business and contact with all outside bodies. It is this development which was most surprising to all concerned. Never before had so little confidence in Roland. Indeed it was he who had been pushing Roland for the Directorship for so long.

Subsequent to this exchange of letters a meeting was arranged between Linton, Stringer, Roland and Mr. Giles, a lecturer in the Geography Department. There were in fact two meetings of this group.

Prof. Linton ordered Roland to tell him the names of all those who had seen his original letter and to destroy all copies he had made. Linton said that he would refuse to have any further talks with him unless he complied with this instruction.

At the second meeting of the group Roland informed Linton that he was prepared to send all copies of his letters to Mrs. Crosskey, a member of the Observatory Committee and mother-in-law of its chairman. In return for this Linton and Stringer said that they would forget all correspondence between Roland and themselves. It was also promised that Prof. Linton would start visiting the Observatory personally and that the staff would begin to meet members of the Committee. This was not in fact put into effect.

Immediately after the first meeting Roland found out that Dr. Stringer intended to issue a statement to all clients reflecting on his professional ability. He telephoned Prof. Linton about it and he said

that Roland should tell Dr. Stringer not to send it out.

It was at this point that the most bizarre episode of the whole history occurred. The secretary of the Observatory, who was not very friendly with any of the staff, informed Dr. Stringer that a meeting of the Committee of Ten had taken place at the Observatory during the sit-in. It is not known whether the secretary knew this information to be completely false but Prof. Linton immediately reacted by banning all students from the Observatory.

At the meeting between Roland and Linton and Stringer, it was agreed that Roland would agree his relations with Stringer in writing. Due to the pressure of work he had not done this for several weeks. In December, the busiest period for the Observatory, Stringer sent Roland an agreement which he instructed him to sign. Roland said that after consulting Alderman Mrs. Crosskey he would only sign after substantial amendments had been made.

On January 24th Roland asked to see Prof. Linton about the matter but was informed that Linton would only have "constructive discussions" with him after he had signed the document as it stood. Dr. Stringer also forbade Roland to give his lectures in the Extra-Mural Department.

During the whole period of antagonism between Chaplain and the Department Roland had been putting forward ideas as to the possible expansion of the services offered by the Observatory. At one stage he had written a memorandum which he had shown to Mrs. Crosskey and to Oscar Hahn, a member of University Council. On the advice of Mr. Hahn, Roland was to have expanded the memorandum to show to members of the Committee. He informed Prof. Linton of his intention of producing this document and was told that if he published he would be sacked.

On January 30th, three days after he received the threat,

Roland met the Vice-Chancellor on his visit to the Observatory. Even he admitted that an enquiry was necessary to look into the running of the Observatory.

Between the 30th and his dismissal Roland saw the Vice-Chancellor again and also met Prof. Raynor. The Vice-Chancellor changed his attitude markedly between the 30th and Roland's next interview on February 7th. He seemed to regard Roland as something of an upstart at the second meeting and was entirely unco-operative.

On February 18th "Redbrick" printed the story of the threat of dismissal with the full consent of Roland Chaplain. Within a week he was sacked.

The immediate reaction from the Personnel Officer was that the decision to sack Roland had been taken two months ago but the dismissal had been put off as "an act of clemency." This seems to be made a mockery of by Prof. Linton's threat to sack Roland if he published his paper on the problems of the Observatory. The authorities have been unwilling to supply Roland with the detailed allegations against him and he received no hearing before dismissal. Even though he has appealed to University Council he has been forbidden to enter the University premises, including the Observatory, and cannot, therefore, collect some of his most important evidence.

Many Radical students and staff have taken up the case of Roland Chaplain on several grounds. First, as Roland was advised not to join a Trade Union, they say that the student body must act on behalf of Mr. Chaplain as if they were his Trade Union. They say that every man should have the right to a full hearing before dismissal and that every employee should have the same right to publish what he wants as students and staff.

They are holding a meeting in the Deb. Hall on Wednesday and have circulated a petition which

they hope will attract at least 1,500 signatures by Wednesday.

Last night Roland said, "There would appear to be little value in today's meeting. The facts have already been given ample publicity."

Whatever the outcome of the meeting of University Council the organisers hope that the Vice-Chancellor will arrange for the enquiry which he is on the record as saying is necessary. They believe that in order for the enquiry to have any meaning Roland Chaplain must be reinstated pending its final report.

The arbitrary dismissal of Roland Chaplain has brought up many questions of principle which must be carefully considered if the University is to carry on as a civilised community. Perhaps the most important is whether the administration has the moral right to make contracts with its employees which do not give them the right to any form of hearing before being sacked.

According to the Personnel Officer the sole arbiters of the employment of staff in the Observatory is the Scientific Director who should consult the head of the Geography Department. One has to ask whether this procedure should be modified to give an employee the right to have the allegations against him made known to him and whether he should have the right to a full hearing.

In the case of Roland Chaplain one also has to ask whether the academic freedom accorded to students and academic staff is also the right of members of the University who are employed on the technical grades. Prof. Linton has said that he believes that all staff should consult their head of department before making public any proposals about the future of the University. This is not the generally accepted view but it is important that the University should come to a decision on this matter to ensure that employees know where they stand on this matter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REPLY

DEAR Sir,—I feel obliged to reply to the letter written by Martin Jenkins and published in last week's "Redbrick." If the allegations against Debating Society Committee had been made by anyone else, I would have taken the matter outside the confines of "Redbrick's" letter page. It is unfortunate, however, that Mr. Jenkins is well-known and therefore many will have realised the vindictive manner in which it was written.

Nevertheless, however inarticulate Mr. Jenkins is as a speaker, his letter was well-written. Therefore he may have convinced some unwary readers that there was a sincere indictment of a corrupt Deboc by a man who resigned for reasons of conscience.

This is very unlike the truth. As a result of his own conduct, Mr. Jenkins had no choice but to resign from the committee. Last week's letter only serves to substantiate my impression of Mr. Jenkins as an uninspiring self-seeker who would stop at nothing to gain attention for himself, both on the committee and off it. Before I fall into the trap of writing in the same petty personal tone as Mr. Jenkins, I will answer his accusations.

It was alleged that as Chairman I have turned Deboc into a clique of my friends. Firstly, the membership of the committee has not altered since Mr. Vaughan first formed his committee in October, but for Miss Cindy Ashworth and Mr. Jenkins himself. Secondly, we are not a clique, but the committee would not function properly if we were not friends.

It was alleged that Miss Munns asked to be External Secretary, after being "the most inefficient Internal Secretary Debating

Society ever had." Miss Munns never asked to be External Secretary, and is now Internal Secretary. She has shown far more aptitude in executing the work of this post than Mr. Jenkins ever did.

It was alleged that the weekly debates have an approximate attendance of 80 people. It is to be pointed out that that never during the whole year has the attendance fallen below 100, except for the Christian Aid debate last week!

Lord Arran spoke to a packed house of 300 or so, and we expect capacity crowds for the "Student Power Debate" tonight and the Oswald Mosley meeting on Friday.

The most hypocritical and humorous point in Mr. Jenkins's letter came when he condemned Deboc for "grossly abusing the traditional sherry reception." This reception is only a small gesture to visiting speakers, and is absolutely justifiable. The only committee member to have grossly abused it is Mr. Jenkins himself, who has been known to take the sherry bottle from the reception when nearly full, hide it, and consume it himself later (February 12th).

Mr. Jenkins was virtually forced to resign because of his abusive manner to both myself and to the committee members, and his incompetence on several occasions. He has been a constant source of embarrassment to Debating Society, both here and at other Universities, and I shall never re-instate him.

Most committee members have spontaneously offered to write a reply to their former "colleague," but I feel it my duty to reply myself.

Finally, I warn Mr. Jenkins—beware you know the law of defamation!

Yours sincerely,

PETER M. JACKSON,
Chairman of Debating Society.

BOURGEOIS

SIR,—One thing that last week's "Redbrick" Drama Festival succeeded in doing, if nothing else, was to illustrate that theatre management in this area is not able to cope with modern drama "happenings." This fact was well illustrated by the attitude of Cannon Hill's bureaucratic-styled management towards not only the performances of Cologne and Treteaux Libres, but also to individuals of the German group.

The reason for authoritarian bungling that followed is not quite clear, as the management (that is, Mr. English and his obedient supporter Mr. Gordon) stated that they would reserve the right of their positions and refuse to comment on their decision to prevent Cologne performing for a second time, and later to ban them from the theatre altogether. One could not suppose that this decision was made because of the content of Cologne's play. Mr. English said he was all for this type of progressive theatre, and his wife added, "We have been doing this kind of

The face of the Cannon Hill management is in no way unique, but their attitude is characteristic of managerial techniques used by every ruling-bourgeois minority. Their main concern appears to be not for new progressive ideas, but for the reputation of their establishment—that is their own reputation.

This sort of theatre, run by a middle-class minority, is a hang-over from the days when the theatre was a pastime for the privileged few. The out-dated attitudes of this system were sorely shown last week.

If indeed the Midlands Arts Centre is to cater for the 15 to 25-year age group then why not let these young people run the theatre for themselves. Clearly the

inability of the present Cannon Hill to satisfy youth—even student youth—is now blatantly obvious.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN SMITH,
Medic II.

VICTIMS

SIR,—I feel it's about time that the concept of Festival be re-examined before this farce is re-enacted.

The present idea is that once a year the students descend on Birmingham to "do good" and "have fun," and to show that they aren't all nasty long-haired subversives. The whole idea stinks of a patronising Lady Bountiful attitude to both sides.

No-one could object to a serious concern with Birmingham's social problems—but what about the other 51 weeks of the year? Perhaps Elvin and his minions could concern themselves with stopping the process which causes the social tragedies of Birmingham, rather than with acting for one week as a buffoon's first-aid station for the victims of capitalism.

Yours etc.,

B. J. MORRIS

SYMPATHY

SIR,—I should be obliged if I could use the courtesy of your columns to state my position on the case of Roland Chaplain.

After co-operating with "Redbrick" in the writing of the two articles on the subject my sympathies turned, on the evidence, to Roland. I have therefore relieved myself of any commitment to write on the subject. I firmly believe that the two articles were entirely accurate and no documentary evidence has been brought forward to cast doubt on its accuracy.

On hearing that Roland had been sacked I helped call a meeting for last Thursday where 100 staff and students agreed that a

petition would be produced and a further meeting be called for 1.15 on Wednesday.

All action which we have taken has had Roland's support and we have done nothing without consulting him.

Some people have complained about the wording of the petition. Some have said that we should not have used the word "demand." Their argument reminds me of those who said during the sit-in that although they agreed with the militants' demands they were unable to support their action.

It is the perpetual argument of those who do not agree with one's position to say that they can accept everything except the most recent act or statement. They agree, in other words, with everything one does so long as it is not effective.

I believe that Roland's dismissal was unjustified but we have moderated our position and are only asking for his reinstatement pending a full inquiry.

I believe that this is the least the University can do to regain the respect it has lost due to Roland's arbitrary dismissal.

If there are those who would sign the petition if it did not contain the word "demand" or "protest" then let them formulate their own petition. Their reluctance to do this is better evidence of their true position than their easy protestations to the Press.

With comradely greetings,

GERALD S. HITMAN

CONCERN

SIR,—It is a pity that the petition, currently being circulated by Mr. Gerald Hitman and others, regarding the Roland Chaplain affair, is like so much of the work of Mr. Hitman and his colleagues in dissent, worded in such inflammatory terms. Doubtless your excellent newspaper will print the wording of the petition in the issue in which we hope that this letter will appear.

Our own feelings in this connection (and we feel that we may not be alone in this) are wholly in sympathy with Mr. Chaplain, who, if the news stories which have appeared in your paper are accurate—and we have so far seen little reason to doubt them—has been the victim, like so many of us today, of uncontrollable bureaucracy. Therefore, by implication, we are in sympathy with Mr. Hitman's (or whoever's) petition.

Nonetheless, we cannot bring ourselves to append our names to it, so long as it is worded in the same hackneyed, rude fashion as all the other "bumphs" which have been produced recently in the name of students. After much thought, we have decided to make our expressions of concern (Mr. Hitman would call it a "protest") in this form; we hope that the Vice-Chancellor, or some appropriate person will take note of the sentiment behind the petition, gloss over its blunt naivety of expression, and reconsider Mr. Chaplain's case.

As a rider to the above, we should also like to express the hope that Mr. Chaplain, and all students and others who sympathise with him in his present predicament, will take a long, cool look at any "situation" which develops, and analyse critically any "statements" of "facts" which may appear from agencies beyond Mr. Chaplain himself. There are still those around who want another "confrontation" with the University Authorities, along the lines of last term's "sit-in," and who might see this issue as a useful rallying-point.

We remain your obedient servants,

ROGER W. MATTHEW

(Biochem.)

ALAN BARKER,

(Elec. Eng.)

JOHN WARRE,

(Medic. V.)

C. B. GLITHERO,

(History III.)

HELEN WILLETTS,

(Archaeology III.)

TRUTH

SIR,—In recent weeks, "Redbrick" has carried statements, theories, and articles concerning the truth or untruth of various allegations or documents. In neither allegations nor responses in "Redbrick" to them have any incontrovertible facts able to prove veracity been presented.

It seems to me that the "truth" or otherwise of a statement in absence of evidence depends on whether the author is a persuasive speaker, a good prose writer, a well liked person (by a particular group), or a tongue-tied bore whose particular position in this small society is such that various groups have different attitudes towards his views. So we have the situation where one group regards his statement as the truth, another as a pack of lies and misinterpretations.

This situation is intolerable, antagonises one group against another and gives rise to rumours which only need latching on to by an outraged person for them to be magnified in his mind until they emerge as another stream of noxious half truths and assumptions.

A University is a place where people like to search for the truth, but in so many cases they never find it and wouldn't even recognise it, if it reared up and punched them on the nose. How about a little less of the "Eureka, I have found the nigger in the woodpile, let us do him to death with our pros and verbal daggers."

Yours,

STEPHEN A. DRURY,

Research Room 2,

Department of

Geology.

[This letter has been published in exactly the form it was written.—Ed.]

PROCESSION POSTPONED AFTER STORMY FESTIVAL

By PETE HARRIGAN

AS what can be described as a stormy yet successful Festival draws to a close, only the Carnival procession, postponed until March 8th due to snow, is left dangling on the end of the timetable. Snow too, Ents. Committee allege was mainly responsible for the considerable loss of £150 on the Mayfair Suite Dance last Friday.

Firstly the standard and harmless kidnapping stunt has resulted in Keevil threatening action. "Keevil's attitude," said Elvin McDavid, "can do nothing but harm and goes completely against the spirit and aim of Festival."

It seems obvious, if Keevil continues his threats, that Festival's image will receive a sizeable dent for the Press and city people are certain to place their usual inaccurate and misinformed interpretations on the incident.

Secondly, partly because of Keevil's attitude, and also due to the notorious C.B.S.O. flop at Aston, there has been sparked off a series of heated bouts of slanging accusations between Festival offices of both Unions which Aston are afraid could develop into more serious rifts and ill-feelings and have unwanted consequences.

Thirdly, the Cannon Hill row which is now raging is giving Festival a heavy hangover. Because of the contempt of various city puritans who have seen fit to pass judgment and dole out sweeping and lurid quotes without so much as seeing the play, the story has reached the national Press and is providing more damage to Festival.

It has also appeared obvious in the last day or so that if, instead of the established Rag tradition of "counting the good and forgetting the trifling scandals", these incidents provide fuel to a growing fire of public anger and complaints then, in the eyes of most city patrons, Festival will be wrongly thought of as having done

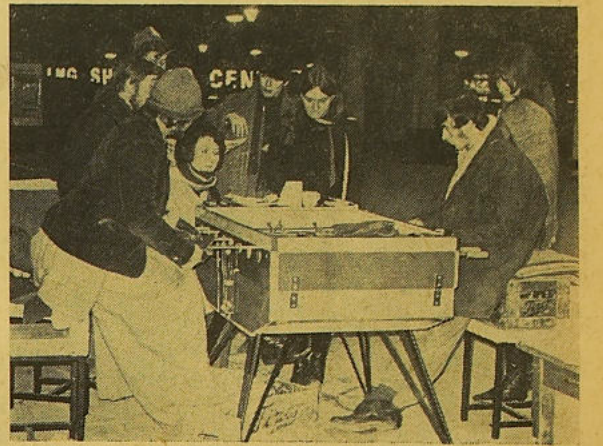
more harm than good. For good it has done, and in a degree greater and more successful than ever before. Community Action, under the guidance of its chairman Alan Barr, has overcome the seemingly vast organisational problems of running nearly 40 projects simultaneously in different locations with nearly two thousand people involved.

On the entertainments side of Festival the major furore has been on the fringes provided by ex-Publicity Chairman Chris Withers, over whom a considerable amount of criticism has raged due to committee allegations of his organisational ineptitude regarding the ordering and distribution of tickets and posters.

Questions have also been asked on whether it was not only snow that caused the loss on the Mayfair dance but a combination of overpricing tickets and holding it off the campus.

From the retrospective criticisms being hurled about the Union it seems that one important aspect that appears to have been lacking, partly due to Festival's unwillingness to hand out complimentary tickets to deserving helpers, is an effective labour force for clearing and setting up chairs and equipment at functions.

The resulting fact that committee members have, in the words of John Burkill, "been left to do all the donkey-work", is one reason why organisation and administration has slipped up on more than one occasion during the week.



Bar Football at New Street Station — 101 hours without stopping



Marathon Hora Dancing at Colmore Circus

ARTS FACULTY MAKES DECISION TOMORROW

THE decision of the Arts Faculty Board on student representation is to be announced on Thursday. This follows the presentation to the Board last week of a paper outlining suggestions for representation.

The paper, which was prepared by the four student members of the consultative committee on representation (Doug Reid, Jenny Moore, Colin Glitheroe and Chas Critcher) was discussed at a General Meeting of the Arts Faculty last week, and passed with only a few minor amendments.

and as the Court will not meet again until this time next year, no changes can be effected until the session 1970/71. However, if the Board decides to allow students full representation and voting rights, it is possible that they may be able to by-pass this particular regulation.

The Arts Faculty Board's decision will be discussed at a General Meeting of the Faculty as soon as possible after they have been made public.

Legal action threats after kidnap stunt

AT 1 a.m. on Wednesday morning a motley band of Birmingham and Aston festival personalities converged in the Moseley flat of Roger Keevil, the controversial Aston Festival chairman, intending to kidnap him. John Vidal, Keevil's flat-mate and one of his most outspoken critics, let this group into the flat and Keevil was surprised in bed. Whilst picking up his clothes and a sleeping-bag Keevil made a vain escape attempt, however, this was frustrated and he was soon being driven to a specially-prepared cellar in Steelhouse Lane.

It was later decided that a prolonged stay in this cellar would be detrimental to Keevil's health and so a fast car was arranged to drive him to Manchester, where the Mancunian rag committee could accommodate him in comparative comfort.

By 7 a.m. the party had arrived at the Manchester Union building which was locked and deserted. At this juncture Keevil eluded his kidnappers and phoned the police. Two officers arrived and were unimpressed by his tale of abduction — "Another bloody student stunt" was their attitude.

Nevertheless, they escorted him to the station and lent him the fare back to Birmingham. The thwarted kidnap party returned and dropped Keevil's belongings at his flat. A large notice saying "Sorry, Keevil's Back" was prominently displayed in Aston Union. In due course a letter was received by the V.C., Ray Phillips and Elvin McDavid which threatened legal action unless Keevil received financial reparation, a public apology and an undertaking that those responsible would be disciplined. Phillips replied in a noncommittal vein and asked for further facts. Keevil then sent a further letter to the V.C. alleging that loss of property had occurred and reiterating his demand for disciplinary action. The V.C., subsequent to this, placed the affair wholly in the hands of Phillips.

A meeting has been arranged between Keevil and Phillips at Aston, and our President, unwilling to prejudice this chance of defusing the whole affair, would not comment at great length. He did not, however, entirely rule out the possibility of a disciplinary committee being convened to investigate the matter.

John Butcher thought that the whole affair was laughable and described Keevil's actions as "childish and futile—very much in character." Elvin McDavid supported this view when he described Keevil as "an overgrown child."

Demo. rumour

THE Secretary of Oswald Mosley's Union Movement, Mr. E. J. Hamm, is to speak at a meeting organised by Debosc this Friday at 1.15.

It was originally hoped to have a speaker from the Union Movement at the same time as Colin Jordan came, but when Colin Jordan's visit was cancelled a speaker meeting was organised instead, on the subject "Sir Oswald Mosley and the Aims of the Union Movement."

It has been rumoured that Socialist Union are planning some form of demonstration at the meeting—possibly by a group of local Black Power supporters. Members of Socialist Union, however, refused to comment on these rumours.

Marshall replies to criticisms

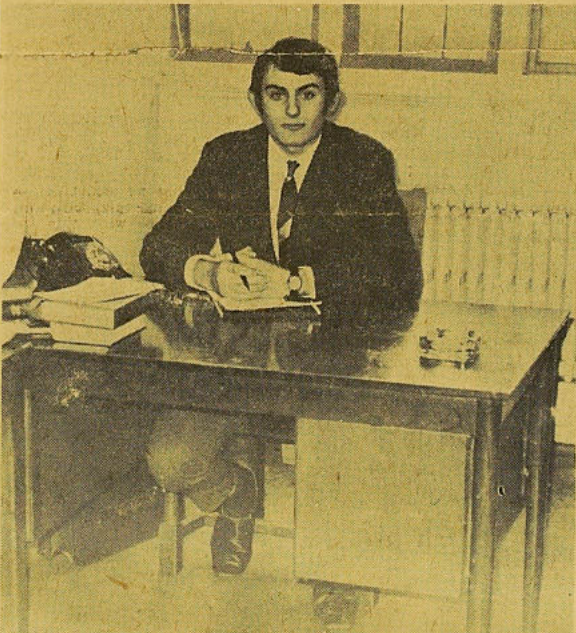
THE article which appeared in "Redbrick" on February 12th, carrying the views of some Vale Site residents on Hall food has been heavily criticised by the Halls Administration. While Mr. Marshall, the Chief Administrator, describes "Redbrick" as "useless" and having "lost the faith of everyone," it remains a fact that on the Monday following the appearance of the article, there was a meeting between Halls Administration and Student Representatives, aimed at improving the situation.

In a recent interview, Mr. Marshall was only able to spare twenty minutes to discuss matters that could have taken an hour. As an administrator and not a policy-maker he was, on many issues, confined to fine phrases of bureaucratic non-commitment. It meant pressing problems like publication of Hall fees and joint-ground floor plans were ruled out of the discussion.

A comparison of Hall fees with similar establishments at seven other universities puts Birmingham at the top of the league with cheapest fees. Although as Mr. Marshall would not doubt be the first to agree, value for money is as important as the size of the fee. The Administration, he pledged, is dedicated to a war on rising costs in an effort to keep down fees. "But," he continued, "although we know nothing for certain, I am far from confident that we can keep the fees down to their present level next Session."

Looking at this view in the light of many people's experiences on the Vale Site makes one wonder how long students can afford to live there. Examples of over-staffing in some areas, under-staffing in others are common. Electricity bills of about 3d a unit over the national average of about 1d, actually go towards the central heating costs as well, which would assume to be incorporated in fees. And according to other catering experts on the campus measures such as student clearance of empty dishes introduced as an economy to cut down labour costs are "no cheaper and far less efficient."

The facts are quite simple. Unless the war on costs is won and improvements made in many areas, particularly food and service, then the average student will simply be priced out of Hall.



Pete Jackson

HAS THIS MAN LET US DOWN?

By JOHN KEETLEY

This week's letter page leads with a reply by Pete Jackson, Chairman of Debating Society, to a letter published last week which severely attacked the running of Debosc, and its administrators in particular. This highly personalised criticism of the Society came from Martin Jenkins, who recently resigned from the committee. Jenkins decided to make public his disaffection for the present group of organisers in strong terms, stating that the main reason for his resignation was "the general inefficiency." Not only did Jenkins complain about the present organisation and its head, but he also went back to the days of Rhys Vaughan whose term of office provided Jenkins with nothing whatsoever to praise. In fact he had to go back to Perry Christie's leadership to show how the society should be administered, yet he did not elaborate and merely said that "£300 a year was justified." Towards the end of his letter, Jenkins asks the all-important question of the moment: "Should the Guild pay out £300 so that 80 people can be bored stiff in the Council Chamber?"

Pete Jackson refutes all of Martin Jenkins' adverse criticisms. He has stated that the reason behind most of them are probably due to an overdose of sour grapes on the part of the ex-Internal Secretary of Debosc. In a recent interview Jackson disclosed that Jenkins' resignation was not as straightforward as it might at first have appeared. Without giving specific details, the present chairman said that in effect Martin Jenkins was "forced to resign" because of inefficiency and auto-censorship bearing had to be removed from the society. Further to this he commented that Jenkins' letter was cleverly designed to wreck confidence in the present administration in which he has no part.

Jackson's answer to this latest attack attempts to clear up the debate on the role and effectiveness of Debating Society which has also included strong censure on the subject matter and quality of meetings in general. Only three weeks ago "Redbrick" received a letter which condemned the "immaturity, loudness and downright stupidity" of one particular meeting when the topic

Flats scheme

A new scheme for the accommodation of weekend visitors is being arranged by Welfare Committee. It aims to put people up quite cheaply in spare beds or on spare floor space in students' flats—for a small fee, of course.

But to succeed it needs lots of offers from students of the University living out in flats. Prospective "hostesses" should contact Wendy in the Welfare Office.

What really happened at Cannon Hill Park

By ALAN BOOTH

DURING the last week, the activities of the Drama Festival were consistently misrepresented and exaggerated both by Campus rumour and by sections of the national press. It is necessary now to state the facts as they occurred and to offer some opinion as to the relevance of what has arisen out of them.

The Midlands Arts Centre is a charity trust run specifically to interest children and young people in all aspects of artistic activity. It was agreed to stage our festival there because of its vast superiority of technical equipment and atmosphere to anything that the university can at present provide.

On Tuesday night, the group from Cologne appeared naked as part of their performance, and threw paint on their own bodies and onto the theatre floor. They had given no indication that their intention was to strip, nor had they made known to any technical staff the extent of the mess that would be made in the theatre as a result of their performance. The damage was so significant that the group from Manchester were unable to use the auditorium for their late night performance.

On Wednesday, a Swiss group, "Les Treteaux Libres," presented a play called "Quo Vadis." They remained fully clothed, but some offence was taken to the portrayal of the sexual act that occurred in their presentation.

The management of the theatre decided that, in order to protect their own interests, the Cologne group should not perform their play again on the Thursday, but should organise a discussion of it and show a film that they had brought with them and wished to be seen.

It was also decided that the next performance of the Swiss play should be a private club performance, which would have made no difference at all to the arrangements since ninety per cent of all tickets sold at that time had been sold to members of the Union or the Arts Centre club.

The German group organised several protests. At the discussion, they again appeared naked. They did so a third time in the public foyer of the building during a further discussion with the theatre management. At this point the management refused the Germans any further right to use the building.

The Germans, interrupting a late-night performance on Thursday, called for support from the other participants in the festival. A sit-in in the theatre auditorium developed. After some discussion, a guarantee was made by the festival organisers that no more festival activity would take place in the Arts Centre. The groups left the theatre.

At a meeting the following morning, it was decided that the other groups should present their plays in the Union late night on Friday, but that the Polish Mime Group, who needed the facilities of the Arts Centre in order to be able to present their programme at all, should perform at the theatre club under the sponsorship, not of festival, but of the Guild Theatre Group.

On Saturday, the Cologne group, having been told that one member of their group should be made responsible for collecting their properties from the theatre, arrived en masse and demanded admission. Police arrived at the request of the theatre management and ensured that there was no disturbance. The German group left Birmingham on the 5.15 train, two days earlier than expected.

Three factors have contributed to the unwarranted and silly fuss that has occurred over these events. Firstly, the critic of the "Birmingham Post" who had been invited by the organisers behaved in an entirely unethical manner. Rather than review the performance, he chose to interview members of the audience, and to write up the proceedings in a deliberately scandalous and over-sensational manner, from which other newspapers took their cue.

Secondly, a woman councillor has been represented both in the press and on television and radio as demanding the resignation of John English, the Chairman of the Arts Centre, and calling for a closure of the building. She maintains that she has received complaints from members of the audience and that, inasmuch as children were present in the theatre, it is her moral right to accuse the Arts Centre of indecency and to question the spending of public money on its activities.

Governors back Hunter

THE Press Conference after the Court of Governors Annual Meeting last Thursday began over 30 minutes late. During that period of time it was generally thought that there was a possibility of something of great interest developing in the Senate Chamber, but when the Press meeting continued under the chairmanship of Sir George Farmer, nothing more than routine matters ensued.

Sir George began his remarks with "the most important thing that has happened this session is the appointment of Dr. Hunter as Vice-Chancellor," and continued to express his concern with the credit squeeze and the greatly increasing number of students. The V.C. added that one of the major features of the report which he presented to the Court was the question of student accommodation, which affected the student "during a critical period in his life, when he is often under adverse conditions."

Inevitably the business of the sit-in arose and immediately the V.C. sighed: "Don't bring up the sit-in again, please." However, questions on this subject were pressing and although the V.C. reiterated his previous request, saying: "Sit-ins bore me," there was brief discussion. The V.C. expressed a wish that there would be "more participation by students and staff in the running of university affairs," and that these people would enter "with the spirit which Council and Senate have shown." What happens next? The V.C. could only reply: "I can't foretell the future, not in this place, anyway."

For the last part of the conference, the discussion went back to the problem of accommodation and many enquiries were put to the two men and also to the senior members of the university administration. The most important point which emerged at this stage was the news concerning the progress of the student flats, proposed for the Manor House site. Both Sir George and Dr. Hunter admitted their worries concerning the cost of building this accommodation and their uncertainty as to university finance in general. Nevertheless, the flats should be completed by the start of the 1970 academic year, and will cost the residents "not less than £3 10s per week."

Free University pamphlet outlines educational revolution

SINCE the Occupation last term a group has been meeting to talk about the possibility of beginning a free university here in Birmingham.

This week a catalogue is to be sold at a penny a time outlining the ideas behind what is hoped eventually will lead to the creation of alternatives to the present university system. At the base of the venture is a determination to end the rigid and emasculating processes of the Old University. Teachers, assessment and the artificial fragmentation of disciplines will be eliminated. Instead it is hoped that groups will come together solely because of their desire to learn more in whatever direction they have chosen; their work will be "co-ordinated" by anyone willing to do so. The teacher of the moment will be whoever has the most information or the most skill for the problem of the moment.

The only kind of assessment will be self-assessment. Subject matter will be precisely what is interesting and urgent—not ossified left-overs from time-honoured ways of doing things.

The aim of the catalogue is to open up the constituency of the Free University. The appeal is not only to students; copies of the catalogue will be distributed in other nearby universities and colleges, and as widely as possible to people in the city who could become involved.

For the time being the Free University will be operating from the Students' Union. Meetings will continue to be held on Tuesday nights in the Executive lounge. As soon as possible it is hoped to be able to move in to premises near the University.



Enoch Powell

belief that the University should hold a liberal attitude to overseas students in general and to coloured ones in particular — the conclusion being that Mr. Powell should resign since his own opinions are not compatible with this.

Sir George Farmer could not agree with such an assessment of the position. He said that he was unable to see the logic in the proposition's argument, and summed up the opposition's approach as follows: "I think what is involved here is the question of freedom of speech, which students set great store by, and so it seems, rather a paradoxical situation when they help sponsor such a motion."

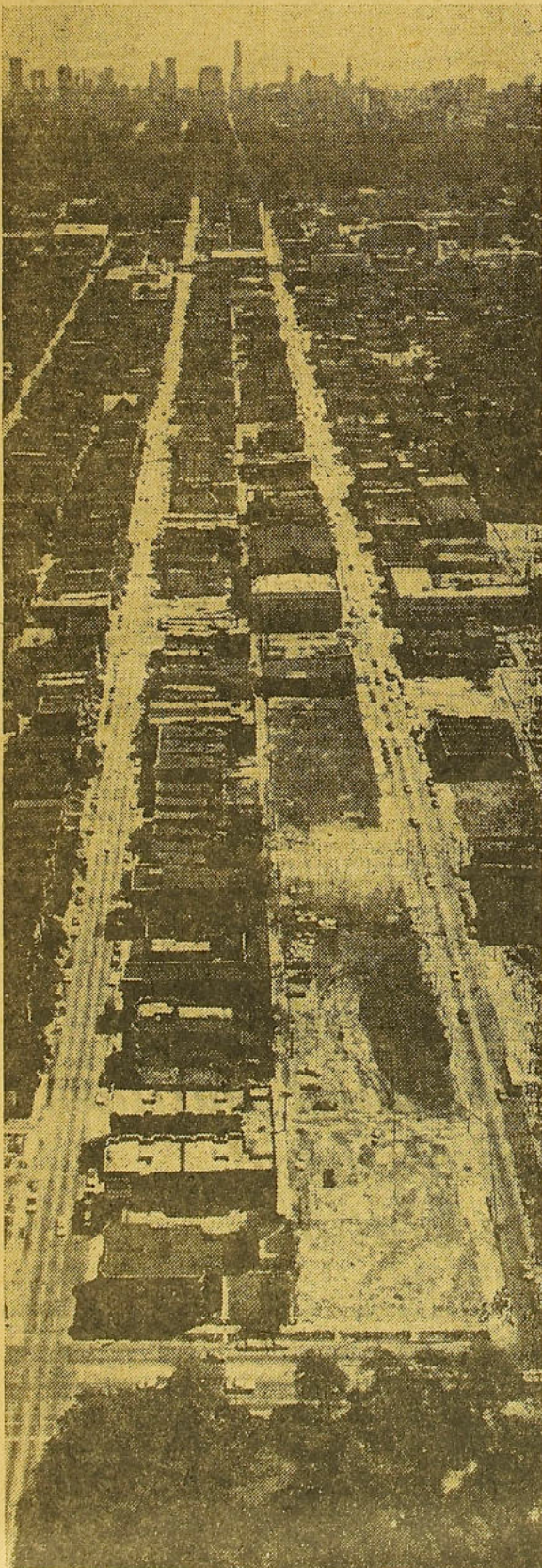
It appeared that Sir George was a little upset that such a proposal had been brought forward, and perhaps it follows that members of the Court may not have received it at all favourably, although it is reported that Governors "listened patiently." The pro-Chancellor ended his comments on the subject of Enoch Powell by saying: "This is not the right sort of place for this sort of thing to go on."



CHICAGO

THE OTHER SECOND CITY

CHICAGO is all Europe in one city. Here, the west-side streets become nations. One of these streets might be pure Polish—it is only when you are in Chicago that you can believe the fact that this city has the highest Polish population outside Warsaw. And the next is German—full of those Germans, with their little shops and little hotels, who did not become rich with Chicago and moved to the shores of Lake Michigan. Then there are the Irish—who have done so well in city politics (though they were once described to me as Birmingham drop-outs). And Hungarians, still speaking Hungarian among themselves. Italians running the "we serve breakfast 24 hours of the day" eating places, and Scandinavians, who have moved back from the dairy farms. Chicago has relatively few British descendants.



A stretch of West Madison Street on Chicago's predominantly negro West Side. The open areas are blocks burned out during the April riots.

When they arrived, the pride of Chicago was the Loop. The Loop is still downtown Chicago, but is now a place of the past. It gets its name from the incredible overhead railway system which makes a great loop round the centre of the city. This, providing a roof for the streets below, plunges them into that permanent semi-darkness so apparent in Chicago gangster films, and gives its passengers a unique view of life through fourth-floor windows. Everything is sacrificed to speed, and all the gloom, grease grime and noise are reminders that America's second city was built the hard way.

In the Loop are the huge old department stores such as Marshall Field, called in its hey-day "the greatest store on earth." This symbol of ruthless Mid-Western salesmanship was the inspiration for some of London's best-known stores. And here also are Woolworths—Woolworths on a gigantic scale, but altogether too clean, with too much disinfectant, and food laced with insecticide—but good if you like eating out of sterilised cartons.

Enormous hotels

Nearby are some magnificent banks—all thick carpets and automatic glass doors with pleasant dyed-hair receptionists behind ultra-polished desks and rows of green telephones.

And finally, the Loop hotels—with names that seem straight out of a brochure for a British seaside resort. But they are all dominated by the Conrad Hilton (lately of Democratic convention fame), the very largest of the world's hotels, where it would take you nine years to spend a night in every room, and, as the joke goes, a porter nine years waiting for the lifts.

First sky scraper

The Hilton faces out into Michigan Avenue. There are the great buildings which are now the pride and the most spectacular feature of Chicago. On the banks of the Chicago River is an architectural history of the 20th century. It was here that the very first skyscrapers were built—still just as striking as the new—with their arches and their Gothic spires, such as the brilliantly white Wrigley Chewing Gum building or the "Tribune" tower, in which Colonel McCormick used to write his vicious anti-British editorials. And back down the river is the Merchandise Building.

The pioneers wanted something big at this point, so they went and built what is still the largest

single-block building in the world. But somehow, among all the skyscrapers around, this low structure is "almost unbelievably inconspicuous."

Futuristic

Here also is the new Chicago. The Marina Towers belong to another future age, two magnificent cylindrical blocks, 40 storeys of apartments above, 15 storeys of garages below, each tower is a self-contained mini-town. And very tallest of all, the John Hancock Centre, visible 30 miles away, which grew to 1,000 feet within a year.

Finally, back in the Loop, an 80-storey bank where there was once a 40-storey hotel, such is the urge in this city to build and build. And next door, the bronze City Hall, which houses all King Daley's men.

And maybe most splendid of all is Chicago's Gold Coast. Here the wealthy live in great blocks of black marble and glass, right out by the edge of Lake Michigan. In front, only fish and gulls and water before the horizon; behind them, forgotten, all the screeching of brakes, the din of cranes and drills, and police sirens and garbage collector machines, and the sheer accumulation of five million Mid-Western voices, that is America's second city.

Reversed river

This city, unlike most of her neighbours, has done well by her like, lined with sandy beaches and parks within minutes of the Loop's streets. The beauty and natural cleanliness here is all due to one remarkably simple fact—an ingenious piece of engineering—the Chicago River flows backwards, taking the city's waste to the plains inland.

Back among the North-side streets, once ruled by Al Capone, there are now night clubs and discotheques, and book shops and cafes, full of young artists and writers, gazing out on to some scenes which once inspired Sandbury, O'Hara and Drieser. This may be Chicago's answer to Soho or the King's Road, but somehow it is all wrong.

Conservatism

The girls laugh among the pop and psychedelic posters, but all are dressed the same way as all girls brought up in the strict, conservative atmosphere of Mid-Western life—knee-length skirts

brown stockings and strong shoes.

Slaughter

How was all the Chicago money really made? Much came from the mass slaughter of animals down at the Union Stockyards. In the words of American writer Norman Mailer:

"Endless files of animals were led through pens to be stunned on the head by hammers and then, hind legs trussed, to be hoisted on hooks to hang upside down... and they passed a psychic current back along the overhead trolley—each cut throat released its scream of death into the throat not yet cut and just behind, and that penultimate throat would push the voltage up, drive the current back and further back into the screams of every animal upside down and hanging from that clanking trolley, bare electric bulbs screaming into the animal eye and brain, gurglings and awesome hollows of sound coming back from the open plumbing ahead of the cut jugular as if death were indeed a rapids along some underground river... and then the slicing, the boiling and the scraping, annealing and curing of the flesh in sugars and

honey and smoke, the cooking of the cow carcass, stamp of the inspector, singeing of the hair, boiling of hooves, grinding of gristle, the wax papering and packaging, the burning of the residue and the last slobber of unsaleable guts as it went into the stockyard furnace and up as stockyard smoke, burnt blood, and burnt bone and burnt world.

South-side. You should always take a bus through the South-side. At first you wonder why—the bus is full of laughter and chat of those large jolly negroes with large Woolworths bags that you only see on American buses. Around you is probably the largest Urban Renewal programme in the world.

games on the building sites—are the headquarters of the black extremist movements.

It is here that the Panthers meet, and still more extremist than the Panthers—are the South Side's own Blackstone Rangers—the most frightening gang on earth. Here the pick of the wildest delinquents arm and plot in the shadow of the University of Chicago and carry out their course of study—knifework, sabotage and the killing of the "whitey."

Extremists

It is these extreme Right Wing Negro movements, coupled with the white racists who have brought their Nazi and Ku Klux Klan ideas to the Chicago suburbs to become the fanatical Minutemen, or members of SPONGE (Society for the Prevention of Niggers Getting Everything) that are the greatest problems facing Chicago and other American cities today.

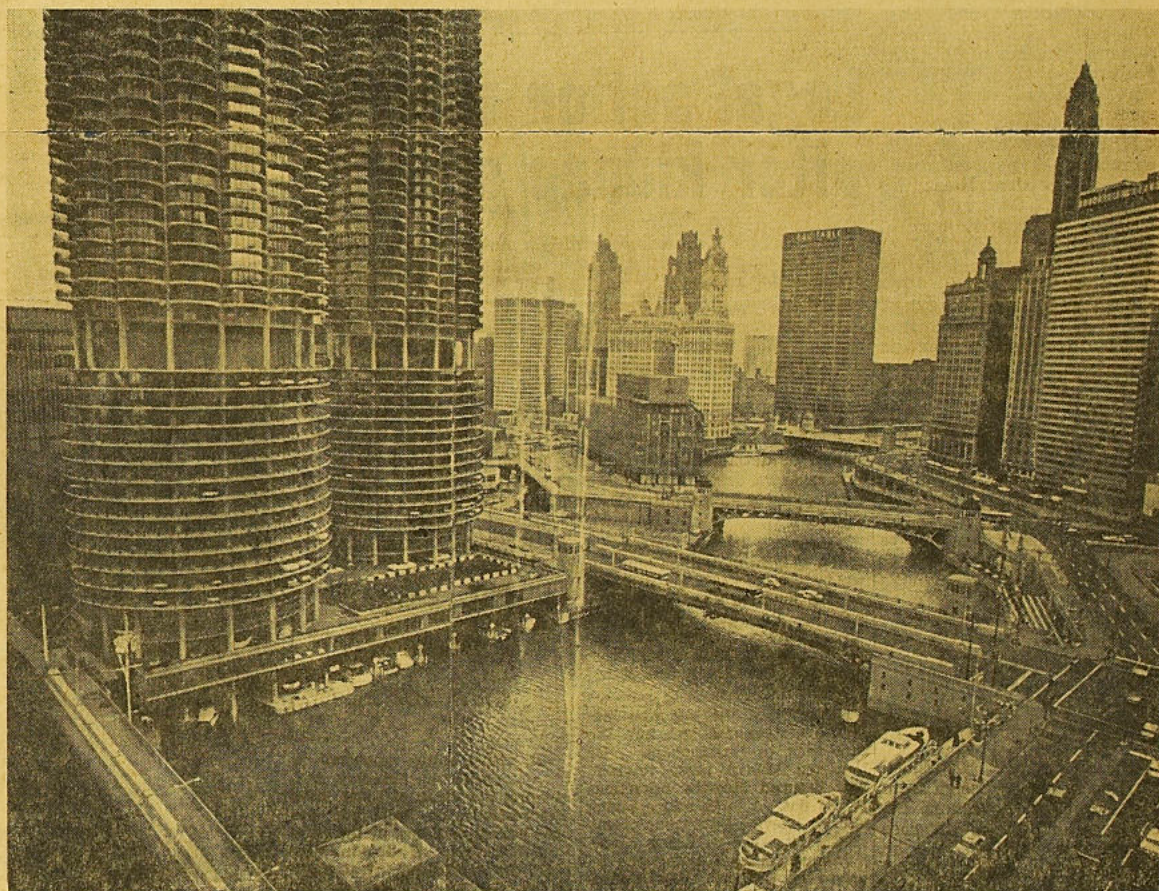
"Miami and the Siege of Chicago," by Norman Mailer, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1968.

Chicago to most people is a city dominated by gangsters and a tough police force. Martin Kenig takes a fresh look at the capital of America's Mid-West.

hair to add their properties of specific stretch to fresh blood, fresh entrails, fresh fatalities already all over the air."

The men, mainly negroes, who work in the stockyards, live in the

People get new houses by the hour, and nobody should belittle Johnson's and Mayor Daley's Great Society effort—until they have seen the South-side for themselves. Behind the cheerful mothers and children, playing ball



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Sweden, 1966.
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REVIEWS

FILMS

AFTER respectfully viewing "Gone With The Wind" for something in the region of four hours, in the new revamped 70 m.m. version, opening this week at the Cinemas, one is tempted to give it a reverent touching of the forelock simply on account of its age (first made 1939) and its Academy Awards (ten of them).

However, in spite of the latter, and the fact that it is inevitably billed as one of the greatest or most important motion pictures in the history of the cinema, "Gone With The Wind" certainly is well worth seeing. Not because it might be one of the greatest motion pictures ever made (all Hollywood epics are one of the greatest motion pictures ever made) simply because it's a very enjoyable film; not in the least bit pretentious, extremely well made, and with superb performances from Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh and Lesley Howard.

The monster is not witless, but don't expect any deep psychological insights into the way the

characters tick—the film is rather shallow for most of the time, though in some of the scenes it achieves a certain reality—especially towards the end, where Clark Gable figures more prominently than in the first half. Initially the screen play comes over as being rather incoherent, there are too many threads all running in different directions; they eventually fuse into the lives of Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh) and Rhett Butler (Clark Gable), and it is here the film is at its best.

Unashamedly romantic, for most of the time—if not for all of the time, it never quite takes the sugar icing beyond any innate cynicism the audience might possess. True the major characters' predilection for suffering disaster at every available opportunity, rivals that of any Ph.D. student, and becomes almost laughable at times, but this never seems to matter beside the enormous expanse of the screen play.

Having never seen the original version, I cannot comment on how the reframing into 70 m.m. film has affected the movie, save that the editing seemed very clumsy and ponderous at times, possibly the result of conversion to the 70 m.m. format.

All the above besides; it's still worth the effort.

At the Odeon this week, Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway take up stances on opposite sides of the criminal fence in "The Thomas Crown Affair"—a gimmicky thriller directed by Norman Jewison. It seems odd that Mr. Jewison, having gestated such admirable films as "In the Heat of the Night" in the past, should have created such a bastard child as this.

It's not that the material isn't promising—brilliant, but rather bored businessman Thomas Crown (Steve McQueen), plans and commits the perfect crime—in this case robbing a bank—and the only person who comes at all close to solving the mystery is insurance investigator Vicky Anderson, who utilises feminine intuition rather than logical deduction.

She has an affair with Thomas Crown to try and prise the truth out, but with inconclusive results. For those who are fans of the glossy thriller, this would seem quite attractive—though personally I am tired of seeing the international jet set rob and kill each other just for the hell of it. What-

ever happened to kitchen sink? Technically the film is ruined by the use of multi-screen photography, rather after the style of the Expo 67 experimental films. The technique can be useful, but in this instance seems to serve no useful purpose and is in fact distracting.

The execution of the robbery is by far the best sequence in the movie; in the style of the planning of the raid it is crisp and precise, performed with a minimum of effort, and without bludgeoning the suspense.

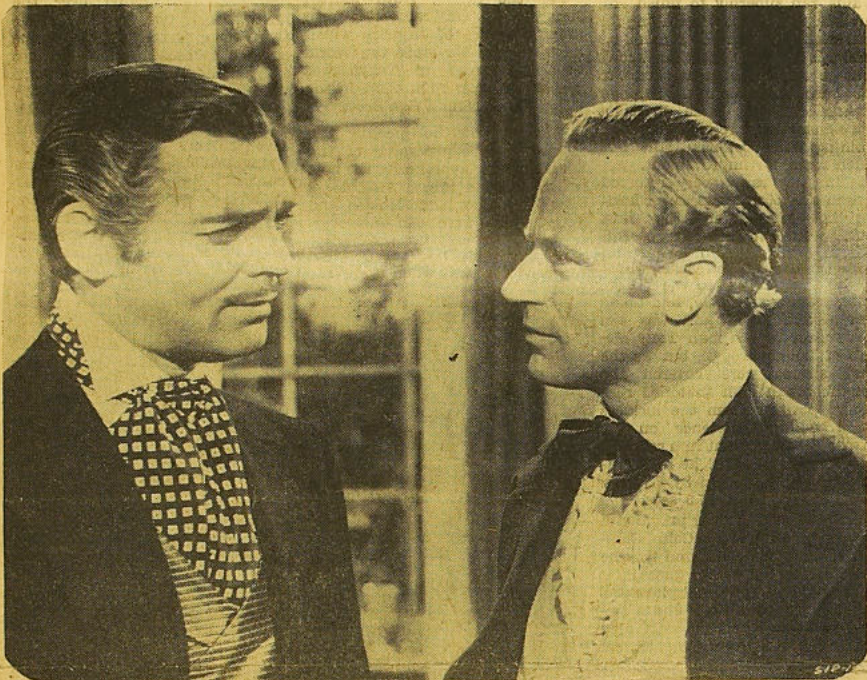
The rest of the film becomes increasingly unsatisfying by comparison. There's a sort of affair between Thomas Crown and Vicky Anderson, never seeming to reveal anything of their drives and motives. Perhaps this is looking too deeply into a simple often beautifully photographed thriller, but if it is a simple thriller, it's a very tedious one.

At the other cinemas this week, the ABC New Street and Colleshill Street both retain "Till Death Do Us Part" and the Cinephone keeps the tedious "Skin-Skin" coupled with Bunuel's "Viridiana"—this last very worth seeing, if you haven't managed it yet.

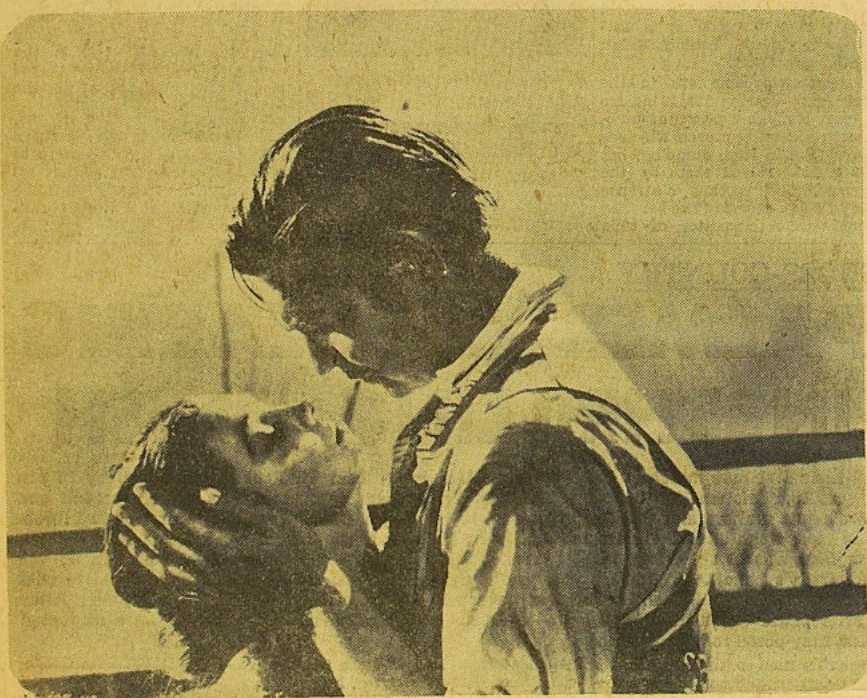
Phil Irving



Faye Dunaway.



Clark Gable and Leslie Howard.



"Gone with the Wind"



Confrontation in "The Thomas Crown Affair."

BOOKS

"AN EXPENSIVE PLACE TO DIE" by Len Deighton.

THE title is a quotation from Oscar Wilde, "dying in Paris is a terribly expensive business for a foreigner." Deighton and Wilde share sardonic and rather urbane wit, although the shadow world of Len Deighton's espionage novels is as far from the cultured elegance of Wilde's plays as it is from the comic strip technicolour gloss of James Bond. Deighton is obsessed with the themes of deception and reality, and his books are essays in the relativity of truth. Here there are no absolutes, good or evil, or black and white; only grey. The characters constantly change their allegiances, clothes, ideologies, emotions and identities.

The central character is a rather mundane, cynical anti-hero, who possesses no fixed identity, and is middle-aged and growing fat. Most of his time is spent in a dingy office trying to pass numbers

of routine files on to other departments, and watching the paint peeling off both the walls and his secretary.

The realism is underlined by the way in which the books are presented as dossiers with footnotes and appendices. Deighton's knowledge is encyclopaedic; his sources startlingly accurate.

His beautifully poetic style, his command of language and of form makes him the foremost writer in this field. His plots are incredibly complex, like a maze that is constantly being rearranged by its inmates as their objectives, information and allies change. Violence is present but is never glorified; the sordid nature of death is stressed. "You can recognise a head shot off by a high-velocity weapon; a cloud of blood-particles appeared like a vapour in the air above him."

"An Expensive Place to Die" is a typical example of Deighton's work, it appears to have been written in rather a hurry however and is rather disappointing. The plot is less complicated, the situation and psychology are less deeply

explored. But Deighton is still master. A Pirate Radio ship used by the Chinese Secret Service, and the use of LSD in interrogations are elements that could spoil the book, but they are carefully employed.

The same applies to Datt's clinic which is a symbol of the moral decay of our society. Deighton does not need to dwell on these sexual perversions, practised by leading diplomats. If the book is cynical and a trifle thick, it is because this is a mirror of our own corruption. The book is not Deighton at his best but it is an intelligent piece of writing.

Other books by Len Deighton in this series:—

"THE IPORESS FILE" (Panther).

"WORMS UNDER WATER" (Penguin).

"FUNERAL IN BERLIN" (Penguin).

"BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN" (Penguin).

Paul Sommers

REVUE

OF all the diverse events advertised for Festival Week, "Jemima Spagbracket's Music and Laughter Emporium Returns" is one of the few which is actually happening, and happening very well too. Due in large part to an imaginative (and autonomous) advertising campaign which has projected Jemima Spagbracket on to a potential audience of thousands, the Birmingham University Revue Group has managed admirably to justify all it has said in public about its ninety-minute show, appearing at the Opposite Lock tonight, and the Dolce Vita on Friday.

Perhaps the only fault with Jemima Spagbracket, a mixture of sketches and songs written by some of the "I'm sorry I'll read that again..." team, is its length. The omission of a song or two would easily remedy a minor shortcoming, and make the show a little tighter. Otherwise, the whole performance is well worth seeing; it has the same agile wit and happy cohesion as its radio counterpart, with the added

visual element to give it even more punch.

A shame it is indeed that Jemima Spagbracket has to play to the limited size of audience which the Factory (next to the Opposite Lock) can accommodate.

A great deal of the show's appeal lies in its commendably broad-based approach to humour. The tired old themes of sex, students, colour and politics (for the sake of a cheap round of applause) are mercifully left well alone, except for a few instances, notably the "Take your clothes off" sketch and the medley of satirical songs, where the treatment relies on sheer humour rather than salaciousness.

Though by no means the only good sketch, the most acclaimed by the audience was undoubtedly the "Pun Contest." The three elements—the knockabout, the weller of exasperating but clever puns, and the "running commentary" combined to make it one of the highlights of the show.

The music also deserves a mention; written by two members of the Music Department, John Drummond and Brian Fieldhouse, both melodies and lyrics were at the same time imaginative yet unpretentious. The song "Birmingham"

(who really defies any such categorisation).

Roy Harper has not yet attained widespread recognition for his talents and has so far been praised in relatively limited circles, nevertheless his L.P. is becoming increasingly popular and is now being followed by a further collection of thought-provoking, sometimes extremely humorous compositions. The name of Roy Harper may be known to many people via the record "The Rock Machine turns you on" where he plays what is perhaps one of his best and most well-known songs, "Nobody's got any money in the summer."

All in all, Friday's "Do" should be extremely worthwhile both for those who prefer dance and blues music, and also for others who enjoy the concert atmosphere of acclaimed folk music. Here is an opportunity to introduce the one to the other and then combine the two to produce what must be an impressive six hours of non-stop entertainment.

Millie Catherall

POP

THIS Friday sees another in the line of the previously highly successful Lake Wydd "Do's" but this time the organisers are applying a new concept in the sphere of University entertainments. Instead of adopting the routine formula of at least one big-name group, Lake and Wydd prefer to arrange something slightly different by punctuating the dance part of the evening with a cabaret in the form of Roy Harper.

Although much doubt may initially arise as to the wisdom of this decision, the general feeling has come to accept what will most probably prove to be an excellent and successful idea. The fact is that for five-and-six you are getting three very proficient groups of varying styles. Bachdenkel, Tuxedo Junction Blues Band, and the aspiring Barnabas, plus the chance to hear a performance by an accomplished folk/blues singer

G.T.G.

THIS weekend the future of the GTG production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" which is to have its first performance in Deb. Hall tonight, was very much in the balance.

At one stage it looked as though the whole production would be called off, but later it was decided that just the Wednesday performance would be cancelled to allow for more rehearsal time.

This new crisis was in part precipitated by the departure last week of Sebastian Bergmann and Ivan Garlick with a Swiss theatre group, leaving two large parts in

the play to be filled. However, the play has had other difficulties, such as the non-appearance of some actors at rehearsals, and it was only decided to mount the production at the beginning of this term, when the planned "Three-penny Opera" had to be cancelled because of copyright difficulties.

At the beginning of this week another actor with a major part walked out on the production, causing another change in casting, and there is the added difficulty of many of the cast suffering from flu.

The play is being produced by Jocelyn Powell, of the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts.

Frank Pledge

JAZZ

ON the evidence of his current performances at the Opposite Lock, Roland Kirk is still one of the most exciting musicians around. His music is quite unique—further, it is impossible to think of a performer whose visual impact is more riveting.

To call him a multi-instrumentalist is a wild understatement. He plays at least seven instruments, and this discounts his blues shouting and his formidable arsenal of whistles, sirens and miscellaneous percussion instruments.

There can be few more staggering experiences than to see this man (blind since the age of two) playing three reed instruments at the same time—the tenor saxophone, manzello, and stritch (the last two of these are curious bastardised saxophones). The range of harmonies that he can produce in this way is necessarily somewhat limited, but is always inserted so as to achieve a massive impact.

Indeed, everything he does is calculated to gain the maximum dramatic effect, whether it be the punctuation of a solo with a wild whoop of a siren, or beating all hell out of a large gong. Yet the end result is always valid, never gimmicky.

One of Kirk's major contributions to jazz is the easy, natural way he has incorporated every conceivable illegitimate note that can be wrung out of his instruments into his music. Each instrument is attacked with a terrifying ferocity, so that even the normally pure and gentle flute tone turns searing, as he hums into it whilst playing, bending and twisting the sound until it becomes an impassioned wail. The rare (more so of late) moments of calm and grace gain the power to shock from their very scarcity. It may be, of course, that this violence is an expression of his reputed political commitments. His road manager comes complete with a Black-Power T-shirt, anyway.

It is the tenor saxophone, though, upon which he excels. Most of his longer solos were upon this instrument, which he plays with extraordinary control. He has perfected a way of breathing, in and out at the same time, that not only enables him to hold notes for minutes at a time, but more significantly enables him to play extended legato phrases without coming up for air.

He is resident at the Opposite Lock for the remainder of the week (until March 1st). Go and see, with your bank manager, and then go. It really is an astounding experience.

Dick Maynard



ROLAND KIRK



CONCERTS

depends on delicacy and grace for its effect.

ONE of Festival's best ideas was to engage John Williams to give a recital (Deb. Hall, last Thursday). Mr. Williams's technique is formidable, and his choice of material (with one exception) for a great evening were there, bar one—atmosphere.

There was much beautiful music in this recital, but the surroundings were totally unsuited to such fragile music. The Deb. Hall is at best a cold and demanding place in which to listen (and, one imagines, in which to perform).

When you add to this difficulty G.T.G.'s phone ringing, the roof leaking, whistling emerging from the bowels of the building and people coming in very late (it is impossible to sink into the Deb. Hall), it is clear that the performer was battling against insuperable odds. This is especially acute when you remember how much classical guitar music

Some of the most enjoyable parts of the programme were those that needed just these qualities, for example, the charming dances by Praetorius, the Scarlatti sonatas and Bach's Prelude, Fugue and Allegro.

Understandably, many of the pieces derived from Spanish (and Brazilian) sources, an idiom that Mr. Williams has mastered.

The Prelude No. 4 by Villa-Lobos was particularly good. Yet the final piece, the flamenco-influenced Miller's Dance, by de Falla, which was clearly intended as a rousing finale, failed disastrously—beaten by the atmosphere.

The other disappointment was the Partita for Guitar by Dodgson, a self-conscious attempt to drag guitar music into the '60's. It would be an interesting exercise to see whether the more aggressive electric guitar would be a more suitable vehicle for this type of music.

Dick Maynard

redbricksports

Sports staff: Pete Griffiths, Jacky Hitman, Andy Holden and John Palmer.
Photos: Chris Robinson and Martin Wardle.

Palmer's Sportsview

RUGBY LEAGUE hasn't yet come to Birmingham University but it could soon be initiating from the north. Close at hand, Nottingham University already have a team and the game is rapidly growing in many other Universities and Colleges.

As far as the U.A.U. is concerned this growth of Rugby League, to quote a recent circular raises "certain delicate issues regarding the relationship between the Rugby Union and Rugby League codes." The trouble is that any player who has any contact at all with even amateur Rugby League is banned from Rugby Union. The ban even applies to players using pinnies for Union which have been used for League matches.

Obviously University Authorities cannot prevent a University Rugby League Club from using its playing fields. The common use of facilities by League and Union clubs is unique to Universities so on this point the Rugby Union has made an exception to its rules.

A clash between U.A.U. and the Rugby Union has been avoided this time but if Rugby League becomes widely established in Universities as it threatens to do, one wonders how long the uneasy peace will last.

☆☆

The rather impressive display of trophies outside Athletic Union Office in the Sports Centre, could well need rearranging over the next week or two. The Women's Clubs contributed seven of the cups last season but although they should still supply the lion's share again this year one or two have already gone astray. Both the swimming and squash teams have already let the WIVAB Championships trophy that they won last year, slip away. Three trophies are already in our grasp though. The women's table-tennis team retained their trophy and the netball club made up for last year, when the first team lost in the semi-final, by taking both first and second-team WIVAB championships.

But whatever happens to the hockey, tennis and athletics teams it is almost certain that the biggest trophy of all, the Kerslake trophy for overall performance, will remain on display at Birmingham for at least another year.

☆☆

The basketball club have been in the wars to a considerable extent since the UAU Championships. Not only have their efforts in the West Midlands League collapsed with two defeats in a row but now their right to have been in the UAU Final has been challenged.

When Birmingham, Leeds and Swansea tied at the top of their Pool in the Championship, the UAU Technical Representative did not have a single rule book between them to decide what should have happened next. As things turned out the guess they made was a wrong one and although Leeds were correctly eliminated Birmingham should have been placed second in the pool and should have played Loughborough Colleges in the semi-final.

Anyway Swansea, who perhaps realise that they didn't deserve to be in the semi-final at all, haven't complained too bitterly and Birmingham remain as worthy runners-up.

NETBALL

DOUBLE SUCCESS AT CRYSTAL PALACE!

AFTER some trepidation about travelling in the snowy conditions, Birmingham's 1st and 2nd Netball teams arrived in plenty of time for last Saturday's W.I.V.A.B. final at Crystal Palace.

Court conditions were not exactly perfect for the indoor court was too hot and the floor covering was too slippery for well-worn pumps. Yet despite this the 1st Seven who played first adapted themselves more quickly than their opponents, Reading, to these conditions. They also had to contend with the psychological disadvantage of being favourites to win, having earned the title of "court killers" among some universities.

From the start Reading forced the pace and proved very difficult to mark. However, Birmingham did not lose control intercepting their poor passes. Defender Cynthia Hill and Judith Clarke kept two active Reading shooters under close surveillance, which kept the Reading score down, while Les "Springs" Baker had one of her best games of the year, successfully marking her partner out of the game after the first quarter.

The first half proved to be very fast and both sides showed some excellent netball. Despite a Birmingham lead Reading fought back, and at half-time were within two goals of a worried Birmingham. But after a half-time pep talk Birmingham took a cooler look at the game resulting in a greater control of the game. They forced a slower pace, so their passing became more accurate and decisive, so that Birmingham's lead widened. On doing so Reading's confidence broke and they lost much of their skill and determination.

Sue Johnson and Pat Fowler played well together, conveniently losing their partners in order to feed their shooters. While

shooters Liz Cole and Chris Williams had a hard first half, being tightly marked and often unjustly penalised by the referee—who, one might add, had some peculiar rules of his own. However, they both worked well together and got some very fine goals.

By the fourth quarter Birmingham were in complete control. Reading paid the price for an early fast pace, so enabling Birmingham to keep their lead, the final score being 21-37 to a tired but triumphant 1st seven.

However the victory of the 1st seven did not inspire the 2nd seven with any confidence, for their opponents, Newcastle, were reputed to be a team both in skill and stamina. In fact Newcastle fully expected to wipe the floor with Birmingham, but much to their dismay, the reverse took place.

From the beginning Birmingham proved to be much the better side. Sheila Pooh played with determination and skill feeding the ball from defenders to shooters, well aided by Joan Linsell and Chris Terry. Shooters Judith Ritley and Gill Woodhead prone to occasional erratic success proved to be very

much on form, much to the despair of Newcastle. Resulting in an early lead for the Birmingham girls.

Newcastle at the end of the first quarter were much demoralised by their lack of success, but what proved more fatal was their lack of determination, which had resulted from their over-confidence. As a result Birmingham widened their lead over the next two quarters, any successful moves by Newcastle being halted by the work of the defenders, Cath Hindley and Pat Gay.

By the time of the fourth quarter Birmingham had a sizeable lead to the extent that they relaxed, letting Newcastle back into the game. Despite this Birmingham kept the lead, and at the end of the final whistle deservedly won 20-38.

MARATHON BRIDGE

ELAINE AND ANWYN PROVIDE THE THRILLS!

FESTIVAL provided an excuse for the performing of less energetic, more widely practised but less widely publicised sports in the form of marathon sessions. The first off the ground was the bar football, closely followed by darts. The bar footballers certainly put up a fine performance in setting up a world record of 101 hours in the cold of New Street Station. The darts players performed the relatively simple task of completing 100 hours in the warmth of the Union—sustained by other people's breakfasts.

The other main scene of activity was Hardwick's Store in Corporation Street. Here life was injected into a dying shop by the presence of a team of bridge players who were embarking on a three-day session. The nucleus of the team—Jeff Rodin, Bob Roxburgh, Nick Bateman, Sefdar Aggar, Andy Holden and Pete Griffiths were either playing or collecting money for most of the 72 hours, and only totalling about 50 hours' rest between them over that period.

The only crisis came at the 66-hour mark when Sefdar fell asleep at the table. Fortunately Pete was sleeping nearby and, having been woken, quickly stepped into the breach. Two hours and six cups of coffee later the intrepid Arabian-Kenyan was back in action.

Workers setting off to earn their daily bread at 6.30 a.m. were surprised to see in the shop window the same haggard figures who had been there the previous night. Filmgoers coming from late-night shows, drinkers staggering from clubs, found themselves accosted by Barb—bearing bridge players taking a few minutes' fresh air whilst their colleagues continued the game. A world record for selling rag mags at midnight must surely have been set up, when between the hours of 12.30 a.m. and 12.39 a.m. on Saturday, February 22nd, 1969, 50 Barbs were sold to half-drunk Brummies.

The temperature in the shop window fluctuated violently

between being just bearable to extremely cold, depending on the state of the fuses at the time. About 50 yards of fuse-wire were used in the three days due to a combination of tattered flexes, dicky junction boxes and people who would insist on standing on them, kicking them and knocking over fires. Some of the methods em-

a blinding flash followed by a cry of "Eureka!" from the other side of the counter, switch off, repair connection, replace fuse, remanufacture junction box, plug in, switch on, and comparative warmth again.

The overall effect was to leave one tired and hungry. The latter was due to failures in the supply line from time



Bridge for 72 hours was quite tiring for those concerned. Apart from merely having five or six hours' sleep in three days, their mental powers were also taxed to the utmost. Knitters, however, provided refreshment and light entertainment.

played by the amateur electricians was a revelation. Andy Holden's method of finding the whereabouts of faulty connections was particularly outstanding.

This involved sticking a screwdriver at strategic positions into the live junction box. This eventually produced

to time due to the eating of extra breakfasts by darts players or lack of personnel in the Union. When eventually it was all over and heads were laid to rest, the result was dreams which started sweetly with seven or eight trumps bid and ended in nightmares as the fourth Yarborough was dealt in a row.

SOCCER

FIRST-TEAM SPOT FOR WORTLEY

BIRMINGHAM A.F.A. 0 BIRMINGHAM UNIV. 1st 0
THIS match was played last Tuesday night under floodlights at Oldbury Stadium, where the pitch resembled a huge concrete slab under several small patches of ice. As if the state of the was not sufficient to destroy all skillful soccer, there was a freezing gale-force wind, which all too often whipped the ball out of play and sent it several miles away towards the concrete boundary fence. These conditions brought the standard of even the best ball-players down to that of novices, and as a result the match was almost devoid of incident and totally devoid of good soccer.

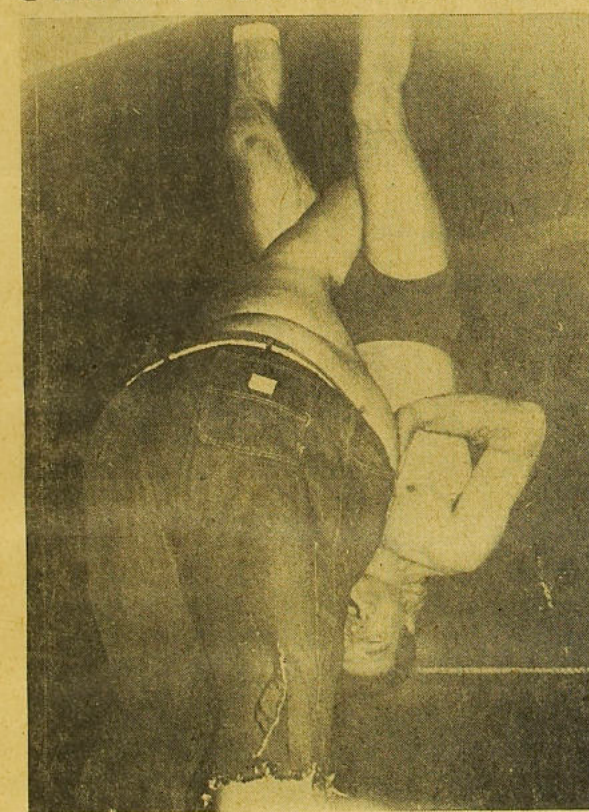
The best chances fell to the University, although they were unable to convert them into goals—a trait which has been all too recurrent of late. In the opening minutes Mel Birkinshaw ran on to an astute pass from Rog Dobson and hit a tremendous shot from the edge of the penalty area, which hit the underside of the crossbar, almost decapitating the

dazed goalie as it rebounded away to safety. In the second half, Rog Hawkins unaccountably missed two open goals and Dave Hughes, after a neat run, fired narrowly over the bar from 25 yards.

The A.F.A. had their chances too, mainly from defensive errors, which were forgivable on such a playing surface. However they,

too, were unable to capitalise on them. Good individual performances were few and far between, but Dave Wortley did catch the eye, with some excellent midfield play, non-stop running all evening and the most accurate ball distribution of the night. Perhaps this performance will seal a regular first-team place for him!

32st. KLONDYKE BILL



Festival wrestling brought to the University the enormous Klondyke Bill. He came... he fought... he conquered... and was disqualified for repeatedly ignoring the referee. Nevertheless it was a great sports occasion!

FEATURE

Lake Race—Feb. 28

THIS year's Lake Race is to be bigger and better than ever before. There has been a new trophy awarded by Mitchell and Butlers, for the winners of a third race which has been added to the programme. Teams can come from any club, institution, etc. within an educational establishment, which throws the entry open to all-comers. No details of entries have been received by "Redbrick" but a full list of results will be printed next week.

Defending their title for the first team from a Hall of Residence or Faculty within the University, Lake Hall must be by no means certain to retain their title. The postgrads who ran them so close last year, are running even better now and are in with a better chance of taking victory. Among their stars are Ian Thompson (Athletic Club captain), and a past captain in the shape of Jack Groat.

The future home of the team

title is further likely to be confused if the Dentists decide to challenge in force. With Ralph Banthorpe available they could easily take the team award, but doubt still exists concerning his fitness. Jim Aukett will also be in their team, and their line-up seems a good bet to me.

They must be disappointed that certain of their runners will not be able to run, because the National Cross-Country Championships are to be the following day. Nevertheless, the night will be full of entertainment. Mike Hayes will be back fresh from his U.S. tour. He will no doubt be contesting the Ladies title yet again!

Last year his adversaries got the better of him and he got a little wetter in the lake, but these happenings are all in the spirit of the evening. Will there be a repeat performance of last year's frolics, when High Hall Vice-President infiltrated the ladies race, heavily disguised, and created havoc by commencing slowing down tactics of a very dubious nature.

So for all the fun and the spills, go to the Lake Hall Races and see the scenes. It will be an opportunity to recapture the glory of Mexico... in full Technicolor, too!

CROSS-COUNTRY

PALMER & SPEARING IN THRILLING FINISH

IN their first mob match of the season, the University beat St. Paul's Cheltenham by 80 pts. to 98. This was quite a surprise since Birmingham contingent was largely second and third team runners and St. Paul's were at full strength. Over a road race course of two three-mile laps, Geno and Gavin started off slowly tracking a fit and mentally relaxed John Palmer. The lead was at this time being contested by Tom Salway and Gordon Thompson on the University's behalf. At the half-way mark Steve Gibbons, Gavin and Geno stopped to chat to race recorder Mal Thomas who was never at any stage in the race moving good! After a brief pause while track-suits were removed and interviews with the press were dispensed with, they posed for photographs.

The race then continued with renewed fervour and something like a close finish was arranged. Geno narrowly beat a St. Paul's runner, but alas, the cameraman had left. Meanwhile Tom Salway was running much better than previously this term and looked remarkably relaxed as he sped through the finishing arch to snatch third place from Gavin. Gavin complained afterwards that the result was unfair since there was no photo finish and anyway he was injured.

Steve and Gordon finished without having to make a supreme finishing burst and were quickly followed by Doug Jardine, resplendent in navy blue, shetland wool pom-pom hat with turn-up.

The final drama however was still to be enacted as John Palmer

whittled away a lead of some 50 yards, which Brian Spearing had formerly held. Ten yards out it was anybody's race, but the judges ruled that Brian just got up to win by a short head, although several fans thought that John had dipped past him.

On Saturday the Welsh Junior Championships provided an opportunity for Mal Thomas to extend his reputation in his homeland. Running with superlative ease and always relaxed he finished the five-mile course some 100 seconds in front of B. Hayward (Cardiff A.A.C.). Mal is not eligible for the Junior International, and so will return to Wales to fight the Senior title next month. Steve Gibbons had a great run and eventually finished 8th but may have missed the Junior team by one place.

THIS WEEK'S SPORT

FRIDAY, Feb. 28th

Lake Hall Relays (7 p.m., V.A.T. 500)

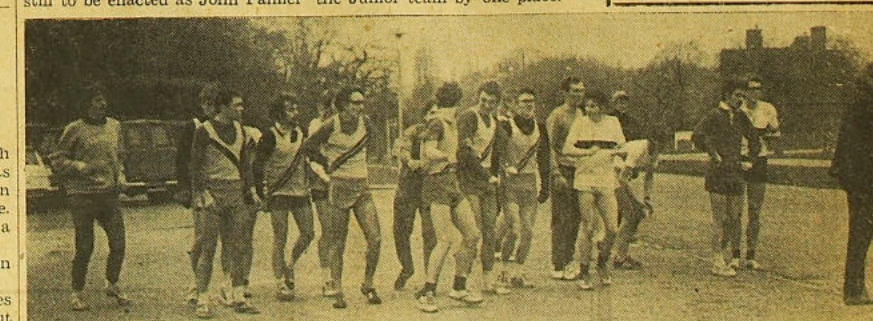
SATURDAY, Mar. 1st

Soccer: Aston Villa v. Sheffield Utd. Rugby: Firsts v. Old Edwardians (Bournbrook).

Women's Hockey: Firsts v. Leicester (Wast Hills).

TUESDAY, Mar. 4th

Squash: Men v. Edgbaston Priory. Badminton: Ladies v. Pype Hayes.



The runners lined up for the start of the Mob match in which Birmingham University II defeated St. Paul's Cheltenham. Note the excellent "Redbrick" coverage, with two sports editors and a photographer present.

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