

Atkinson — Campus split

The rejection of Sociology lecturer Dick Atkinson by the University Academic Appointments Board has precipitated one of the most violent disputes ever known on the Campus. Today Senate will discuss in open session the possibility of conducting a report on the affair and the criteria involved in deciding appointments.

The discussion of the specific case of Dick Atkinson will, however, be held in closed session according to Senate's agenda, but it is unlikely that student representatives will agree to leave the meeting to allow confidential discussion to take place.

Atkinson was rejected by the U.A.A.C. after a selection committee from the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science had recommended him for a post as a permanent lecturer. The selection committee was composed of six sociologists and three other members of the Faculty. Various reasons have been given by the U.A.A.C. for their decision against Atkinson. At a statement delivered to the Faculty Board it was said that the criterion for a candidate's eligibility was his "ability to collaborate constructively with his colleagues," which it was felt Atkinson could not do.

Another reason given was that Atkinson's Ph.D. thesis had been returned to him for extensive revision, and that the Appointments Committee therefore thought he was unsuitable on academic grounds.

It has since been pointed out however, that no official decision has yet been made on the Ph.D., and that Dick Atkinson himself has still only heard unofficially on the matter. It therefore seems as though the U.A.A.C. was relying on unofficial information from an undisclosed source.

Members of the selection committee also point out that the U.A.A.C. did not consult anyone with the relevant specialised knowledge when discussing the thesis.

Other factors which point to the decision being made on political rather than academic grounds is the fact that before the selection committee met, Dr. Baldamus, the acting Head and Professor-elect of the Department of Sociology, was called to a meeting of ex-deans of the Faculty at which pressure was put on him not to recommend Atkinson's appointment.

The view was expressed by the

Dean, Professor Arthur Collis, that Atkinson would be a disruptive influence "at a time when the University needs peace and order." Dick Atkinson is well-known for his radical left-wing views and the part he played in the 1968 sit-in when he was a temporary assistant lecturer at Birmingham.

An ad-hoc committee of staff and students has been formed with the aim of getting Atkinson appointed and ensuring that such a decision is never made by the U.A.A.C. again. The committee—Action for Academic Freedom, or "Ack Ack" for short—believes that the decision was made on overtly political grounds and is considering a number of measures to achieve their aims.

The Association of University Teachers is taking up the case, and it is possible that a decision will be made to blacklist the post. A circular letter has been sent to all members of the British Sociology Association stating the case and asking members to petition their M.P.s and the A.U.T.

A meeting is being held today in lecture room 1 of the Strathcona block to discuss action on the issue, and a teach-in and general meeting is planned for next Wednesday.

There is also evidence of a "backlash" reaction against the protests

by academic staff and students. Correspondence in the national and local press has shown support for the U.A.A.C. decision, and a letter from four members of staff in the Department of Chemistry which was sent to Dr. Baldamus said that they "fervently hope that the decision will never be revoked."

Staff letter: Page 3.

Full story: "The Atkinson Affair—

A new threat": Pages 4 and 5.

Editorial: Pages 5.

Change for Selly Oak?

VOTING takes place tomorrow in the General Election. Standing as Labour candidate for Selly Oak is Mike Hartley-Brewer, well-known in the University for his part in the 1968 sit-in.

He is contesting the seat held by Harold Gurneden, whose majority at the last election was only 777. Selly Oak is one of the most marginal seats in the country, and only needs a swing of 1.1 per cent to turn it over to Labour.

BALSALL HEATH FESTIVAL

THE usual reaction when you tell someone you live in Balsall Heath is one of horror or mild amusement. Fed up with the dreary image of the Heath last year, a group of people organised a four-week festival of concerts, competitions, parties and street theatre, mobilising the resources of the immensely varied cultural backgrounds of the inhabitants of the area.

This year there is to be another festival, this time lasting only a week, from August 29th to September 5th, which hopes to be an even greater success. Many of last year's features are being retained, especially the band marches and all-star cricket matches, but new ideas are needed to make the week really full of happenings.

Any ideas, or any offers of help from people who are likely to be around at the time, should be communicated to Pete Ullathorne, via the Union, or at 440 2706 during August.



Dick Atkinson—rejected on "political" grounds.

FESTIVAL REPORT SHOWS LOSSES

THE 1970 Festival report published this week has recommended the total abolition of Festival in its present form. It suggests that Community Action, the Arts Festival, and Carnival be organised as totally independent events and held at different times.

The reason for this surprising statement appears to be the failure of any one of the Festival entertainment sections to pay for itself. The total cost to the Guild comes to £1,120 3s. 8d., £270 more than the allocation.

Although the Drama and internal arts sections, as minority interests were expected to make a loss, the entertainments section, which might

have made a profit, were also down, by £90. Several reasons are given for these losses. The Festival dance, for instance, was hit by bad weather. The general opinion, however, is that there were too many events in too short a period at the end of term, a time when students are generally hard-up.

Internal arts put its own losses down to being held in the second week, when many who would have been interested had already spent heavily on the drama.

Another victim of the high density of events was Community Action events, which is perhaps the most important part of Festival, but which, says Dorothy Jones, Community Action Chairman, "was seen by most people to be but a one-fifth part."

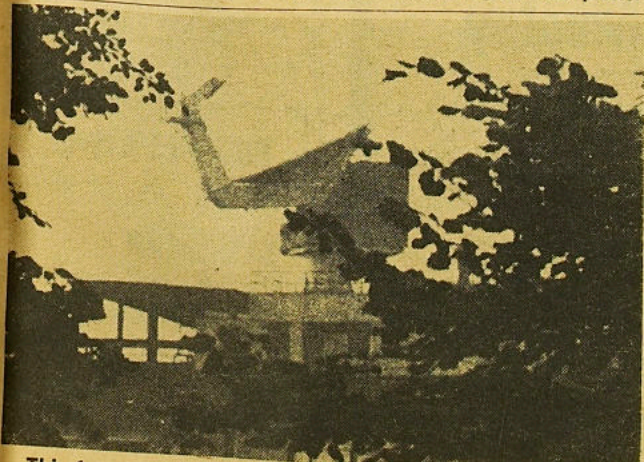
On the credit side, Charities made available £6,227 18s. 7d. for general distribution. By far and away the most profitable was "Barb", which netted £3,507 8s. 6d., a figure that owes much to the Lord Mayor, who very considerably decided to ban it. The competition and the house-to-house collection also drew in very valuable amounts of money but, like the Community Action, they could have done considerably better with more support.

The apathy of a large section of the University was again and to a larger extent a feature of Festival. Such events as the Plod-in and charity collections depended on very small numbers of enthusiasts. Although this is to some extent a result of the lack of direct advertising outside the Union, it is also a very distressing indication of general attitudes in the University towards these activities.

University's new centre

THE interim report on the University Centre has now been presented to the University Centre Committee. The report is the result of the survey carried out earlier this year into the possibility of extending the Refectory facilities. Questionnaires were sent to people throughout the University and the report is based on figures obtained in this survey.

No conclusions can yet be drawn from the report, say representatives of the Administration, as it is still in the form of statistics. It is hoped to have a full report ready by next term.



This futuristic structure appeared in Pritchett's Road last month. Apparently it's an aerial for work in tracking satellites.

RATS AND RESEARCH

DEAR SIR.—I sympathise with, and to some extent share, the feelings of those opposed to research into chemical and biological warfare, and in consequence I have been concerned to consult the Psychology Department's Student-Staff Committee about the supply of rats for Forton. Hence it was disappointing to read in your last issue the misleading report of the Departmental meeting at which the matter was last discussed.

The report omitted to say that the animals are required for research for his Ph.D. by an employee who is an external student in pharmacology of the University of Bath, that his work is completely unclassified and that we had taken some care to obtain assurances that the animals would not be used for work other than that specified. Thus, there is no question of "helping war research": this is the sort of work which might quite as easily be done in a University Department.

In fact, we discussed the nature

of the assurances we can expect in assisting work outside the Department, and agreed that those we had received from Forton were reasonable and met the usual requirements regarding openness of scientific communication.

Personally, I would be opposed to helping any research work, irrespective of the organisation concerned—whether it was industrial, commercial or military—where such assurances could not be given. Moreover, they meet precisely the conditions contained in the preamble to the petition circulated in the Department.

Another misleading aspect of the report was the mention of the phrase "irreparable damage" which was quoted out of its context in a

letter where it referred solely to the breeding programme of the strains of rats previously supplied and had nothing to do with any experimentation upon them. You may not also be aware that the suggestion that I have been influenced in this matter by considerations relating to the acquisition of a research grant is positively libellous.

Nobody in this Department is supported by funds from the Ministry of Defence and no applications for such funds are being considered. Even if there were, such considerations would not be relevant in this matter which is one of scientific principle relating to the freedom of publication of research data.

Yours faithfully,
P. L. BROADHURST.

letters

Redbrick and 'backlash' circular

DEAR SIR.—On the front page of the May 6th issue of "Redbrick" you published an article about the response of members of staff to a "backlash circular". In it I am reported to have said that I would not have signed the original staff document had I known that Dr. B. T. Davis's signature would also be on it.

In the context of the article your reference to me implies a rift in the relationship I hold to another member of staff on this issue and is also damaging to the cordial relationships I have with staff and students generally. May I suggest that, having read the remainder of my letter, you think again about what is behind the "interesting fact" that mine is one of five names not present on the published document, and make some form of amends in the next issue of "Redbrick"?

I have never expressed any opinion about other members of staff with respect to the way they choose to act towards student protest. This is implied in your article

in a context totally unrelated to any matter in which I have had dealings with Dr. Davis. Your article implies that I would act wilfully to dissociate my views from his on the personal grounds of disagreement with (your quotes) "his bullying of radical students' activity".

It is further implied that a threat to dissociate myself from this situation has been carried out by the withdrawal of my signature. This is untrue. I support the views expressed in the staff document by all members who signed, including Dr. Davis.

The fact that my signature did not appear on the version published in "University Bulletin" was an error of omission. Had I realised that, when the original with my signature came to all members of staff, including me, I was required to reiterate my support, I would have done so.

No one from "Redbrick" came to ask why I had not signed again, neither did they seek permission to

use any statement on any subject made by me. The publication of hearsay and, as it turns out, false information, without any attempt at verification, reflects a level of irresponsibility which I would normally only associate with the gutter Press in this country.

Dr. Davis holds a position of responsibility for a number of matters in the Medical Faculty. You imply not only that he and I are in profound disagreement in our attitudes towards the methods which students adopt during their protestations, however justified the latter may be; but also that I would publicly decry his views. In short, you have quite unjustifiably publicly denigrated the relationship between Dr. Davis and myself.

I hope you will agree, Sir, that some redress is in order.

Yours sincerely,
DR. L. FRANCHI,
Department of Anatomy.

It was not the intention of "Redbrick" to denigrate the relationship between Dr. Davis and Dr. Franchi. Dr. Franchi was not quoted directly as having said that he would not have signed the letter had he known Dr. Davis had done so. The article made it clear that he was reported to have said this.

THE ATKINSON DEBATE

As members of staff of the University of Birmingham we feel uneasy about the unprecedented decision of the University Academic Appointments Committee to exercise an absolute veto on the appointment of Mr. Dick Atkinson to a post in the Department of Sociology. We wish, however, to shift the debate away from the roles of the individuals concerned and from interpretations of the events leading up to the decision. It is the decision itself with which we are concerned and with its wide and, we believe, dangerous implications.

The chairman of the U.A.A.C. has asserted that the decision was reached solely on grounds of 'academic competence'. Although in a narrower and more generally accepted interpretation of this term, some doubts have been raised about the quality of Mr. Atkinson's doctoral thesis, we are impressed by the near-unanimity of members of the Department of Sociology (and the opinions of sociologists outside) that Mr. Atkinson is an able professional sociologist, a conscientious teacher and a co-operative colleague. In these matters, it seems to us, the Department of Sociology itself, together with Mr. Atkinson's eminent academic referees, are best equipped to judge.

The wider grounds of rejection have been particularly stressed by the chairman of the U.A.A.C. In this context, we feel that the term 'academic competence' has been stretched with the effect of excluding from academic life a man whose ideas and anticipated actions are held likely to challenge University government as now constituted. We feel, in short, that 'academic competence' or 'ability to get on with one's colleagues' (presumably colleagues in authority?) have become euphemisms for internal political reliability.

If our judgment is correct, this decision has profound implications for the future of academic life in this country. It calls in question well-established conventions and procedures which have hitherto governed appointments to academic posts. Believing, as we do, that obligation to accommodate dissent, even fundamental dissent, we find it impossible to accept this decision—certainly if it was taken for the reasons which we have been given so far.

We therefore call upon the U.A.A.C. to give a full account of the reasons for its action and we urge our colleagues here and in other universities to consider very deeply the serious implications of this event.

Irene Binns, John Edwards, Camilla Filkin, Stuart Hall, Philip Hanson, Jean Hardy, Robert Holman, Meryl Horrocks, Richard Johnson, Stan Katz, John Lambert, Peter Lowe, Elizabeth Mackie, Peter Moodie, Nick Moreton, Geoffrey Ostergaard, Ian Pountney, Randall Smith, Tony Veal.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

DEAR SIR.—Recent events have united public anti-war protest as never before. As British citizens at present studying and teaching at the University of California at Berkeley, we feel compelled to inform the British public of our position.

The involvement of the United States in South-East Asia is both illegal and immoral. By its very presence in South Vietnam, the United States has sabotaged the legal provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreement, and for nine years has continued to wage a major, yet still undeclared war. In supporting a corrupt government, the United States has protected the sufferings of thousands, sufferings which will only be extended by the recent advance into Cambodia.

The present situation is more than just a crisis for South-East Asia. The President has shown a lack of response to the deeply-felt and clearly expressed opinions of

work, and the finished work may be quite different from the artist's intentions. Steven asks whether one can give aesthetic values to unintentional effects, and suggests that in the face of this problem the meaning of the term "aesthetic" should be reassessed.

The exhibition is of "pictures" made by a machine programmed to react to various types of stimulation. It can make simple or complex spirals (some of which give illusory colour effects) and copies of monochrome pictures.

A wobbly blue line traces the computer's response to the sound of the recent Leeds-Chelsea cup final, but in terms of meaning these are no different from shorter green lines tracing its reaction to Frankie Howerd's singing. And neither of them are, to me at least, as meaningful as an oscillograph of the same sound would be.

This highlights the fact that it is essential to understand the sequence of events which lead to the creation, rather than to appreciate the final product.

In the glosses which accompany the pictures, Mike Stevens makes it clear that, while he programmes the computer's initial reactions, the end product always contains unforeseen elements for which he is certainly not responsible.

Are these the responsibilities of the machine or not? Steven says: "It is either my weakness or the inability of language concepts to deal with the semantic problem that machines pose. It is easy to describe the function of a machine because of its human connotations, all the points of reference have the human being at the centre, and the model of thought used."

Bubble Machine transcends the human element, the artist can go away and leave it to get on with its

large sections of the people of this country and especially those of the academic community. He failed to consult Congress prior to the decision to move combat troops into Cambodia. Even the advice of members within the President's own Cabinet appears to have been disregarded.

The attitudes inherent in these actions pose an ominous threat, not only to American democracy, but to those countries whose security and independence depends upon the survival, in America, of a government responsive to national and international opinion.

It is important that not only Americans, but all those aware of these moral and political implications make their opinions clearly known to the British and American governments.

19 British Students and Faculty at the University of California, Berkeley

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preview

PERHAPS the most important thing about Mike Steven's computer art (Ikon Gallery until June 20th) is the questions it raises about the relationship between men, machines and art.

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work, and the finished work may be quite different from the artist's intentions. Steven asks whether one can give aesthetic values to unintentional effects, and suggests that in the face of this problem the meaning of the term "aesthetic" should be reassessed.

And this is just what the exhibition does although it reaches no very satisfactory conclusions. Some of the traces have a certain beauty, particularly the ones in which spirals are interwoven, but to the human eye many of the traces have cursory value rather than aesthetic value. But Steven points out that to see things aesthetically is only the final way of seeing them—they must also be seen as mathematical expressions, analogies, insinuations of motion, and expositions of time and interval.

These are perhaps the levels on which the machine can appreciate its own art, and therefore the only criteria by which the exhibition can be judged.

The machine itself, incidentally, forms an important part of the exhibition, and is in the same way the most frustrating thing.

From June 23rd the Ikon Gallery will have paintings, drawings and prints by Richard Gross.

JENNY WICKHAM

ARTS LAB.

THE Arts Lab. Film Festival was highly successful and they now intend to hold regular film shows throughout the summer. The full programme is available from the Arts Lab.

Membership for six months is five shillings, and the entrance fee to each film is about eight. The Arts Lab. is situated just off Summer Lane by the Birmingham Settlement.

YOUNG BUMBLEY LIVES AGAIN

NOW we know. Now— or, making appropriate adjustments to allow for the distasteful vagaries of international time zones and similar foreign dogmas, hereabout G.M.T.—we know just what Enoch Powell is referring to when he speaks of Britain's decline from greatness, moral lassitude, and mounting smell. Not content with allowing in a horde of blacks, harbouring long-haired scoundrels and countenancing a Labour government, this sceptred isle now faces once more the gritty pounding of jack-boots and the guttural hiss of the monocoloured Herr Kamkommandant.

Only the most blinkered observer, says Mr. Powell, only the most bloody-minded foolish virgin can fail to have foreseen the frenzied foreign activity behind Herr Brandt's curtains, the massing of Volkswagen cars, all pointing towards England's shores, the diversionary tactics of the Ostpolitik, et al. And only those with the strength of mind not to possess a television, or the wit to stay in bed, missed the overture of the Deutschland Uber Alles '70 Campaign on that fateful, balmy evening in Mexico.

What was the chagrin of successive defeats in "It's A Knock-Out" compared with this, the merciless deflowering of England's finest hope since Blackpool Tower (and what was

the fate of that fine bit of overtime at time-and-a-quarter but to be the subject of a base imitation, several years earlier, by the wily French, using immigrant labour?). And, as a naturalised Briton, said, shortly before dying of his injuries: "Your footballers can't even knock things off from shops without making a pig's ear of all the best chances."

Strenuous attempts are being made, however, to step up British production of German goods. Rear-engined cars, multi-coloured telephones, sausages a yard long, short leather trousers are overflowing stockyards into the shops, where prices have been pegged sky-high to make room for them. Said a spokesman desperately: "This is a desperate measure. We want the invading Germans to think they're still in Germany, then maybe they'll blubber off, puzzled, looking for us somewhere else. It's risky, though—they might hang around long enough for all the stuff to fall apart like a pair of paper knickers. That could be the end."

Back to Mr. Powell. Never a man to show quarter, even less of a man to show mercy, he virulently attacks the integrity of England's lads, calling them traitors ingrained in the web of Britain's fabric. To this all-too-pardonable error of zeal, the

tiresome "Sir" Alf Ramsey gives his feeble reply. "Those Brazilians didn't deserve to win," he snarls. "They're black. My lads aren't used to playing against blacks. A bit of honest mud and filth is all very well, but that stuff gets all over. It unnerved my boys. Anyway, they poisoned our coffee."

He leans conspiratorially over the table and falls on to the floor. "And those Germans—oops, pardon me—they didn't deserve to win either, and I shall tell the United Nations so. It was odds on for us to win. Mother filled my lads' thermoses with good strong tea and sterilised milk—don't want those dago senoritas messing my boys about in this heat, you know—and there I was—I mean we were—winning hands down, when those Huns craftily slipped in a human skull in place of the ball. Proper unnerved my sons it did. The ref should be shot; he was paid not to notice it. But I saw it. He was paid not to notice that there were seventeen German players on the field—but I saw that as well. Have another drink. Fear not, I shall tell all! But hist . . . !"

He breaks off. His bloodshot eagle eye has perceived that of which mere human senses remain ignorant, not to say indifferent. "One of my darlings is in danger. It's those foreigners up to their tricks again." Creeping over to his bed, he gingerly lifts the edge of the coverlet and empties the contents of a large revolver into the dark recess, shattering to smithereens a three-quarter full chamber-pot.

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Selection procedures for university jobs do not normally make headlines. In most cases the business of selection committees and appointments boards are only of interest to those involved and the applicants. When a selection committee was set up recently in the Faculty of Commerce and Social Science to appoint three vacant lectureships in the Department of Sociology there was no indication that events were to differ in any way from the routine.

The selection committee was appointed in the normal way by the Faculty Board and consisted of the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Arthur Collis, as chairman, all the permanent members of the Department, and two other members from other departments in the Faculty, plus an additional member, Dr. K. Newton from the Political Science Department who was included at the request of the Head of the Department of Sociology, Dr. G. Baldamus. The posts to be filled consisted of two permanent and one temporary lectureships, and the Department had in a preliminary meeting drawn up a short list of candidates to be interviewed. The committee met on Tuesday, May 12th to interview the candidates.

All this was simply the operation of the standard machinery by which university appointments are made. What made this particular appointment different was that one of the applicants was one Richard Atkinson; ex-postgraduate at L.S.E., ex-temporary assistant lecturer in Sociology at Birmingham, and currently a temporary lecturer at Manchester University.

Dick Atkinson is well known in Birmingham for the part he played in the 1968 occupation of the administration and for his militant left-wing views as a result of which he played an active role in the L.S.E. dispute and the Manchester sit-in earlier this year. His presence on the short list of applicants was apparently so odious to the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Arthur Collis, that an "informal" meeting of three former Deans of the Faculty, plus Dr. Baldamus, had been convened by the present Dean on Monday, May 11th—the day before the selection committee was due to meet.

The avowed intention of this earlier meeting (as stated in the University's Information Sheet 18, more of which later) was that the Dean wished to seek the help of the ex-deans "in clarifying the criteria that, as Chairman of the Faculty Selection Committee, he ought to use when considering the application of Mr. Atkinson, whose possible return to the staff was already arousing strong feelings both within the Faculty and elsewhere in the University. Dr. Baldamus, the statement said, had been invited to join this discussion "as the acting Head of the department involved."

In fact, Dr. Baldamus, who is the Professor-elect of the department and will be its Head as from October, was at this meeting strongly advised to refrain from advocating the appointment of Dick Atkinson at the selection committee. Apart from the fact that as far as is known there is no precedent for this kind of preliminary meeting connected with specific appointments and therefore that this in itself suggests pressure being put on selection, at least two of those advising against Atkinson's appointment were doing so explicitly on the grounds of his political beliefs.

One of the ex-deans, Professor Harry Ferns (the others being Professors Court and Hutchinson) later wrote to Dr. Baldamus saying that at the meeting "the Dean tried to inform you of the fact that Mr. Atkinson is a man about whom there is considerable controversy and that in making an appointment some account ought to be taken of reactivating controversy at a time when the University needs peace and order." At the meeting, the Dean also stated that if the selection committee decided in favour of Dick Atkinson, the higher bodies in the University would certainly refuse to ratify the decision.

If the formal selection procedure was operating in the normal way, the "informal" aspects surrounding it therefore seemed highly unusual and, judging by the meeting of the 11th which has now become known in the Sociology Department as the "intimidation meeting" these aspects were extremely suspect. However, at its meeting on the 12th, the selection committee proceeded with its interviews of candidates, one of whom was Dick Atkinson.

In the course of this interview the Dean asked several questions of a nature which had not been posed to the other candidates. These included whether Atkinson's views on the structure of universities had changed; whether he considered that, as an academic, certain articles with political content which he had published in books and journals were compatible with his role; and if he felt able to accept the constraints implied by taking on a post in a University.

Mr. Atkinson's answers were to the effect that there should be further reforms in universities but he was by no means impervious to argument about the nature and extent of these reforms, he saw no reason for not publishing articles of a political nature, and that he was prepared to accept all the usual responsibilities of such a post, as indeed he had at Manchester.

At this point some of the members of the committee and Atkinson himself inquired as to the purpose of this line of questioning. The Dean and the rest of the members saw no objection to it, but they did not appear to be satisfied with the candidate's answers.

As some candidates were unable to attend the interviews on the 12th, the selection committee arranged to re-convene on May 18th for further interviews. It also continued its preliminary discussions of the first batch of candidates on the following day—Wednesday, 13th. Again at this meeting the weighing of political criteria in the selection of applicants was stressed by the Dean, who stated that consideration of Atkinson's political record would show that his appointment would risk disruption of the Faculty's work and thought. One of the six sociologists on the committee agreed with this argument, but Dr. Baldamus and the other four sociologists expressed high regard for Atkinson's academic merit and urged that he be considered on these grounds. Only one member of the committee stated that he could not consider Dick Atkinson an outstanding applicant on purely academic grounds.

OUTSTANDING THESIS

One of the main reasons why Dick Atkinson's academic merit is held in high regard among sociologists is the impression which his

Ph.D., to be published in book form by Heinemanns next year, has made on them. Professor Donald Macne, editor of the Heinemann's Sociology series and Professor of Sociology at L.S.E., has stated that he regards the work as of outstanding originality and importance.

Professor Charles Mudge has said that "in my opinion there is a strikingly original and independent mind at work in this manuscript." The book has also been praised by Dick Atkinson's Professor at Manchester, Peter Worsley, who compared it to Parson's "The Structure of Social Action" in its scope.

Of those on the selection committee who were most able to judge Atkinson's academic qualifications for the post most adequately—namely the six sociologists—one objected to his appointment, and that was on "political" grounds.

When the selection committee reconvened on May 18th, the Dean opened the meeting by referring to the meeting of ex-deans held on the 11th, saying that it had probably been a mistake to arrange such a meeting before the selection committee was convened. He apologised if the meeting had seemed to exert pressure and if the personal opinions of certain participants had been couched in strong terms.

Members of the committee were puzzled, however, by the Dean's statement that the concern over this meeting had been expressed to him over the phone by a member of the faculty claiming to represent the non-professional staff. Professor Collis offered to resign his chairmanship, but this was not thought necessary by the other members, although at this stage they did not know the part the chairman was to play in the subsequent decision. The members accepted that no intimidation had been intended by the Dean, although they did not agree that no pressure had been put on Doctor Baldamus.

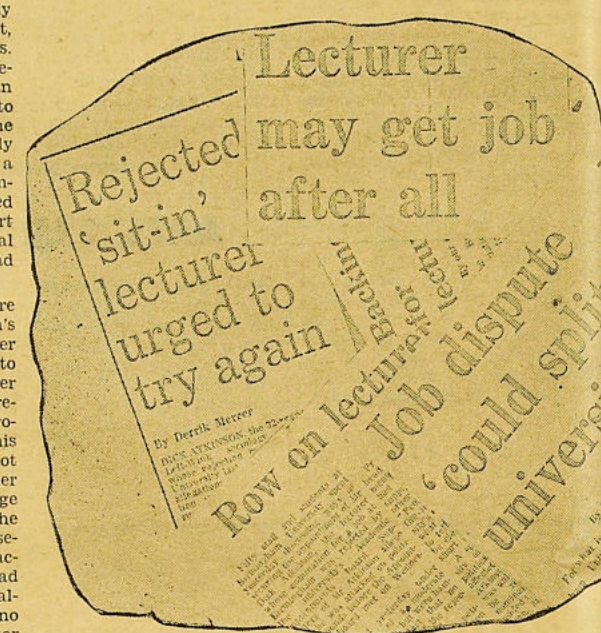
MAJORITY VOTE

The meeting then continued with the business of selection and a decision was made on the appointments to two of the posts—the one temporary and one of the permanent lectureships. Debate continued, however, over the appointment of Dick Atkinson to the other permanent position. The following stage in the proceedings again represents a most unusual development. Since it was clear that the committee was strongly divided over the appointment—five members, all sociologists, pressing for his appointment and the other four members arguing against it—the chairman decided to call for a vote on the issue.

The vote produced a five to four majority in favour of appointing Dick Atkinson to the post, and this decision went forward in the normal way to the University Academic Appointments Committee. At this point, the Dean remarked that the U.A.A.C. was most unlikely to accept the appointment and he recorded the division in detail with the assurance that it would be reported to the U.A.A.C.

Members of the committee have since stated that in their experience this procedure seemed most irregular, as was the suggestion repeatedly made by the Chairman that each member record his or her

THE ATKINSON AFFAIR
A NEW THREAT
The issue which has arisen over application of Dick Atkinson for one of vacant lectureships in the Department of Sociology is detailed and involved. In article "REDBICK" editor Peter Donnelly plots the main developments in the controversy.



vote in writing. Normally, committees of this nature do not take votes but mutually agree on a recommendation, and it has even been known for recommendations to be made in the face of a majority opinion against the appointment.

Usually the opinion of a department head is considered to carry more weight than the other members, but in this case with Dr. Baldamus pressing for Atkinson's appointment this did not seem to be so.

DECISION VETOED

The most startling development in this apparent manipulation of procedure was still to come, however. Normally the referring of selected candidates to the U.A.A.C. (a sub-committee of Council) is not much more than a formality, since although it has the power to make final decisions on appointments, it usually only concerns itself with the terms and conditions of appointments. But on June 3rd the U.A.A.C. rejected the selection committee's recommendation to appoint Dick Atkinson, and in doing so took an unprecedented procedural step. The exercise of a veto over appointments has never before been known in this university.

The controversy now centres

around the University's selection of the matter, who have specific reasons for the rejection of the statement, made by the Deputy Principal, Professor Collis, at the meeting of the Board of Commerce and Science on June 5th. In the meantime, the criterion for date's acceptability for was said to be his ability to contribute constructively to the department and enable the so with him."

THE UNIVERSITY'S VIEW

Wednesday was also the day of a significant new development. On that date the University issued its official silence on the matter and issued Information Sheet 18—"The Appointments in Sociology." By this time the national Press was well on to the story, the first report having appeared in "The Guardian" on June 11th under the headline "Job dispute split university" followed by the other national and the Birmingham Press as well. Letters to "The Guardian" from members of the Sociology Department in Birmingham and from Professor Worsley in Manchester.

The University was obviously anxious to put out its own "official" version of the story, and so it is interesting that in fact two different versions of this Information Sheet were produced, especially as this represented its only written statement on the subject.

It is difficult to obtain a copy of the original version of Information Sheet 18, and so it seems that the University Registry were able to retrieve the copies before they were widely circulated. This version was withdrawn after it had been seen by the Dean, Professor Collis, and an amended edition was produced.

In the first version did not go into detail, and the following day a second version was prepared by Geoffrey Worsley, the Sociology Department, which set out a comparison of the content of the two releases. The comparison revealed extensive discrepancies which tended to alter the emphasis of the document. The original document, for instance, said that the selection committee decided that Atkinson should be appointed to a permanent post, while the second said "provisionally he would be appointed to a permanent post"; the use of wording considerably altered the import of the statement.

Amongst other omissions, the sheet fails to point out that the five votes in favour of nominating Atkinson were all from sociologists (who have the relevant knowledge to evaluate academic capabilities) and that only one person rejected him on ground of scholarship. Whilst it insists the U.A.A.C. is qualified to decide appointments because "it is broadly based with representatives from all faculties, the non-professional staff and the Research Staff Association," it does not mention that there is no sociologist on the committee who was qualified to judge academic merit.

dures for the appointment of lecturers in the Department of Sociology" both on the campus and in the Press over the preceding week. In fact, much of what had gone into the Press had previously been circulated in the letter from Professor Harry Ferns to Dr. Baldamus, which was presented at the Faculty Board meeting on June 5th.

The Information Sheet also contains a statement by Professor Collis, the Dean, regarding Professor Worsley's letter to "The Guardian". Collis's statement says: "Professor Worsley of the University of Manchester has chosen to refer publicly to a private telephone conversation I had with him in following up a reference he had sent to this Faculty on behalf of Mr. Atkinson."

Just how "private" a telephone conversation seems to be in dispute here, but what Collis's statement does not mention is his insistence on the word "disruptive" which he repeatedly used in his telephone conversation with Worsley when questioning him on Atkinson's activities in Manchester.

Professor Worsley has said that Collis repeatedly tried to get him to make a statement on Atkinson's "disruptive" influence, whilst Collis states that he was inquiring "as to working relationships within the department." Worsley, in his "Guardian" letter, says that "I was interrogated by telephone by the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at Birmingham University concerning the activities of Mr. Atkinson, a temporary member of my staff."

Rather than any grave factual inaccuracies, however, the Information Sheet is significant for what it fails to say about the situation. Its mention of the meeting of ex-deans on May 11th gives no account of what actually took place at the meeting, other than saying that it was for the purpose of "clarifying the criteria" to be used in selection. Members of the selection committee point out that no such clarification was made for their benefit; they were only told why Dick Atkinson should not be appointed.

Dr. Baldamus says that these terms were not used during the course of this meeting. The Information Sheet omits to say that Dr. Baldamus is Professor-elect of his department and therefore has the effective authority of its head (although in the earlier version this was pointed out).

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L.S.E. & U.A.A.C.

According to the Information Sheet, the decision to reject Dick Atkinson was made in the light of new information concerning his Ph.D. thesis which was revealed at the U.A.A.C. meeting. The members of the Committee, it says "expressed that Mr. Atkinson's Ph.D. thesis—on the academic excellence of which a great deal of emphasis was placed by certain members of the faculty committee—had been referred back for extensive revision by the internal and external examiners appointed by the L.S.E." No

mention is made here of the source from which this had been heard.

In fact, Dick Atkinson himself has not yet heard officially of the rejection. Only two days before the U.A.A.C. met he attended his viva exam in London and there learned of the informal recommendation of the examiners. If there were seems that the Committee was influenced by an unofficial decision on a matter over which they took no specialist advice. The possession of a Ph.D. in any case is not a necessary qualification.

Developments over the appointment are now in a state of suspended animation whilst all concerned await some further clarification from the University on the matter. Meanwhile the controversy involves more people as its implications for the future of university appointments both in sociology and other disciplines become apparent.

Members of the Sociology Department have sent an open letter explaining the situation to all members of the British Sociological Association. The B.S.A. was, on Friday morning, preparing to circulate statements on the issue by Professors Worsley and Bottamore. The Association of University Teachers is also working on the issue, where there is talk of blacklisting the post in question. On an unofficial basis, talks are taking place constantly within the Sociology Department and the Ad Hoc Group has been discussing the form which possible action could take.

THE TWO CAMPS

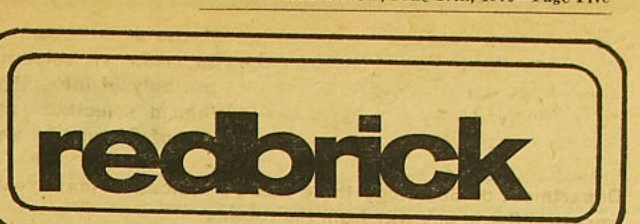
The issue seems likely to produce one of the strongest polarisation of views ever seen in the University on any subject. A petition signed by 45 people taught by Atkinson at Birmingham has been received by the Department expressing confidence in Dick Atkinson's teaching ability and his freedom from any undue bias. A testimonial signed by 12 of his colleagues at Manchester was also sent to Dr. Baldamus; it stated that "we have found him to be a lively lecturer and there has been no evidence that he has abused his teaching position to introduce political considerations foreign to the subject matter under discussion."

In contrast to this, a letter was sent to Dr. Baldamus by four of the staff of the Chemistry Department in which it was stated that Atkinson "is determined on the overthrow and disruption of whatever organisation he finds himself in." It goes on: "It says nothing for the standing of your department that your main wish appears to be to appoint a man the bulk of whose activities will be predictably unrelated to academic study and will simply create disruption and inconvenience to the main body of this University."

About the Appointments Board decision the signatories (Doctors Macdonald, Stephen, Townsend and Uden) "fervently hope" that it "will never be reversed."

Professor Ferns, in his letter to Dr. Baldamus, expressed a similar sentiment: "Surely your experience of the politicising of the German universities by the Nazis suggests to you the dangers of what is being attempted at the present time," he wrote. "Those of us who see what you are doing are bound to regret it and are bound in the end to act to protect the freedom which is essential to their intellectual life."

Dick Atkinson himself has perhaps summed up the extent of the controversy best when he said: "Even the most exaggerated rumours concerning my 'disruptive' abilities couldn't attribute to me the amount of conflict and bitter disagreement which the U.A.A.C.'s decision has precipitated."



ALL the evidence in the case of rejected lecturer Dick Atkinson now points to the fact that the Appointments Committee decision was made on political grounds. Part of the evidence is the University's own inability to produce a coherent version of the reasons why the U.A.A.C. turned the application down. The statement made by Professor Raynor, the Deputy Principal, to the Commerce and Social Science Faculty Board perhaps shows this incoherency at its height.

According to this statement, the criterion which the U.A.A.C. regards as central when considering a candidate is his "ability to collaborate constructively with his colleagues". The statement is at best meaningless since it would seem to rule out any differences of opinion which the free exchange of ideas in a university naturally produces. There is also the question of how this "ability" is measured in real terms when assessing a candidate: in this case out of 18 people who have worked with Dick Atkinson both in Birmingham and Manchester, only one has indicated that he could not "collaborate constructively" with him.

In the Information Sheet "The Appointments in Sociology", the Registry put forward another reason for the U.A.A.C. decision. Atkinson was rejected, it said, because his Ph.D. thesis had been referred back for extensive revision. This is hardly a convincing explanation. If it was the reason, then the U.A.A.C. acted on information which was not official since the thesis has not been officially returned by the L.S.E. examiners and Atkinson himself only knows this unofficially from his Viva exam, held two days before the U.A.A.C. met.

The Appointments Committee was thus either acting hastily on speculative information or it produced this "reason" in preference to disclosing any other basis for the decision. The referring back of theses is not uncommon, and in any case a Ph.D. is not a prerequisite of the post. Whichever of the two explanations is the case, neither gives a very attractive picture of a body whose task is central to the ideal of academic freedom in a university.

These are the only explanations the University has given for the U.A.A.C. decision, despite pressure having been put on them for a full, written report and for a meeting with the original selection committee. In the face of this the only evidence for the reason behind the decision must be gleaned from the events surrounding the selection procedure. This evidence—the meeting of ex-deans, Professor Collis's telephone call to Professor Worsley, Professor Ferns's letter to Dr. Baldamus, to mention some of the major "unofficial" events—all points to one thing: that the decision to reject Atkinson was made in the light of his political views.

The Vice-Chancellor has been reported as saying that even if some of the applicants for university posts are "turbulent chaps", the university must risk a degree of unrest for the sake of their academic brilliance. This is perhaps a somewhat naive view of the situation, but it is certainly true that governing bodies of universities should not be allowed to determine the type of thinking which is to go on under them. The idea of the governing body of a university seeking to protect itself by eliminating any element which is likely to challenge its existence is unacceptable where principles of academic freedom are involved.

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reviews

Theatre

LOOK through a Rep programme and you find a totally uninteresting photo of the "New Rep", a plug for the "New Playgoers' Society" and an advert telling you that what the Rep is taking to Chicago this summer is Noel Coward and Bernard Shaw. Playing in Rep at the moment are "Pygmalion" and "Staircase". It may be that the photo is just a bad picture, but could it be that the "New Rep" is already a bit uninteresting?

The Rep proclaims its provincial status. A focal centre outside London. An escape from the conventional West End norms. Of course, you can argue that to do a good play, whatever it is, is its own justification, and that the Rep is unadventurous in its choice of productions is unimportant. Fine, so long as you accept that the Rep's image will continue to be like its photographs.

"Staircase" was, I suspect, chosen after the attention the film version got from the Press. It is a good play with a cast of two (John Baddeley

and Hugh Sullivan), and an odd policeman. It's one of those barrier-breakers (or was in 1965) about homosexuals (these two play out their anxieties and fantasies in a barber's shop called "Chez Harry").

The relationship is well worked out: the differentiation of the soft one and the hard one, the frustration of the mechanics of hairdressing, the reliance on off-stage characters like the mother upstairs or the separated wife and grown-up daughter.

Both men have a fine sense of the wit in the dialogue, a humour that typically they use to hurt each other. Altogether it's a vigorous and interesting play, and I liked the set, which looks like one of those 3-D drawings with a side cut away to show what's inside—very apt.

ROBERT SABIN.

"PYGMALION" is probably the worst example of bourgeois oppression of the working class produced this century. Here's this flowergirl, perfectly happy in her trendy East End of London environment with an accent any self-

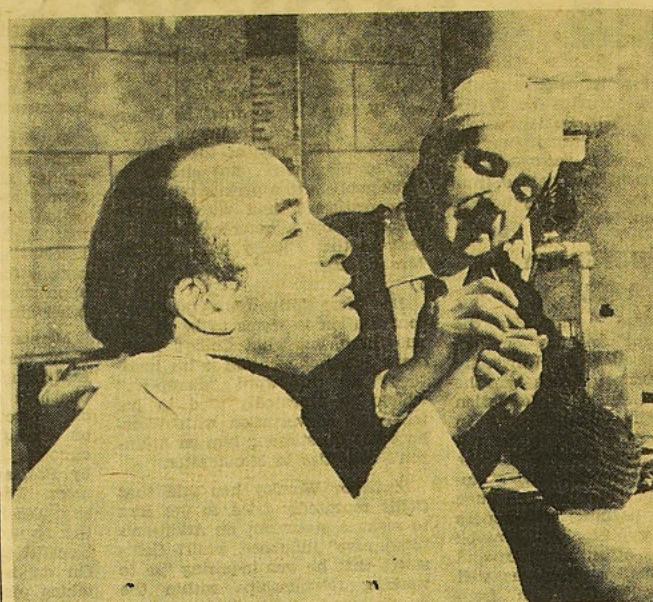
respecting public schoolboy would love to own, and these bloody intellectuals try to bring her down to their level.

Ideology apart, the play's greatest fault is that it only concerns itself with the accent and the manners. When Eliza finds herself with the surface without the education, background or bread to back it up, we are left with an oh-so-sentimental ending rather than any real assessment of the implications this involves.

I can't demand that the play should follow my politics, but it should be something more than Well-Made. Delicate whimsy (wit, I think the addicts call it) is laid on with a sledgehammer, and could have done with much more cutting. The tone of the play is very condescending, and extremely irritating to modern ears.

It's hard to understand why the Rep is producing this at a time when it's trying to establish itself as a major provincial theatre. Their production is very sympathetic considering the unpromising material. Eliza is particularly well played, managing to hold our attention in the better first scenes, but none of the cast can do anything with the later heavy moralising.

The sets seem to be attempting to re-create an early production rather than to follow the brilliant original design we've seen in recent months. They are strangely effective within the limits of the play, one



scene with the classic foreshortening so popular in early naturalistic design and a pale blue sky showing a few inches behind the french windows. Very lengthy scene changes with barrel-organ music slowed the action even more, and I was aching to get out by the end.

I was horrified to see the first night audience lapping it all up.

MAXINE LINNELL

Cinema



THE Jacey is showing two racial films this week. "Dutchman" slides quickly into an intellectual game of spot-the-symbol and the orgasm of violence (or the violence of orgasm). Somehow the whole concept of the film is too intellectual and self-conscious for its theme.

Beautifully shot in an underground train which hurtles through empty stations, this background becomes a symbol of racial history in America, and within it the drama of conflict and its resolution takes on mythic proportions.

The Eve/despoiler figure sets out to seduce her black victim on a crudely sexual level. "Tempting" him to take bites out of apples, she tries to become the white woman every black man is supposed to desire. But here sex meets the eloquence of a black poet, who, in a carefully controlled rise towards the climax, indicts the girl and her race in a way very reminiscent of the intellectual blues surrealism of Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man."

But the girl is searching for orgasm, and the white orgasm is reached by thrusting a knife into the black's guts. The body falls on top of hers, and with the resonant symbolism of her "get this man off me," we see her returning to another victim.

To anyone who has read American Negro literature this thread—the whites displaying affluence and social superiority to the blacks, but destroying them when they try to grasp the dream—is familiar. Here, however, the symbols are left naked. The effect is strained.

The film betrays its characters and its audience by staying in the sterile realms of pure allegory. Symbol comes to equal its reference, rather than becoming greater than it.

The racial symbolism of "The Pawnbroker" is equally evident, but far more sensitively realised. The film contains a similar build-up towards tension, but it is not restricted or isolated. A familiar use of flashbacks repeated through the action is used to superb effect.

The film starts with a slow motion sequence, and it becomes a complex system of revealing the context and the results of this sequence. Frames from it, which disappear almost before we can recognise them, are slipped into Nasermann's consciousness.

This slow method of disclosing the reality of the situation is linked with the emotional action, as Nasermann's past, of concentration camps and the death of his child in a crowded refugee train, is dug up from his subconscious.

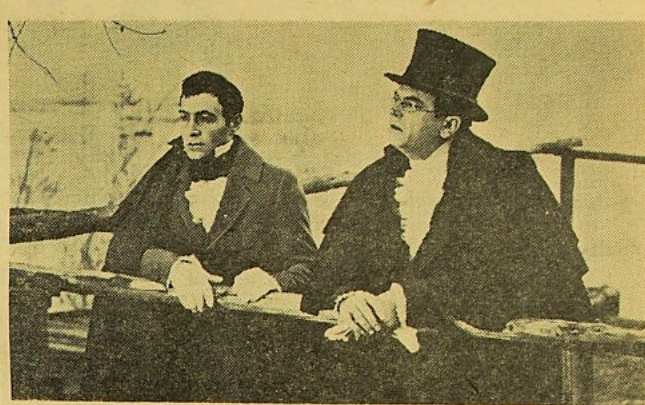
Nasermann is superbly played by Rod Steiger. The Pawnbroker has come to a point where the only absolutes he can believe in are the speedo flight and money.

His experiences are again a mirror here of Jewish racial history. He is continually blamed for not having died in the war, but is not allowed death when he needs it most.

It would be a reduction of the film's power to discuss its symbolism. While the action is not confined to the agony of one man and achieves racial significance it is a complete experience, brilliantly achieved.

The Jacey's policy of showing two films which relate in some significant way has paid off several times before. While the comparison of two related films obviously can work to the detriment of one of them, this is an enlightened idea, and one which I hope they will continue.

JEREMY LOURS



"WAR AND PEACE," the greatest film ever made," is more than a monument to patience. Sergei Bondarchuk has vast resources at his disposal, but the film is not a spectacular. Shots of the story are far more central to his intention than the battle sequences. It is at the end of Austerlitz and on the night when Andrei comes back to life that the film achieves the scope of Tolstoy's novel.

Of course the battle scenes are superb. The extras don't just fill up the screen, they refigure the battles. As in Tolstoy the slaughter at Borodino builds up to a point where you cannot take any more. Other sequences are less successful. The ball which is sensitively played and brilliantly shot subsides into gauzy close-up and soft focus, and Natasha's dance at the hunting lodge is ruined by the narrative, which crudely underlines the paradox which the sequence has been developing.

Ludmila Savelyeva as Natasha enters the film in a flood of light, and her beauty and life make a perfect contrast with the action of the war.

Most of the characterisation has been condensed to the point where it works on a series of confrontations. There is the occasional gentle parody of aristocratic society, but the only propaganda in the film is the rampant patriotism which almost submerges the second part.

Unfortunately the English language version has been cut by a third. Most of the relationship between Pierre and Andrei, has apparently been sacrificed, and at times the film becomes difficult to follow. The distributors have added an introduction, made by cutting up another copy, an atrocious title and an endless series of credits which destroy the impact of the final sequence. Various arguments such as the amount of dialogue and the belief that cinemagoers don't like reading led to its being dubbed rather than subtitled. While the synchronisation is technically superb, the American writers and "actors" have produced a soundtrack that is rather flat, and often embarrassing. Of the original soundtrack only Vyacheslav Ochinnikov's brilliant musical score remains.

PAUL BRETT SOMMERS

THE colour of coal mining is deep blues, greys of slate and reds of ironstone, dust and shine together. Coal mines are living things to miners, the underground community just as real as the one above surrounded by washed-out pallid skies and mountains made of slag.

In Pennsylvania in 1876 conditions in the mines and their communities led to outbreaks of violence. "The Molly Maguires" looks at the motives of a gang of men involved in such sabotage in a community of Irish immigrants. Although the plot involves a detective (Richard Harris) getting inside the gang (leader Sean Connery) to betray it, the film isn't primarily a psychological thriller. Rather it attacks its subject sociologically and examines men's motives against the harsh physical and economic backgrounds of their living.

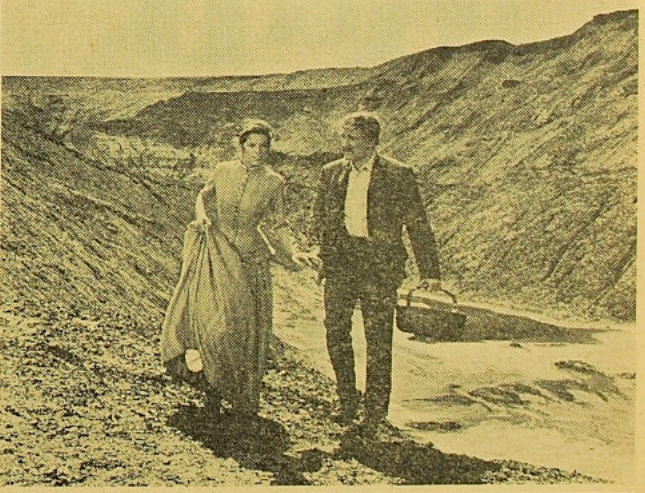
This is done very well in visual terms (the colour is superb), some scenes being outstanding. At one point our detective goes with our heroine (Samantha Eggar) for a picnic. The landscape of spoil-heaps is used with an ironic romanticism in long shots as the couple make their way through in middle distance (looking very like Robert Redford and Catherine Ross).

Eventually the camera turns and follows them on to the green relief of a sparsely-wooded crag overlooking the landscape.

Their love-making is seen, again in the middle distance, through a framework of leaves, with an at once oppressive and impressive line of pit-stacks as a backdrop. The treatment of this scene is typical of the whole film, firmly setting each person and every action in the context of the environment. What jars in this and other scenes is the dialogue. The acting, however, is good and convincing — although the female roles are not as worn down by life as they should be.

The film is not romantic — Bacharach's settings of Irish folk songs are not only pleasant but more important, ironic. The ending is logical and terrifying.

ROBERT SABIN.



Literature

MANY people think of Tony Palmer as a loud-mouthed bore. He consistently misinterprets such abuse as the Cross he has to bear for his valiant advocacy of pop, it's not that, people just don't like them. Palmer's "forthright" views on pop shock nobody. It has all been said before by more intelligent, respected and knowledgeable critics.

Palmer has an obvious talent for destructive criticism. His reviews of the Supremes and Sandie Shaw are masterpieces of the kind. "All my Loving" was a brilliant film, it did say more about pop than a year of "Top of the Pops". It consisted of sensitively directed musical excerpts, and Zappa, McCartney, Townsend, etc., talking. Palmer selected rather than wrote the content.

His later films, especially the Jack

Bruce programme, have been disappointing. "Born Under a Bad Sign" is as good and as bad as could be expected. At worst it is a series of self-justifications, taking his original "controversial" comment and proving that it really meant nothing. (Well I didn't say that the Beatles were greater than Schubert, and I only said the greatest songwriters, not composers, and Schubert didn't live that long ago and I don't suppose there have been that many songwriters anyway.)

At other times he is incredibly inaccurate, both in terms of classical and popular music. His late arrival "on the scene" (around the time of Sgt. Pepper), means that any earlier events have been studiously learnt up and reproduced from a series of publicity handouts which he mistakes for facts. His criteria are beyond comprehension, one

and a half pages on Dylan, a chapter on the Great Tradition of Judy Garland and Dusty Springfield, Sandie Shaw and Lulu.

At times, it reads like a beginner's guide to music. Some passages, like the description of the Bernard Delfont-Lew Grade Cigar Eating Entertainments, Business, and the chapter on Elvis Presley are clever but re-writes of his column. The interviews with Zappa, McCartney, Townsend, etc. are just reproduced from the film. There is nothing new in the book apart from the beautiful cover picture of John and Yoko surrounded by Fuzz and Steadman's brilliant cartoons, which says all Palmer is trying to say, more accurately, wittily and far more succinctly.

ANTHONY STEIN

THE summer edition of "Mermaid" is slowly filtering around the campus. This issue has no central theme, unlike the spring one, but the writers in it show a similar attempt to relate themselves to their situation and their experiences.

There is an emphasis on prose writing rather than poetry—the opportunities for poetry to be pub-

lished here are becoming greater—and you could say there is a preponderance of writing on various hallucinatory substances.

It's difficult for someone who is inside what others call the "Mermaid" "clique" to justify the obvious existence of such a group. The exploitation of a small group of fairly well-tested writers who have some interests in common may make for a more complete finished article. As well as this, the lack of response to requests for material (and the forgotten promises) makes it easier to contain the work within a small and manageable group of fairly willing people.

Paul Sommers's work as editor has been to combine these different writers within the framework of a total magazine, and in his last issue (thus the decorated "P" on the front cover, and the spot-the-drop-out back cover) he's succeeded as far as can be possible with the limits of money and the medium.

There wasn't room for a title page, and several of the features are unsigned. The central articles are those on Dionysos and the Mysticism of Sound, and the centre spread—the sacred mushroom no less—becomes a focal point.

Design has always been Paul's

greatest interest in editing "Mermaid"; again this issue is beautiful to look at, with the experiment of using different coloured paper and varying the limited number of type-faces at his disposal.

This is obviously not so much a review as an advert—it's worth the two bob if you should ever see a lonely "Mermaid" pusher.

"Black Columbus" has brought out another edition lately, although the numbers issued are very limited. It has yet to produce a really good poem or a single voice but there are hopes, and every venture of this kind should be encouraged.

The more professional production of "White Rabbit Papers" is trying to form a prose magazine to cover several universities' talent and readership. It is unfortunate that most of the content doesn't live up to the high standard of design; but they're looking for new writers. Brian Cutner is Birmingham's representative. Henry Dumolo's "Needless Alley Rag" may reappear next term.

There are some good things going on in magazines in Birmingham. It's a pity that the people willing to keep them going by writing or buying copies are so few.

MAXINE LINNELL.

Music

TWO concerts. Professional and amateur; cool and enthusiastic. The former was Soft Machine, who make my job difficult. They are somewhere between "esoteric pop" group and classical chamber ensemble.

Unannounced, they opened with a thematic statement which was repeated at intervals throughout the performance between periods of variations and improvisation. These latter had varied impact, high spots being Elton Dean's soprano and his flashes of inspired brilliance on alto. Mike Ratledge's Lowry organ improvisation was less effective than his role as rhythmic and musical basis of the group. The drums were more accompaniment than basic, giving more freedom with the result that they had greater emphatic effect.

All in all the arranged ensemble passages created the greatest im-

pect, particularly the devastating opening to their very long second set piece. See them.

Summer Solstice "thing" in Deb. Hall contrasted, with a homely atmosphere created by a number of University musicians and "friends". Much hard work and enthusiasm went into the show and this flowed to the audience who, although quiet, enjoyed it greatly.

The musical mixture was folk, contemporary jazz, esoteric pop and blues, which worked very well. A folk "jam", "She Got Religion", engendered the first audience participation and was one of a number of high spots. Another was the debut of Steve Bywaters and Tom Sorahan (Steve's first appearance since his departure from the world-famous Barnabes) and finally a gloriously happy and hilarious blues jam and happening which

had me laughing helplessly—great fun.

The whole show was a reassuring display of the talent that one might expect a university of this size to encompass.

JOHN HEADON.

ONCE more the Festival season is upon us. The first one to pull our pants down and empty our pockets was the Hollywood Festival, resplendent in the grimy fields of Newswest-under-Lyme.

The unsuspecting arrive was immediately entangled in a cobweb of control such as one doesn't usually encounter outside the Council House.

You couldn't get within a petrol-bomb's throw of the place without demonstrating that 90 per cent of your body surface was covered with official stamps. Nevertheless, with the help of co-operative fuzz without the usual quota of eyes peeking out from underneath the entire circumference of their helmets your enterprising reporter managed to burrow under the fence without hindrance.

Every festival should arrive armed with bloodstained policeman's uniforms, which enable one to move in social circles (ever-decreasing variety) undreamed of by the average hairy. Alternatively, a Press-card, arm-band with

SECURITY scratched on in stale groupie-milk, or pair of wire-

The freaks, how were the freaks? Oh, many, glorious and varied. The velvet, the satin, the wet-look, the wet-feel, the purple, the boater, the speed-freak, the sheepskin, the sheep-shit, the old-school-tie, the ribbon, Roosevelt's New (Quid) Deal, the two-hour queue for the bog, the fish-and-chips at Savoy Grill prices, the red, the white, the blue, were all there.

The counter-freaks, how were they? All right. No one was busted, the fuzz were very tolerant, courteous, and approachable, their dogs barked-but-not-bit upon finding disenchanted bodies where they shouldn't be.

And the music? Where was the music in the hierarchy of psychedelic influences vying for the attention of the wandering, wondering head?

The Beatles, the Stones, Captain Beefheart, they said. Promises of Eric Clapton, Peter Green jamming with Grateful Dead, Led Zeppelin, beckoned those naive enough to believe the whispered mutterings over pints of E and crumbling Nep.

Of the above, only Grateful Dead were there, playing a three-hour set to fill the Stones' absence. Ginger Baker's Airforce, only partly com-

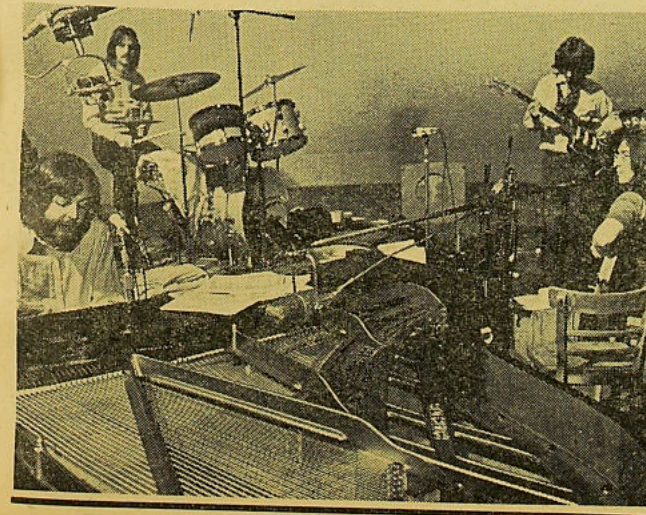
ing over very distorted amplification, played well but not as well as they have done. Inclusion of girl singers was an imaginative move which paid off, but they weren't exciting enough to justify the very long repetition of some of their riffs.

Traffic were very good, but the freezing fatigue of the last day's midnight was unfair to them. Their style has moved from the lyrical and melodious to the rock camp, but without sacrificing what was good in the old group. Family were at their best, but still stood out from the mediocre wagon-bands which the promoters used to fill the space between the groups which people had come to see.

As for Mungo Jerry, the astounding neophiliac musical boundary-breakers. The high-spot of their audience's interpretation of their repeat skiffle-bluebeat act was the destruction of vast portions of the permanent damage to 150,000 eardrums (most freaks have five each). Due to repeated indecent exposure of their maxi-single, it is No. 1 in all wallpaper colour-charts.

There was no screwing in the foam baths, much milk stolen from doorsteps, but no one lost their life or virginity.

PILCHARD V. BOMBER.



reviews

sport 1

AT LAST!

—U.A.U. title for athletes

ONE of the most magnificent performances ever produced by a Birmingham University team came when the Athletic Club snatched the U.A.U. title from the grasp of the mighty Loughborough Colleges. The final margin of victory in a thrilling encounter was only two-and-a-half points, but victory was sweet to the Birmingham boys who have had to take second place for so long.

One man who must be especially pleased is IAN THOMPSON. This is Ian's last year at the University and he has been one of the main inspirations in the Athletic Club's recent successes. His enthusiasm and devotion to the Club provides a lesson for all. We will be sad to see him go and the loss to the Club will be incalculable. Farewell, Dad, and many thanks!

But back to the U.A.U. victory. The background was laid down by eight individual wins—one more than Loughborough could achieve. The dominance of these two teams was demonstrated by the fact that all the other universities put together could only throw up two champions.

However, the victory would not have been possible without fighting performances lower down the line—such as Pete Cox's amazing sixth place in the walk—a feat which

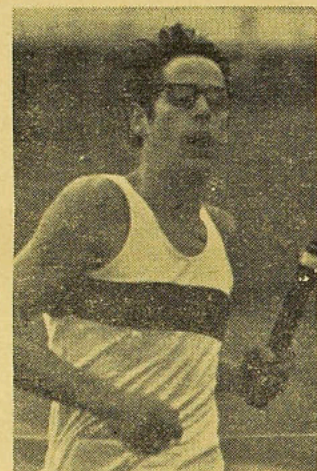
eventually made all the difference between overall victory and defeat.

Last Saturday the University took on the combined talents of the Universities of Cornell and Pennsylvania. This team, who had defeated a combined Oxford and Cambridge team, by 12 events to four on Thursday, came to Birmingham with their hopes high. Birmingham, however, gave them a much harder fight and only lost by 12 events to seven.

When it is realised that Birmingham were without Ralph Banthorpe—who could quite conceivably have turned three defeats into victory—the power of their team can be assessed.

Victories by Pete Miller (800 metres), Pete Cornes (100 metres), Jan Skrybant (hammer), Jim Auckett (400 metres), and Andy Holden (one mile, three miles and steeplechase), brought the Birmingham team close to victory.

The unluckiest Birmingham athlete was probably Herbie Sewell in the triple jump, who led all the way until the last round. Then he increased his lead to over 2ft. with

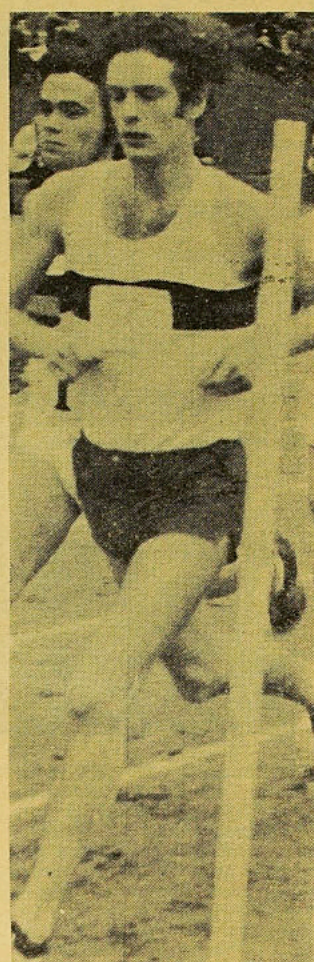


Ralph Banthorpe,
200 metres, for England.

Club captain Jim Auckett set a fine example by not only winning the 400 metres but also clipping one-fifth of a second off his personal best time, clocking 47.6sec. Pete Miller slashed 1.4sec. off his best ever 800 metres time, in winning this race, and set up a new University record of 1min. 51.4sec. Another record-breaker was Andy Holden, who lowered his own personal best for the mile, and the University record, to 4min. 7.9sec.

Andy went on to register two further wins in the three miles and 3,000 metres steeplechase. A remarkable treble by a great competitor. Pete Cornes also rose to the occasion magnificently, to run the Americans very close in the 200 metres and then score a shock one-two with Geoff Silman in the 100 metres.

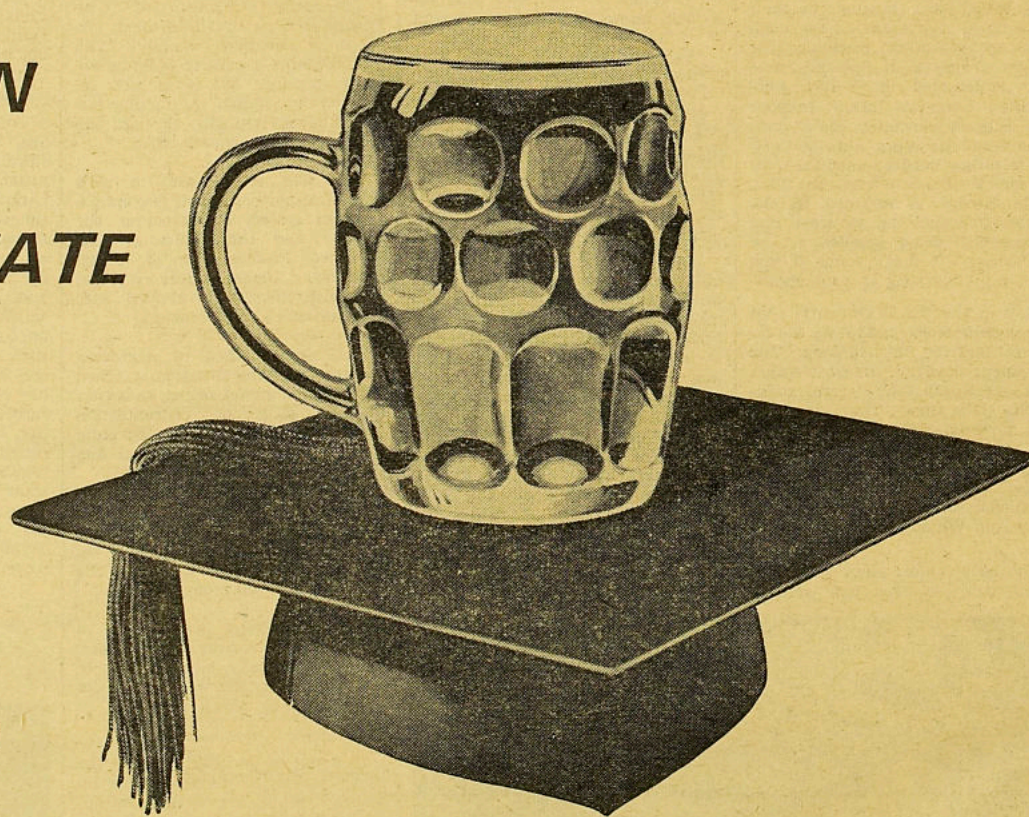
The 4 x 400 metres squad clocked a new University record, but lost by three-fifths of a second to Cornell/Pennsylvania's crack quartet. With a fit Ralph Banthorpe, Birmingham could surely have squared the match and possibly even won it. Great running lads!



Andy Holden,
steeplechase, England.

From FRESHMAN

To GRADUATE

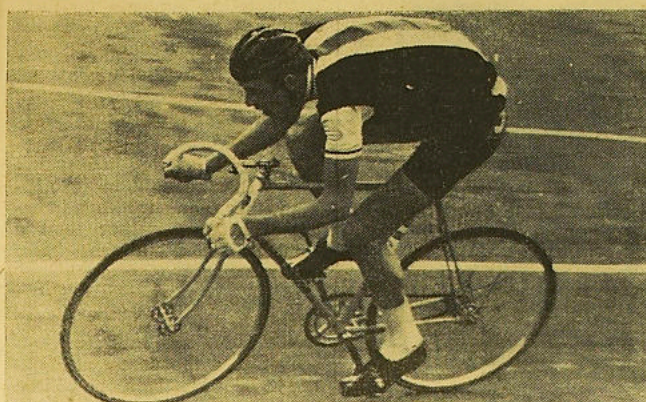
M&B
BREW
XI

ALWAYS A FIRST

sport 2

HOCKEY

Trojan's trophy



Ian Hallam, 4,000 metres pursuit, England.

SUNDAY, April 19th was a great day in the history of Birmingham University Hockey when, in their usual style, the Trojans scored a triumph in Innsworth R.A.F. six-a-side hockey tournament. Starting as we meant to continue, we clinically dissected Glenicals through the killing shot of Dave Fearnley. It remains a mystery how such a good player ever descended to the depths of the second XI.

We then met two lucky teams in succession, who somehow contrived to score two runaway goals each, totally against the run of play. Mention must here be made of the heroic defensive play of our sweeper who although severely handicapped by an injury received at the hands of our centre-forward,

struggled magnificently through four games in a row, and still had the energy left to lift a pint to his lips in the evening.

Minthead seemed somewhat unhappy away from the holiday camp atmosphere and one could sense from their play that they were trying to re-create such a feeling in their style. So bad was their play that even our captain, renowned for his organisational qualities (1), scored a goal!

The climax of the whole tournament came in Trojans' last game, in which the team noticeably devoid of its star defenders, somehow succeeded in preventing opposition from scoring and struggled to a creditable draw.

We decided unanimously that the fact that we came away with nothing more to show for our efforts than bruises showed that the pitch, the weather, and the umpires were not conducive to our distinctive style of play.

Results:
Glenical 0, Trojans 1
Minthead 0, Trojans 1
Gloucester 0, Trojans 0
Portsmouth 2, Trojans 0
Cheltenham 2, Trojans 0

JOHN WHITTING
(Trojans Hockey Player).

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
FOR GAMES

SEVEN Birmingham University sportsmen will be seen in action in the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in July—six athletes and one cyclist. The athletes are: RUTH MARTIN-JONES (Pentathlon, Wales), GEND GRIF-FITHS (Steeplechase, Wales), ROG RICHARDSON (400 Hurdles, Wales), HOWARD PAYNE (Hammer, England), RALPH BANTHORPE (200 metres, England), and ANDY HOLDEN (Steeplechase, England). The solitary cyclist is IAN HALLAM (400 metres pursuit, England).

Andy Holden, Jim Auckett, troubled by injury, was desperately unlucky in the 400 metres. Four places were available for the relay team and Jim, who hadn't run at all for a week, was pushed into fifth place

by only one-fifth of a second.

Ian Hallam has long established himself as one of England's top pursuit riders, and the selection of this talented dentist was almost automatic.

CRICKET

BRYN IN THE
RUNS

THE batting of Bryn Harris (539 runs, average 41.5) and the off-spin bowling of Mike Woodbridge (36 wickets, average 15.0) have been the highlights so far of a season containing fine wins, but also some disappointing defeats for the Cricket first XI.

With star players being unavailable due to exams, the teams have been constantly changing, and a record of four wins, six losses and nine drawn games represents no

mean feat under such difficult circumstances. Freshers Pete Woodward and Chris Haydon are already well established in the side, and promise a bright future for Birmingham cricket.

Victories this season have been registered against Manchester University, Barnet Green, City Police, and Oxford University 2nd XI, the latter a commendable victory against players with first-class experience.

ORIENTEERING

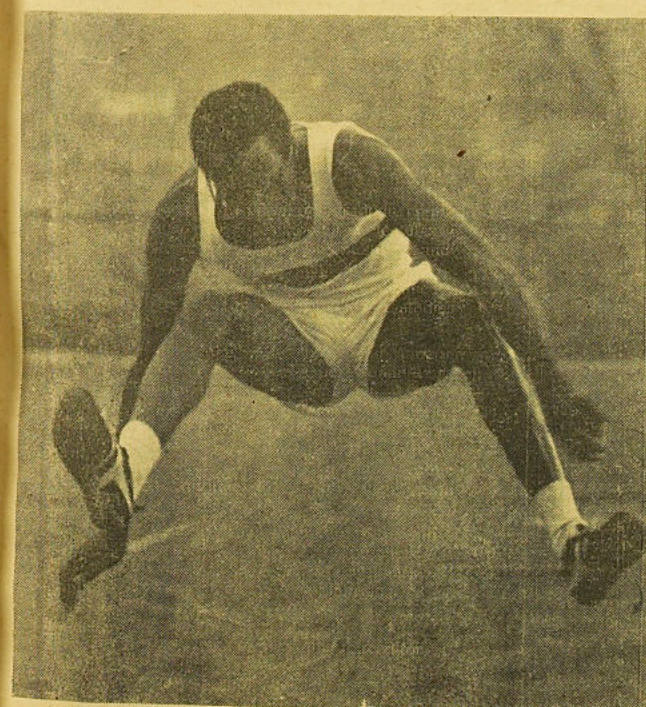
ED AND
VAL FOR
OSLO

LAST weekend two B.U.O.C. competitors made the long journey North to the Dalbeattie Forest, near Dumfries. There the Scottish Championships, the last of the present series of Selection Events, were taking place. The courses tended to favour the stronger runners as opposed to the better orienteers, but this did not prevent our intrepid "team" from once again putting up a remarkable performance. Val Pacey was placed fourth and Ed Finch came home 14th.

The upshot of this is that these two—on the basis of their consistently outstanding performances in the recent Selection Events—have both been chosen to run for the British team later this year. The drawing of two members from one club—and a club as new as this—is a considerable achievement.

They will be setting out in early July in order to attend a training week near Oslo. Then they will run in the three-day competition based on Momarken Travbane Mysen (60 km. S.E. of Oslo), and will then go on to the famous O'Ringen five-day event in S. Sweden.

P. JONATHAN CARR,
Press Sec., B.U.O.C.



Herbie Sewell, U.A.U. title and University record
in the triple jump.

TENNIS

DOUBLE WIN FOR
BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM have done a racquets double. The university tennis team won the U.A.U. championships at Little-shall over the weekend, to add to the title that the squash team won last term. John Palmer, Jim McCollum, and Richard Eaton were members of both teams.

But Palmer, McCollum and Eaton found it tougher going this time. After a splendid 7-2 win against the holders, Sheffield, on the Saturday, the final was a tense and nervous struggle which Birmingham only narrowly clinched 5-4.

The match against Sheffield was expected to be far closer. Their side contained two excellent players, English Universities players Max Franklin and Dave Orchard, but their policy to split these two and play them with weaker partners never looked like paying off.

This was in part due to the incredible start made by Mick Webb and Richard Eaton. Twenty successive games they won before anybody took a game off them. Orchard and partner were crushed 6-0, 6-0, and the rampaging Birmingham pair were 6-0 and 2-0 up in their next match before the run was halted.

Orchard was hardly likely to suffer such indignity again, and John Palmer and Jack Robinson had to battle hard in order to win the vital second-round rubber. They trailed 5-6 in the first set, survived the crisis to win 9-7, 6-4.

Terry Taylor and Jim McCollum also put up a good performance as the disappointed Sheffield second pair tried to salvage some pride from the wreckage of defeat. But they were frustrated again and the Birmingham third pair edged home 7-5 in the final set.

But perhaps the best win came when Webb and Eaton triumphed against first pair Max Franklin and Roland Robinson. They had been softened up by a three-setter with Palmer and Robinson earlier, but when forced to go to three again, found the determined resistance of Webb and Eaton too much, and lost 7-5, 6-2, 2-6.

Sheffield's third pair were comfortably beaten by all three Birmingham pairs.

Loughborough beat Manchester 6-3 in the other semi-final. Birmingham had narrowly beaten Loughborough 5-4 in their qualifying group, so the final was expected to be a tough one. And it certainly was.

The crucial rubbers, therefore, involved those against John Howorth of Yorkshire, and Peter Sturrock. The in-form men, Webb and Eaton, were detailed to take them on first, and a proper "elbow" match it turned out to be. Though 5-2 up in the first set, the Birmingham pair could not clinch it, and were caught at 5-5. Only some nervous serving by Howorth enabled them to win the set.

Twice in the second set Birmingham achieved breaks of service, but each time Loughborough broke back. Then at 3-4 the Birmingham men produced some good returns at the vital moment, and scraped home.

Palmer and Robinson's encounter with the same pair was even more exciting. They led 5-3 in the first set, lost their lead, and recovered to win it—just. But Howorth, though still erratic on service, was potentially dangerous with his fine ground-strokes and testing lobs. And in the second set things looked grim as Loughborough romped it 6-1.

But Palmer and Robinson came back splendidly, steeling their nerves at a particularly testing time. Once they got ahead they never gave Loughborough a chance of recovering and won the third 6-1. From this rubber on the match was as good as dead. Birmingham knew they had won.

After the championship Webb and Eaton were selected to play in the English Universities' tour on July 4th, 5th, and 6th.

I.D.S. KNOCKOUT

Thrills in
store

Timetable:

Today: 5-a-side soccer on Bournbrook. Preliminary rounds start at 9.30. Final to be played around 5.00.

Thursday: Hockey. 7-a-side mixed Hockey. Coach leaves North Car Park 10.00 prompt.

Friday: Basketball. First games 10.0 in Sports Centre. Final 4.15 p.m.

Here it is folks! Much flailing of limbs, and a chance for your natural gey abandon to return to the fore. A chance to reveal your pre-natal neuroticism to your friends. For those not taking part, and any further McCarthyite communalists, pre-Castro-ites, etc., roll in and do your thing.

Confusion over bank protest

ON June 1st a number of students at Birmingham withdrew their accounts from Barclay's Bank as a protest against the bank's involvement in South Africa. The number of students who did so is not known, according to Rod Levi who has been co-ordinating the campaign in Birmingham.

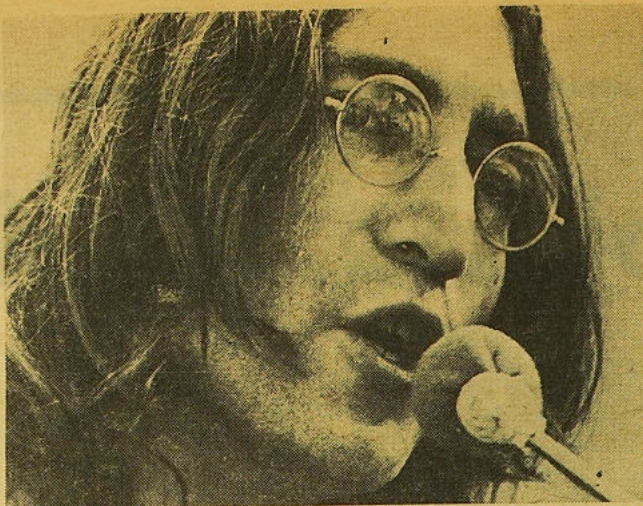
The move to withdraw accounts came after the N.U.S. conference in Bradford in April decided to launch a campaign to get students to make this protest, but the N.U.S. directives on the issue have led to much confusion. A unified withdrawal of accounts was planned for May 1st, but this date was later changed to June 1st and then to June 3rd. (June 1st was the date the Springboks were due to arrive in the country—when the tour was cancelled the date for withdrawing accounts was moved back to June 1st).

Although almost any commercial interest in this country could be found to have some financial connections with South Africa, Barclay's Bank has connections which are more obvious and direct than most.

Barclay's hold 54% of the shares in Barclay's Bank D.C.O. which is deeply involved in S. Africa. Barclay's D.C.O. claims to be a liberal influence in S. Africa, but whilst it holds 600,000 Bantu accounts it has no African bank managers at present. The bank has loaned £1 million for the joint Mozambique-South African Cabora Bassa dam scheme.

When completed the scheme will displace 25,000 black Africans and serve to keep FRELIMO freedom fighters from Tanzania north of the Mozambique dam.

The N.U.S. action may be no more than a gesture, but a Swedish electrical firm has withdrawn its involvement in the Cabora Bassa dam scheme because of pressure in Sweden.



Lennon and microphone. The Beatles' latest (and last?) film — "Let It Be" — is at the Odeon this week.

BIRMINGHAM GOES INTO EUROPE

BIRMINGHAM University is sending a dozen people to Paris this June, to take a step towards making the study of "Social Administration" a truly international discipline. The University, which has offered courses in Comparative Social Administration for the past two years, is now launching a venture to promote this study throughout the British Isles. The aim is to help transform what has hitherto in Britain been a rather parochial study of the British social services, given largely as a background course for intending social workers, into a study of social policy ranging across national frontiers. This must involve a similar change of emphasis overseas, to create an "international community" exchanging ideas and research.

Several universities in Britain have recently started courses in Comparative Social Administration, but the growth of the subject has been held back by the lack of teaching staff.

Birmingham social administration department has now offered other universities the chance to develop their interest in this field with a

study tour in Paris, organised in conjunction with the U.N., the British National Council of Social Service, and the Comité Française de Service Social and d' Action Sociale. The participants this June include staff from universities in Britain and Ireland, plus students and local authority staff including a participant from the U.S.A.

Death of a University?

ANYBODY noticed the demise of the Free University? Anybody in the least concerned? Everybody content to succumb to the stultifying, strangulating influence on their brains of a specialised, small-minded, narrow course?

Nobody interested in anything but getting a piece of paper to slobber over and show their great-aunt?

Nobody interested in learning rather than soaking, in developing rather than shrinking, in being a visionary rather than a zombie? Doesn't anyone screw any more?

If anyone had predicted that less than 1% of the University would show any interest whatsoever in a movement attempting to broaden the scope of that very commodity in search of which they came to the University, one would have been slightly incredulous, to say the least.

But this is what has happened. Despite continuous fervent publicity campaigns, the Free University has reached neither the head, heart, or genitals of the engineer-in-the-gutter. Every course (bar Revolution and Non-violence at Fircroft College on Tuesdays) is either without means of tangible support or big enough to disown FUB.

But next year we'll try again — maybe some intellectual curiosity will have spontaneously generated by then.

Violence for hecklers at Powell meeting



Agitation at Saturday's meeting.

VIOLENCE, intolerance and intimidation were once more the keynote of an Enoch Powell speech, last night in Wolverhampton—and most of the violence came from the police. There was not a Skinhead in sight the whole evening.

Powell was addressing his constituents in the hall of Wolverhampton Grammar School. It was his last major speech before the election, and it also coincided with his birthday. The meeting began peacefully enough with the Tory contingent managing to get away with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday, Dear Enoch."

As Powell began to speak, however, there were several incidents in which tense and over-reactive "stewards" scuffled with, and in some cases ejected members of the audience who dared to open their mouths to utter, no matter how mildly, against dear Enoch.

The first to go was a middle-aged man whose "heckles" were inaudible to all but the stewards surrounding him.

Question-time was gingerly skated over, both chairman and Powell making sure that the honourable candidate didn't fall through the ice; the insults poured upon questioners by dear Enoch were deemed righteous, those from long-haired anarchists scurrilous, and the meeting ended.

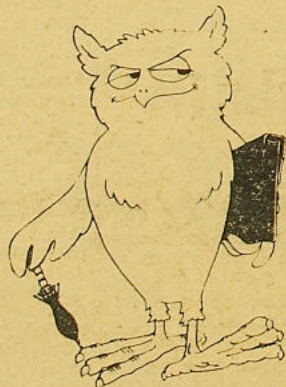
It was outside, however, that the ugliest incidents occurred. Masses of police, who had up till the end of the meeting taken no part in the proceedings, first halted, and then dispersed a crowd of demonstrators who attempted to form up in the road outside the school.

By anybody's standards, the police lost their temper and zealously put the boot in. Demonstrators were punched, kicked, clubbed and beaten with a pleasure that was all too obvious.

A few arrests were made, apparently arbitrarily. Afterwards, when the edge had gone from the situation, tight-lipped constables firmly refused to give their names, or any information about themselves to individual demonstrators whom they had dispersed.



Nazi-type salutes from demonstrators.



Since Endsleigh opened their bureau in our Union I have insured my car, covered my personal belongings, arranged travel insurance and started to save through a life policy. All at special reduced rates through leading companies with the convenience of expert on the spot service.

Details from your Union Insurance Bureau

Endsleigh Insurances (Brokers) Ltd., Carlisle House, 8 Southampton Row, London, WC1B AG