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redbrick

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redbrick

AS the year draws to a close and the Review Body is amidst its cautious appraisal of university reform the student body has just suffered or is suffering from the annual examination problem, and has we would hope had to control its lively enthusiasm for interests within the University other than academic. But hold on—are we suggesting that the student body does have a lively enthusiasm for non-academic interests, not to mention the bewildering intellectual commitment exists(!) even when not under exam pressure?

Unfortunately we are being too optimistic for, judging from the records of those "outside" interests, the student body is decidedly devoid of enthusiasm, save those few activists who have no support. The low poll at the Presidential election, the pathetic Carnival figures, the abysmal support given to Community Action, and the lack of student solidarity in the Atkinson affair all indicate what would seem a tremendously keen and enthusiastic student body. Perhaps this is too scathing and cynical, but are not the interests of the University meant to reflect the student body—if they are then next year's President and Vice-President, who have committed themselves to gaining a greater involvement throughout the University, will have a hard task ahead.

A NEW editorial staff will be taking on the responsibility of producing "Redbrick" next year, a relatively inexperienced staff compared with this year. "Redbrick's" function essentially should be one of providing a suitable medium for the communication of relevant ideas by all interest groups on the campus.

The low ebb of student participation could perhaps be remedied by the presentation of issues and problems central to the student body. "Redbrick" should be an open forum for the discussion of the activities of the University authorities and the Guild, with involvement appreciated! "Redbrick" itself needs writers, and therefore, whatever your interest, either political, social, intellectual or sporting, or maybe just helping, please contact me through pigeon-holes.

RUSSELL BRYANT.

redbrick staff

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paul taylor	gnette
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mike horseman	roland clark
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liz unsworth	gary marks
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Cover by Mike Horseman.

'CONCOURSE'

A chance for you to make radio the way you'd like to hear it—

A group of students produce a 30-minute programme weekly for the B.B.C., broadcast on Radio Birmingham. Your local radio needs you: if you'd be interested in creating, interviewing, writing, researching, operating the equipment, etc., or if you just feel you might like to be involved, contact Roger Pearce, via U.P.H., before end of term.

Local radio needs community involvement.

GRANTS UP!

MANY students are to have a grants increase of £85, staggered over the next three years. Under the new grant levels agreed by the Department for Education and Science, the main provincial rate is to be raised to £430 in September. There will be further increases to £445 and £465 in 1972 and 1973. Grants for London and Oxbridge University students will be raised to £500 over the three-year period, and College of Education students will get an extra £40.

However, the abolition of discretionary awards, a major priority of the N.U.S. grants campaign, has not been conceded by the Government. Such a structural change was deemed by the D.E.S. and the local authorities to be outside the limits of the grants reviews. This was in spite of the fact that the cost of making grants for H.N.D. and similar advanced-course students mandatory would, according to N.U.S. calculations, have been only £451,000 over three years. But students receiving discretionary awards will, of course, benefit from the overall increases, and the improvements in the parental means test scale.

The base of the means test scale has been raised from £900 to £1,100 and contributions will be reduced by £10 up to a residual income of £1,699. Allied to this, the assessment of parental income will be lower due to greater offsetting allowances. The sum disregarded for educational expenses of dependent children and for domestic assistance in single parent families will become £200 instead of the present £100. Greater relief will also be given with respect to the amount spent in superannuation contributions and life assurance premiums.

There is an increase in the scale of grant for mature students from £24-£120 to £29-£145 (depending on age). The rates for dependents will go up from £210 to £250 for a spouse, and from £90 to £105 for a dependent child, with corresponding rises for the second and third children.

In aggregate these increased awards mean that an extra £76m. will be spent by the Government. Commented Jack Straw, N.U.S. President and member of the Grants Review Body: "The global sum of £76m. was not sufficient to cover all the rising costs... but we feel that the allocation is in our members' interest."

University pay vac grants

THE responsibility for payment of vacation grants for field courses and study visits, which are specified in the Faculty Handbook as being a required part of a degree course has now been transferred from the L.E.A.s to the University.

To be eligible for a vacation grant a student must be in receipt of an L.E.A. award and be registered full-time for a First Degree Course. Applications must be made to departments. Minimum Grant holders, who were excluded under the L.E.A. scheme, are now entitled to a grant from the University.

Although the new system means that the grants made will be considerably less than some L.E.A.s would have given it is considered a generally more satisfactory and straightforward scheme, since everyone who is eligible will receive a grant, whereas previously some students have had difficulty in convincing the less generous L.E.A.s to make an award.

If anyone would like more information, contact your department or call into Welfare Office on the ground floor of the Union Building.

DEGREE DAY

LORD AVON, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, has informed the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. R. B. Hunter) that he will take the chair at the annual degree congregations dinner on Friday, July 16th, and will conduct the degree congregation on the following morning.

Speakers at the dinner will include Lord Gardiner, Lord Chancellor in the last government (1964-70), who is to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and Professor O. Hood Phillips, Q.C., who becomes Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal in the next academic session.

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THE OZ Obscenity Show is scheduled to commence at the Old Bailey in about a week's time. On trial with them will be the freedom to think, communicate, experiment and hold your own opinion on sexual liberation. If you care about freedom of the Press, freedom to live the life you wish, then you are also in the dock.

Approximately 30 people have already agreed to give evidence on OZ's behalf. This means the case will probably play for at least a giddy three weeks. Any other willing expert witnesses, such as school teachers, authors, psychiatrists, educationalists, etc., who have not yet been cast for a part in the drama should contact the OZ solicitor, David Offenbach, at 01-629-1191.

An OZ Obscenity Centre has been opened at Holland Park, London. The organisers plan to provide news and information relating to the trial, as well as co-ordinate protests, rallies, demonstrations and other events which are being planned to coincide with the trial.

These include an Independence Day Carnival (a Celebration of People's Rights) to be held in Hyde Park at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 4th. This will include a Mass Rally, Smoke-in, Theatre and Music.

It's your day. Stand up and be seen.

Exec elected

The following have been elected to Guild Executive for the 1971-72 session:—

President: Anne Naylor (Medicine)
Vice-President: Paul Dodgson (Law)
Guild Secretary: Russell Wilson (Civ. Eng.)
Union Services: Eric Galvin (Commerce)
External Affairs: Les Beaumont (Metallurgy)
Events Chairman: Nobby Clark (Social Science)
Education Chairman: Jim Tyack (Physics)
Welfare Chairman: Barrie Thornber (Classics)
Athletic Union: Roger Plank (Civ. Eng. PG.)

Conservation

The National Union of Students has appointed a full-time Conservation Officer, Mr. Nicholas Brown, who will help to establish environmental conservation groups in universities and colleges in the United Kingdom. The post is for a period of three years.

This appointment has been made possible by grants from The Countryside Commissions for England, Wales and Scotland, the Ministry of Development (Northern Ireland), and the Carnegie U.K. Trust.

Heads of departments to go?

MANY of the hundred and seventy or so documents received by the Grimond Review Body have indicated that some change is needed in the role and position of Head of Department. The present ordinances give virtually tenure for life and allow the Head of Department considerable power which many believe is, in some cases, being abused.

Envisaged changes could be a Headship of a Department which rotates amongst all the members of staff of the department, an elected staff/student committee would have a decisive say in all matters which affected the department. This system, it is argued, allows for greater participation in departmental affairs conducive to the development of any responsive and responsible academic community.

Senate similarly is an area of considerable debate. Senate at the moment holds the view that all professors, being appointed for academic experience and wisdom, should all be ex-officio members. This view is hotly contested in the Review Body as leading to a large and unwieldy Senate. Although professors are ex-officio members of Senate at the moment few attend. A large Senate would effectively pass power in decision-making to the smaller Senate Executive Committee dominated by the Vice-Chancellor and Deans.

The difficulty of many Faculty Boards to justify their composition and size is also drawing the attention of the Review Body. It is argued that large Faculties are justified on the grounds that they have all the related disciplines under one governing body. It can be argued, however, that this could be done at a different level and that smaller units increase the participation and involvement of members in its governing bodies. Smaller Faculties would also enable the Dean to prevent abuses of power by Heads of Departments.

On May 19th representatives of the Guild of Students presented a document ratified by Guild Council to the Review Body. The fifteen-

page document covering a wide range of educational issues was widely circulated on the campus as well as being available to interest groups and the national and local Press.

The Guild's document questions the fundamental aims of the educational system provided by the Government, and at a local level, by the University. It firstly suggests that the binary system of education be abolished. It recommends to the Review Body the N.U.S. policy statement calling for "Polyversities" which would allow greater educational flexibility and a more rational distribution of the country's resources.

One of the essential features of the Guild document is its call for greater flexibility in the university, both in government and education. Under a section on degree curricula it suggests "all students should be asked to examine both the structure of contemporary knowledge and the structure of the society in which that knowledge is used." It concludes that much university education is over-specialised and has little relevance to the graduate or to the society into which he is going.

Changes in teaching methods in the university are suggested in the document; "emphasis must be

changed from remembering to understanding."

The Guild also asks that some system be established whereby the students can comment upon the teaching ability of members of staff to improve its quality. Such a system could be a questionnaire which would be taken into account by a promotions committee.

On the structure of the university the Guild's evidence suggests that departments be reformed by an elected staff-student committee making the decisions and that the present position of professional dominance of staff and students be ended. Senate and Faculty, it suggests, should have one-third student membership, the Senate "will become a truly representative body making university policy and debating contentious issues." The Principals and Deans Committee would be subordinate to the Senate with specific terms of reference.

The document suggests Court and Council as at present constituted "do not serve the best interests of the academic community as a whole." Court should be abolished. Council should become a lay body formally subordinate to Senate instead of being the de facto governing body.

The wide range of topics covered by the Guild's evidence has obviously meant that on some issues discussion is a little vague or generalised. This was quickly noted by the Review Body. However, it is no doubt a substantial and pleasing contribution to both local and national debate on educational reform in Birmingham and the United Kingdom.



Jo Grimond—Review Body Chairman

Alternative jobs?

UNCAREERS was started last term by a few people who felt that not enough information was made available on effective alternatives to conventional jobs. There is now an Uncareers in Oxford and several more contacts in other parts of the country. Uncareers has a stall in the Union Concourse lounge every Tuesday in term-time.

The choices usually offered by Appointments boards imply the acceptance of a certain system of values—importance is attached to material rewards, status, and self-advancement. Obtaining a job of this kind usually involves "selling oneself" at interviews often to the extent of altering one's appearance and sometimes opinions to an acceptable mediocrity.

We can tell people about occupations which are not like this and we also want Uncareers to be somewhere where people can freely explore their own opinions and elucidate the values implicit in jobs.

Our education frequently leaves people without much consciousness of their real position in society and unable to express their misgivings. This doubt gets called "being woolly and poorly motivated" by Appointments Boards, and people are encouraged to think that there is something wrong with them—they are not being "realistic." Not knowing that there are alternatives, people swallow their feelings and come to terms with conventional jobs because they feel they have to.

We have a Directory of Alternative Work with about 60 projects in it, most of which want more people and welcome visitors—although we tell people not to descend on anyone without checking first. These include community action projects, more informal kinds of social work, arts labs, drama improvisation and street theatre with kids, radical education, the underground Press and community newspapers—anything, in fact, which involves working with people in non-competitive

ways, and which is not covered by the Appointments Board (but they've got our directory now).

We have notes on where to get information on communes, addresses of well known agencies like V.S.O. and C.S.V., and a list of summer projects, most of which are connected with long-term things in the directory. There are a few democratic factories which occasionally have vacancies—we have information on these, too.

Some of the projects can pay you enough to live on; often, until they get established and find sources of money, you would have to have some other means of support like a part-time job.

We are not trying to assess you when you come to us—just come and read the directory and look at the mounting tide of journals, leaflets and community newspapers we are accumulating. We will answer questions as well as we can—we have visited or worked on some projects ourselves.

We welcome help and suggestions—tell us about work you have done or know about. When you leave write to us and let us know how you are getting on.

Come next Tuesday. We are there all day.

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Be-in freak-in

Gimme an f!... FFFFF! Gimme a u!... UUUUU! Gimme a c!... CCCCC! Gimme a k!... KKKKK! What'sat spell...? The chant rose up, just once, from the pants of several hundred freaks assembled in Cannon Hill Park last Sunday afternoon. Grown men turned pale, old ladies trembled uncontrollably, young girls swooned, children smiled, and peace fluttered down again.

Under a bright sky and hot sun shining miraculously on a Sunday afternoon sandwiched between days of wet weather, the feel of festivals had come back to us. Countless tiny American flags, tightly furled, smouldered gently with a delicious and uplifting exhilaration, while a guitarist raised his voice and brought us into Los Angeles. Someone else felt the blues and sung them out.

A small black kitten was rescued from a tall tree by an intrepid freak who really got high, while uniformed upholders of by-laws occasionally circled the colourful gathering escorted by heaving and submissive alsatians.

A dozen baby freaks from three weeks to three years old reminded us of what we'd lost and slowly we began to play again.



Sweets and squash were shared, the amazing black tandem flashed past, paper planes carried the message, a beer can became a bongo, Sunday afternoon spectators' kids tugged at their parents' hands, we talked, laughed, sang and the colours and vibes were good.

May the park bloom many times this summer, meanwhile, let's be together at Glastonbury.

Love from,
STREET PRESS

Personal

LOST—A silver St. Christopher medallion on the campus. If found please contact Liz Williams, 1st year, Soc. Sci. (Geog.)

☆☆☆

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

Help yourselves!

THE Lodgings Warden looks at next October's scramble for somewhere to live and suggests ways of surviving it.

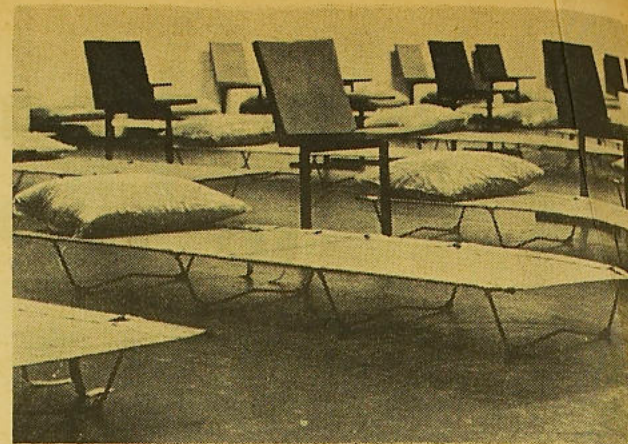
Each year the student population of Birmingham increases—and each year it becomes harder to find a really satisfactory place to live. The University's building programme cannot meet the increase until next year and at the same time redevelopment of old property is steadily removing many old-established flats, bedsitters and digs from the student market. When it comes to competing for what is available, young businessmen, teachers and industrial employees have the edge over students: they can pay more, live in Birmingham all the year round, and do not have the handicap of a public image that makes many landlords think twice before letting to students.

In addition, students at this University arrive last in the autumn after newly-appointed teachers and students at the colleges of education have already settled in. Last year, we were short of all kinds of accommodation—and especially short of digs for freshers. This October, the situation is likely to be worse, but it could be eased in a number of ways. This article suggests several points which could make the search for somewhere to

live shorter and more likely to be successful. There are ways in which students can help themselves and each other—and enable the Lodgings Office to give a more efficient service:—

- (1) Use all the means at your disposal: Lodgings Office, friends, relatives in the Birmingham area, follow-up advertisements in the papers, cards in local shop windows, estate agents, flat-finding agencies (if you must!).
- (2) Check with the Lodgings Office: we are here to help. Contrary to some popular belief, we do not only deal with lodgings providing bed and breakfast. For several years now our lists of vacancies have included many more flats and bed-sitters than lodgings. Throughout the year accommodation of all kinds is being visited: if you get the address of a vacancy from some other source, it is still very likely that we know the house concerned. Cases have even occurred of students paying a large fee to an agency for an address which they could have obtained free from us!

- (3) "Living in Birmingham" is the title of a booklet produced jointly by the Lodgings Office and the Guild's Welfare Committee—obtained free from either office. A quick look through it before you start your search could help you to avoid some of the commoner snags and disasters involved in finding somewhere to live.
- (4) Move fast! A flat advertised in the paper will attract dozens of applicants the same evening. To stand any chance at all, you must be at the head of the queue. Addresses offered to this office are often given out to at least three different students in the same day, and those same vacancies have probably been offered to Aston—and advertised as well. Last year, good vacancies were lost again and again to this University because students did not follow them up at once.
- (5) First impressions count for a lot—they will count with you when you first meet your prospective landlady—and they will certainly count with her. No one is suggesting that flat-hunting should be done in a



In previous years the lodgings crisis has led to temporary accommodation being set up in the Sports Centre.

Sunday suit, but remember that many flats and lodgings are being offered for the first time by someone who is very apprehensive about the whole idea. If their worst fears about students are confirmed on the doorstep, then that is as far as you will get!

- (6) There is no substitute for personal contact. Telephone for an appointment if you can, then call. Only write if you are absolutely unable to be in Birmingham.
- (7) Keep the Lodgings Office informed. As soon as you make a booking, send us your new address immediately whether you got the address through us or

not. This is not pointless bureaucracy—it saves fruitless journeys to non-existent vacancies for other students, and helps us to keep track of the number who are homeless.

- (8) In the rush period, our lists of vacancies are continually changing and being added to. If we haven't got what you were looking for when you called, try again next day—the perfect flat may just have been offered to us!
- (9) If you are starting your search this term, we shall be glad to help, but there are limits to what can be achieved. Only a few flats and bed-sitters will be available for autumn bookings—the rest will expect full rent throughout the summer. If you cannot afford this, a concentrated hunt over several days in early to mid-September is your best chance. Except for August 30th-September 1st (University general holiday), this office will be open all summer. Digs (lodgings) can be booked now for next year, but please do not book lodgings if you only intend them as temporary shelter for flat-hunting in October—it's not fair on the landlady and will stop someone else using the same room more permanently.

FINDING NEW VACANCIES

This month, we have written to nearly 2,000 householders and landlords, asking them to let us know what vacancies they have. We shall be advertising throughout the summer and trying every means we can to give publicity to our need for accommodation. Four of my assistants will be out visiting every day, collecting vacancies. But the results of all these efforts could be doubled by student co-operation.

If you are leaving your present digs or flats, try to make sure that the vacancy is offered to us for next October.

Try your neighbours: they may not be affected by an advertisement, but a first approach from you may well get them interested in offering a room or a flat. Give us their name and address, and we will follow up—fast!

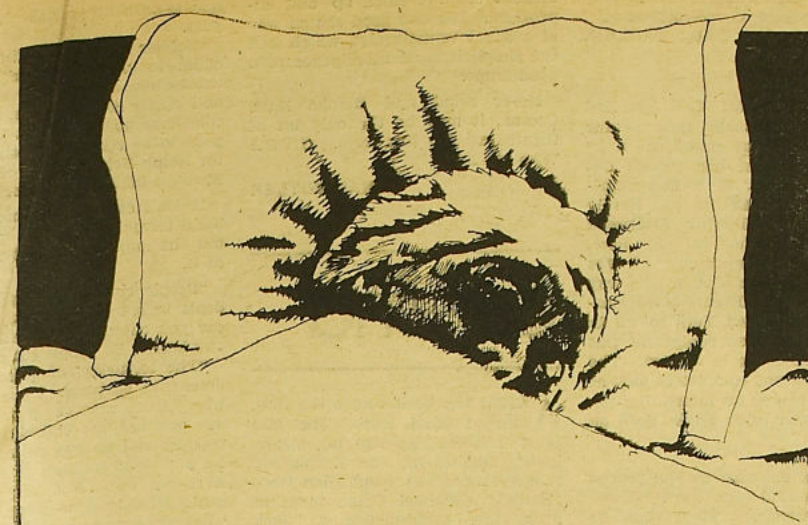
Overseas students seldom find accommodation easily. A personal introduction, or just getting a landlady use to the idea of having someone from overseas to stay, could make all the difference to a student whose time in Birmingham would otherwise have been utterly miserable.

More students find their accommodation through friends and relatives than in any other way, except through the Lodgings Office. So feed the grapevine! It may mean a room kept vacant till September as a favour, or a temporary offer renewed or expanded. The best digs and flats are passed from generation to generation of students by recommendations.

You may have an aunt or a family friend living near the University: although you may not want to live there yourself, this contact could quite easily provide the ideal place for another student—and delight the aunt!

The difficulties that are expected next autumn mean that all these points should be taken very seriously, and that no-one who can possibly help it should risk leaving their search to the last minute.

ROBERT HUGHES.



'Something you don't talk about'

by Paul Taylor

VENEREAL disease is a highly emotive subject; something you don't talk about; charged with guilt complex feelings. Statistics are often bandied around claiming that incidence of V.D. is reaching epidemic proportions. While it may be claimed that these are somewhat exaggerated the problem is still there, and the roof of the concern can often be put down to an ignorance of what exactly V.D. is.

There are three common types of V.D.: gonorrhoea (the "clap"), syphilis ("pox") and non-specific urethritis (usually abbreviated to N.S.U.). Each of these is caught via close contact with the body of someone who is already infected. In 99 cases out of 100 V.D. is caught as the result of someone having intercourse with another person—of the opposite or the same sex—who has already contracted the disease from somebody else. The germs transmitting the disease live in the sex organs and cannot survive for long in the absence of body heat. So ideas that V.D. can be caught from lavatory seats, dirty cups, towels, etc., are just not true.

The problem with V.D. is its detection; especially in women. Early detection is essential for treatment as if this does not happen then the results may be very serious.

Gonorrhoea can be more serious than

many people realise. About 1,000 people in Great Britain catch it every week. In women an inflammation occurs in the womb with a resultant discharge and release of pus. The inflammation is rarely painful; the discharge can easily go unnoticed. One of the first parts affected is the tubes through which the egg cells travel. If not treated this could result in sterility.

In men the disease is more easily detected as discharges are not as common as in women. Sterility and general ill health can arise as a result if the disease is not treated.

Syphilis can be an extremely dangerous disease if left untreated. The first sign in both men and women is a painless ulcer on or near the sex organs. For a man the presence of the ulcer is obvious; it may well go unnoticed in women. After a few days or weeks the ulcer disappears. The second stage of the disease occurs a few weeks later following the transmission of the bacteria through the blood stream. Fever rashes, a sore throat, or loss of hair occur but these too disappear of their own accord. The third stage occurs when the bacteria have been transmitted throughout the body and can affect almost every organ causing crippling and paralysis.

N.S.U. produces a discharge in men. Women are often carriers. The treatment of this disease is not easy due to difficulties in determining the exact causes (hence the name). N.S.U. can even turn up in young children who have obviously not had any sexual contacts.

In all of these diseases the main problem is in women since there may be no obvious symptoms. They may, then, act as a reservoir for the disease. There does not seem to be much that can be done to alleviate the problem. Treatment of V.D. depends on the type involved. Gonorrhoea and syphilis are

treated by penicillin. N.S.U. is usually treated with another antibiotic but the length and amount of treatment is not always certain since relapses may often occur.

Screening the entire population is impossible. All girls on the pill are routinely tested incidentally by the cervical smear, but this is unlikely to have dramatic results.

Prevention rather than cure is, as with most problems, more desirable. Restricting the number of sexual partners is the only real answer to this; although this may be charged with both emotional and moral problems. Obviously the more partners a person has, the more likely the possibility of catching V.D. The wearing of a sheath by the man reduces the risk but this is not a guaranteed means of avoiding the disease.

The problem of V.D. would seem to be something that is unlikely to be solved at the present moment. It is, as Dr. Dickinson of the Health Centre put it, "here for keeps."

But the seriousness of the diseases can be reduced if a more practical approach was made, especially at the level of general hospitals. Recently the situation has begun to improve but the example of Birmingham's V.D. clinic at the General Hospital in Steelhouse Lane is far from being unique.

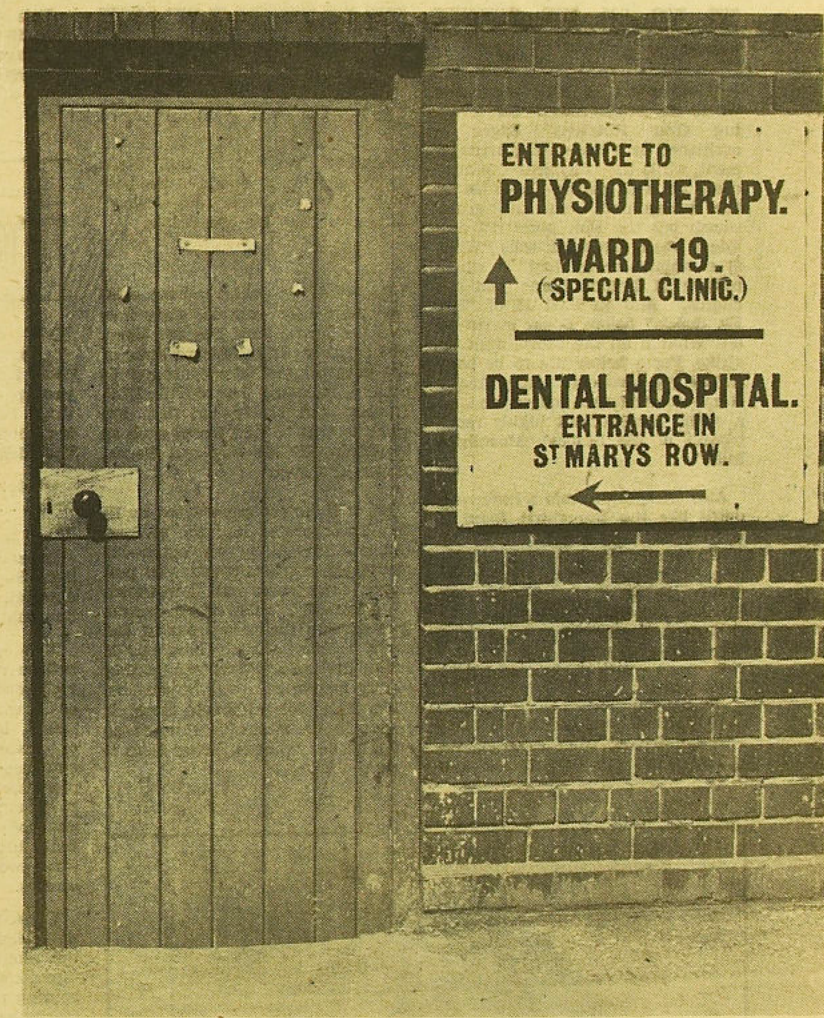
The clinic is known under the euphemism of Ward 19 (special clinic). All directions to the clinic are written in this way, with no reference at all to the function of the clinic. After weaving a way between a maze of paths and corridors you eventually end up at Ward 19; a hut, apparently isolated from the rest of the hospital. It is this attitude, that a V.D. clinic should be hidden away out of sight, which is part of the guilt feelings about V.D. that can hamper early treatment. There is also a shortage in the necessary doctors due to a reluctance to specialise in the treatment of those particular diseases.

The situation as regards students is not exceptional. The University Health Centre is, however, interested in the reasons for the apparently low incidence of detection of V.D. among students here at the University. When figures are compared with those for Birmingham as a whole the numbers are lower than would be expected. The Health Centre has not, until recently, tried to analyse the problem statistically. However, it was felt that the six or so cases of V.D. found each month during term time was lower than would be expected, especially considering that the University community is a young one.

A number of reasons could explain this. Patients could be going direct to Ward 19 or other private doctors, some cases may be slipping through undiagnosed or students might generally just be not noticing the disease.

The difficulties come in the actual blood tests. If V.D. is suspected ideally two or three blood tests a month are needed to check on the situation. Dr. Dickinson of the Health Centre feels that these tests must be balanced against the student's anxiety. He sees more patients who believe that they have V.D. and haven't than he does those who actually do have it. There comes a point when it is necessary to convince a patient that they have not got V.D. and this can often prove to be a problem in itself.

Whatever the reasons for the Health Centre's indication of low incidence, the general problems of V.D. remain. These can only begin to be solved by an increase in education on the subject. The acceptance of V.D. as a disease devoid of its social stigma, is crucial. New clinics with more staff are needed if the seriousness of these diseases is to be reduced.



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(Next to Oak Cinema)

ALMOST exactly one year ago today, the University Administration placed a political veto on Dick Atkinson's appointment to the Sociology Department. There was an immediate protest; the Action Committee for the Defence of Academic Freedom (Ack-Ack) was formed. The British Sociological Association (B.S.A.) blacklisted the vacant post, and students voted to boycott any lecturer appointed in his place.

What has happened since? What is the current state of play? What situation will greet us at the start of the next academic year?

Veto remains

The unique protest by staff members of Ack-Ack, though imaginative, has not yet succeeded. The veto remains. But the protest has met with some success. Dick Atkinson has been on the campus, teaching sociology and organising the Guild lectures, and the Administration could do nothing to prevent these activities. It simply had to pretend to ignore this direct challenge to its authority.

Reveal

At the same time, the logic of the original veto did lead to further illiberal acts. In seeking to preserve the veto and its own authority, the Administration had to further reveal its lack of concern for students. It cancelled the Sociology of Education course, threatened students with with-

drawal of grants and victimised members of staff like Dr. G. Ostergaard.

But the Administration have never given one reason, or accepted one invitation to justify or debate their position. Their response was one of power, not reason. Because of this, the University officials lost

Arblaster (in Manchester), or Dick Atkinson, are victimised.

But it is also seeking to debate and implement new, radical forms of education at college and university level. "The Guardian" recently argued that "the moral force and fairness of C.A.F.D. could be crucial in the current uneasy state."

end of term report

A look at the present position of the Atkinson veto, C.A.F.D. and Ack-Ack
by Val Smith

more and more credibility as the year wore on, and more and more students have been jolted out of a complacent assumption that the University cares.

Political education

So whatever else it has been, the "Atkinson Affair" has been a genuine process of political education. As a result of it, many students have learned something about how the University works, how its decisions are made, and what values it subscribes to. Some staff have also been deeply affected by the experience. The evidence for this is not only the formation and activity of Ack-Ack itself, but also the creation of a national Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy (C.A.F.D.). Some 500 academics from universities and colleges now belong to this organisation, which is dedicated to defending staff who, like Anthony

C.A.F.D. is at the moment preparing reports on aspects of both the Atkinson and Ostergaard cases, so we should soon be able to judge for ourselves.

Whilst these political gains were made on the staff side, the hundreds of students who have voluntarily and consistently attended Dick Atkinson's first-year course, and who have also either attended the Sociology of Education or the Guild lectures have had a valuable educational experience.

Some students feel strongly that this aspect of their protest has been rigorous and worth more than many a demonstration. Some first-year students even seem to have forgotten the unofficial nature of these courses, seeing Dick Atkinson's lectures as "normal." Others insist that the wider political context is important, and demands further action. They accept the need to "do something" but few have known just what to do, and there have been only scattered signs of protest.

Selection committee

The most recent of these was again organised by Ack-Ack staff rather than students. A large number of staff and students picketed a selection committee in the Social Administration Department. The picket was designed to be symbolic rather than to fully

implement the black-listing, which covers all sociology posts on the campus not just those in the Sociology Department.

We have recently learned that the picket and black-listing were more successful than was intended—the post could not be filled by the Selection Committee. It is understood, however, that Ack-Ack have since consented to the department's attempts to fill the post. (A possible peace move?)

Though there has been many a strongly-worded Guild resolution, the only other constructive actions were a teach-in on academic freedom (last summer) and a 90 per cent successful day-long boycott of lectures by Commerce students (in the autumn term). There has been no confrontation or occupation.

Dissatisfied

This fact raises the question: if more students are becoming disillusioned, dissatisfied and radical, why has there been no mass action?

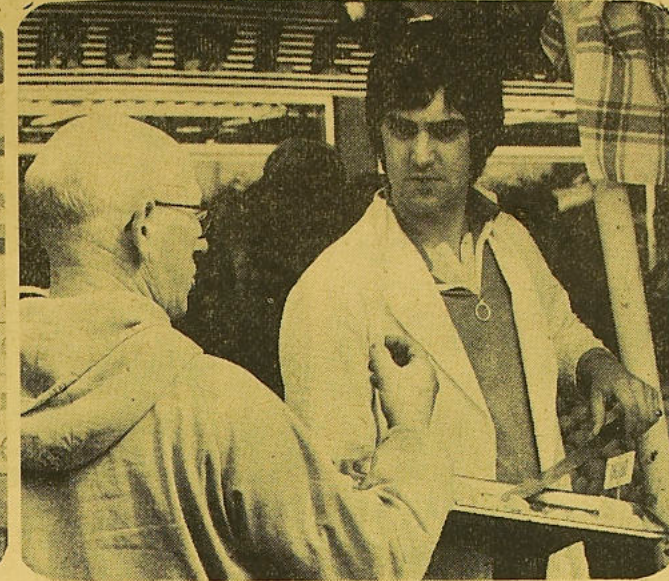
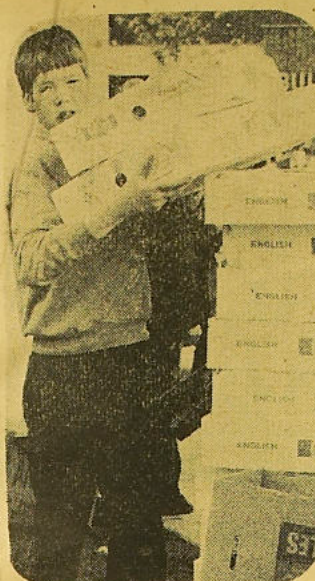
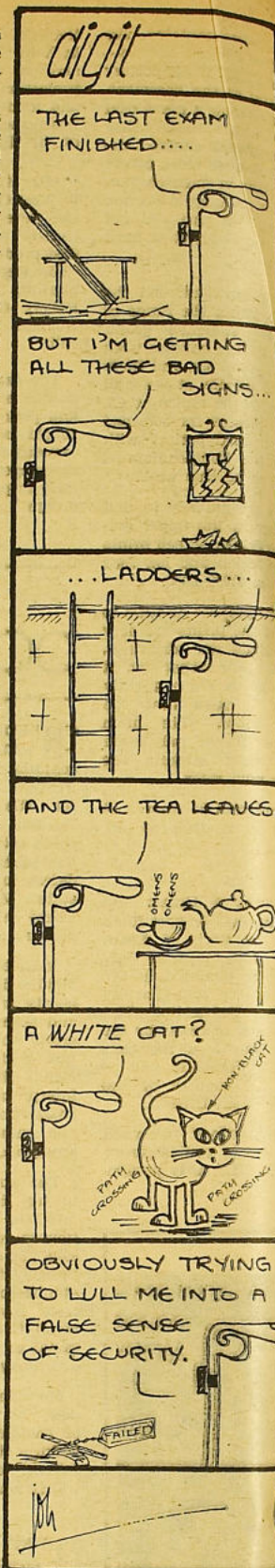
One theory has it that students feel that if the Ack-Ack staff can't shift the Administration, how can students? Another theory suggests that students have been too busy talking about their discontents and analysing the University to get round to action.

This may be true of students generally but what of radical students? They, it seems, have been "at the factory gates" and too involved in opposing a Conservative Government to provide consistent leadership for the inexperienced liberal students on the campus.

Radical students

Mr. Heath's loss (or rather victory at the polls) has been the Vice-Chancellor's gain. A combination of these theories has much to recommend itself as a good explanation. It implies that if radical students learn the lesson of this theory over the summer and set the pace for the liberal students next year, the University could become a very lively place.

So, in conclusion, there have been both educational and political gains which, combined with the successful picket, means that the protest finishes the year on a rising and constructive note. Ack-Ack, and Dick Atkinson, are still very much around. Unless the Administration seeks some resolution to the conflict over summer we must predict that the protest will continue next academic year.



CHEAPEST IN BIRMINGHAM

THE escalators, constant piped Muzak and green-uniformed security guards give the Bull Ring shopping centre an air of something stale and plastic. Just outside the Centre the atmosphere is somehow different. The Saturday morning crowd is just as dense; shopping bags still smash you in the shins, push-chairs with howling kids still run over your feet, but the stuffiness and sombre facade has gone. The open market has a feeling that the Bull Ring could never have.

Not only that but the food in the Market must be the cheapest in Birmingham: prices are often half those in the Bull Ring. The first Saturday morning you shop there is bewildering. Prices are bawled at you from all over the place and in your eagerness to buy as much as cheaply as possible you fall for all the old tricks going.

The first thing to do is to walk around and see what everyone

is charging. The same thing on two stalls next to each other can often vary the price by as much as 5p. Some stalls will sell one particular thing cheaply just to attract people, so by walking around you can save a lot even on market prices.

If you go down early in the morning when everyone is setting up their stalls, you can see people sorting through the fruit and vegetables, putting the best at the front and hiding anything a bit "off" in a box at the back. This is the main thing to watch out for otherwise when you get home you're likely to find you've been landed with a few pounds of mouldy fruit.

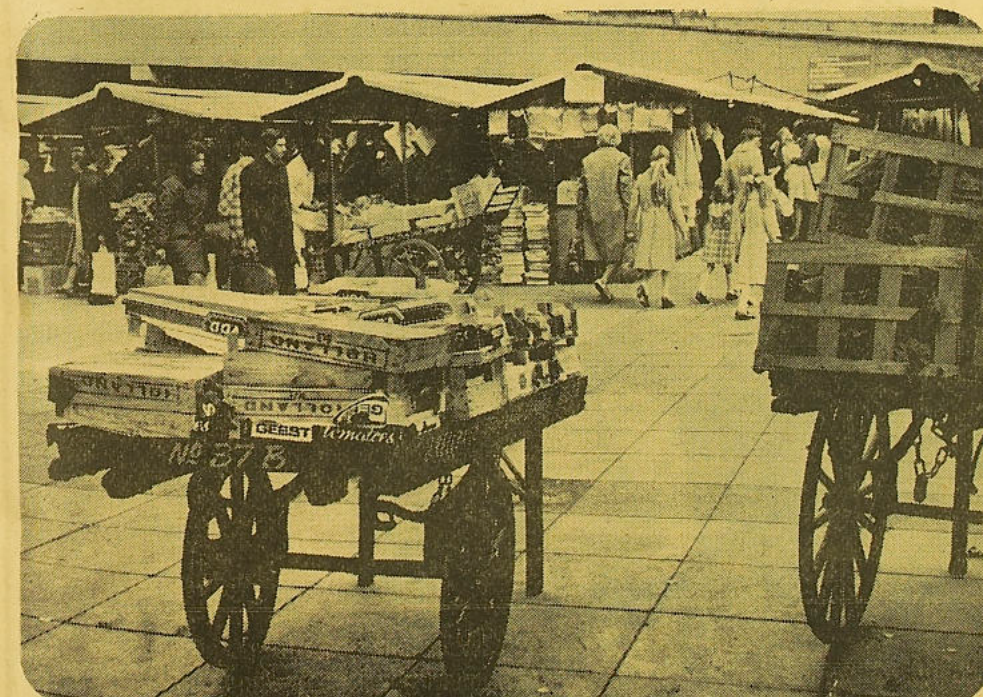
So never trust what you see at the front of the stall. If you can't see what's at the back, watch someone else being served and see what gets put into their bag.

After a few weeks you learn which store holders you can

trust to give you good stuff and you get into doing a regular "round."

Besides fruit and vegetables there's a couple of stalls selling material, others selling shoes, and a really cheap blanket, sheets and towel stall. The shops at the top end of the market can also provide you with cheap necessities. The best of these is the butcher, selling really good meat at amazingly low prices. There's also a cheap shoe shop and a sewing machine centre with a good line in secondhand machines.

For almost anything you need the Open Market often turns out to be the cheapest place to get it, and if you're careful you'll end up with good quality as well. So if you reckon your food bill tots up more than a couple of pounds a week, give it a try next Saturday.



photos by john redfern



The THEOSOPHICAL Society

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Founded in 1875, and at that time considered startling and revolutionary but supported by intellectuals and spiritually minded and forward-thinking men and women, the Society, now world wide, includes in its objects:

the furtherance of
UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD
and the great concept of One-ness

the study of
COMPARATIVE RELIGION
and its synthesis with science and philosophy

the investigation of
POWERS LATENT IN MAN
and the way of attainment

For free literature, programmes and details of an extensive library on mysticism, yoga, psychism and other occult subjects, write or telephone the above address.

The Society has no dogma; membership implies sympathy with its objects and a quest for truth.

EVENTS COMMITTEE present
'MIDSUMMER MADNESS'
with
BONZO DOG FREAKS
plus
ROGER SPEAR'S GIANT KINETIC WARDROBE
This Saturday, June 19th, 8 p.m.

Tickets: 50p available in advance from Union Reception or at the door.

SUNDAY FLIC this week: **"THIS SPORTING LIFE"**

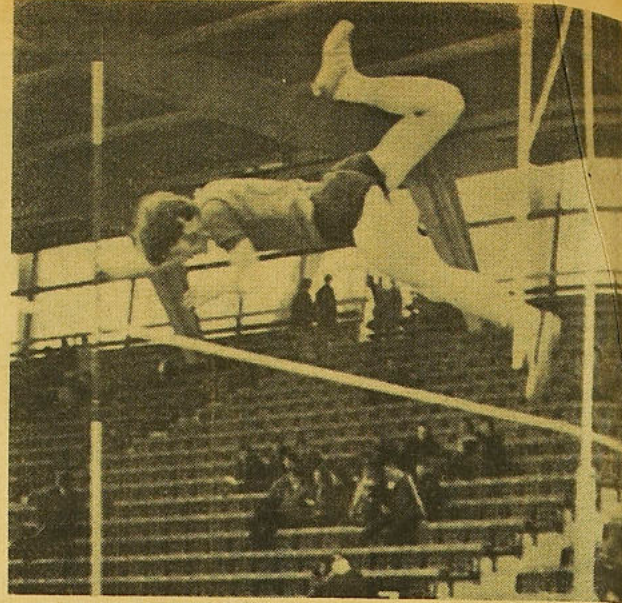


Above: Ralph Banthorpe (rt) looks quite happy at qualifying in his 200 m. heat.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY A.C. put up their best ever performance on a cold, damp Sunday at the Crystal Palace last month. Last year they won the U.A.U. championships after a disputed disqualification of a Loughborough Colleges competitor. This year they made no mistake in taking the title by an overwhelming margin. In the absence of any other copy, "Redbrick" Sports presents a photo tribute to this magnificent achievement. All the photos on this page were taken at the U.A.U. by a soggy version of S. K. Joshi.



Left: Andy Holden holds up the team trophy watched by a happy bunch of Birmingham athletes.



Above: Jock Lyle missed with this leap but still managed fourth place in the pole vault after finishing third in the high jump.

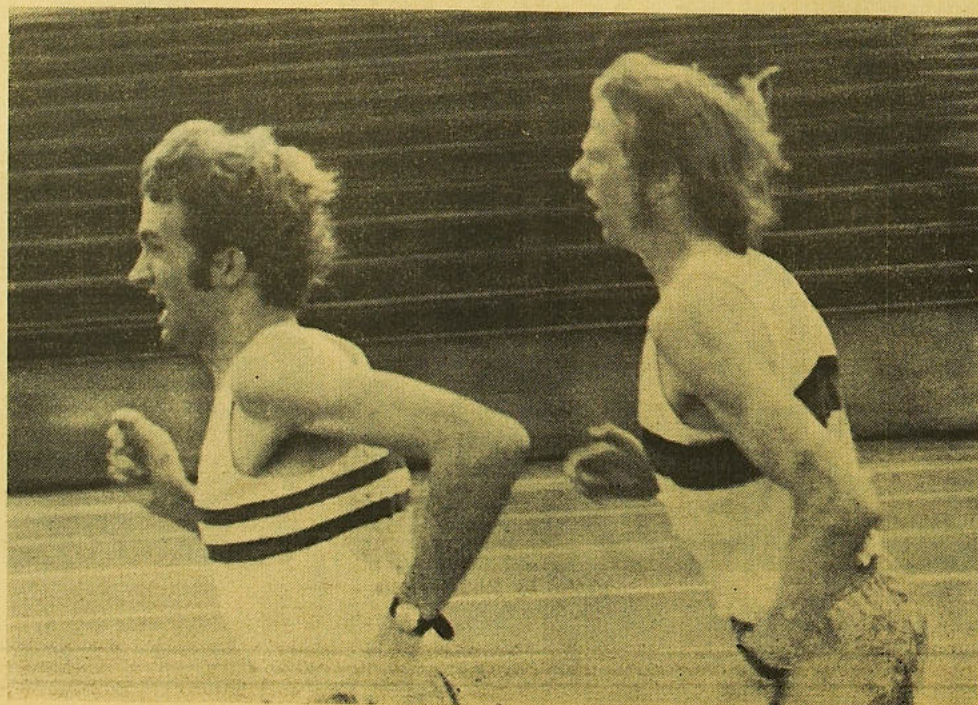


Left: Steve Gibbons backed up Andy Holden well in the steeplechase where he finished fourth with a personal best performance.



Above: Dave Berry (30) led all the way en-route to retaining his 3,000 m. walk title.

Right: Ray Smedley (rt) hangs on grimly to the pace set by G.B. International Jack Lane in the 1,500 m.



sport 2

IT IS A HARVARD AND YALE DAY

by Randy Southam

A WARM welcome to our great and glorious visitors from across the Atlantic. After coasting to a comfortable victory in their warm-up match over the combined Oxford and Cambridge team, Harvard and Yale take the track at Edgbaston today against the University squad. For only 5p you can get a complete run-down on the two teams in the official programme.

All the predictions have been made by the pundits and all that is left is to do battle. But in battle we have the trump card. It's our crowd, and a repeat performance of B.U.S.F. and we can shout these visitors off the track. See you there, shouting.

Within the limitation of an athletics column it is impossible to demonstrate the domination of British university athletics shown this year by our squad. After a while mere facts and figures become meaningless. Chronologically the "big" matches went:—

COUNTIES TOO STRONG

M.C.A.A.A. Stricken by injury and worried by exams, the team never quite reached their own high standards. Golden Wonder Holden and Jumping Jim Aukettle carried the flag into national rankings in the steeplechase and 400 metres but the "Midlands" were just a little too strong.

As our first venture into sponsorship the only disappointment was that we did not win the match, but our sponsors, Prava Wholefoods, must have been pleased with the excitement of the competitions.

Loughborough University Past & Present provided the most sociable hosts we have ever met. In a relaxed atmosphere Banthing and D.P.(rice) ran themselves into national rankings and so the preparations were complete for:—

LAST-MINUTE TROUBLE

U.A.U. On paper it looked a one-horse race, but fortunately over-confidence is one of the few faults we have not succumbed to. A few days before the championship, Aukettle, that pillar of strength (and many other things) in the team pulled a hamstring muscle.

The mighty Bullen had a foot in plaster. Skirby's ankle ligaments were not responding to treatment. Theslin and Falconer were ruled out with foot injuries and whilst Eley, Gibbons, Newton, Lyle and Crone were prepared to compete, the pressures of imminent finals had already taken their mental and physical toll.

And so what looked like half a team prepared for battle at Crystal Palace. The stage was set for the contest, and Loughborough Colleges sensed that fate was on their side and their optimism grew. But a team with real élan has a depth of resources which lies dormant until needs must.

The entire story would make a good book but an impression must suffice. Herbie Sewell led the team on the score-sheet with 21 points, whilst Banthing and D.P., running six races, each claimed 20 and 18 each.

Price in our moment of need achieved the impossible. Everyone thought it was suicidal to double up in the 200 and 400 metres. The time-table was almost drawn up to prevent it. Fifteen minutes after the 200 metres final D.P. won the 400 metres and that race is legendary. If you see him, ask him to tell you about it.

And so, with half a team, the U.A.U. stayed at Brum.

BENEFIT MATCH

As you saw on the telly last Saturday these championships were

a benefit match for our heroes. A record number of medals and a record number of firsts without three great stars, D.P., Aukettle and the unfortunate Ruthie.

Moiré Niccoris led our girls to their fifth successive defence of the W.I.V.A.B. trophy. At the last count we made her tally five medals. One lesson to be learnt, occurred in that soul-destroying race, the 10,000 metres (that is the correct number of zeros, it's almost six and a quarter miles).

With two miles to go G.W.H. and "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of Gilmore" were with the leading group of six. Gilmore was running faster than ever before but the pace was telling and slowly he fell away as the relentless pace of the leaders destroyed body and soul.

Up at the front G.W.H. was suffering as much as anyone. Second in the 5,000 metres the previous evening and fifth in the 3,000 metres S/C an hour earlier had blunted the tenacity which fuels his fires. But help was at hand, albeit from a strange quarter.

STARLING'S ROLE

High up on the bank those two stalwarts of Lake Hall choir, Starling and Chrichton were marshalling their forces. Then as the leaders passed them an angelic choir, forged in the heat of necessity, cried out their song, "Molli-Deenn, Molli-Deenn." For ten vocal chord-shattering laps they carried him and on the home straight sheer will-power drove him across the line first.

The lesson to be learnt is that we could shout Harvard and Yale off the track, given such inspired leadership. The Prava Trophy, presented by our sponsors, would look nice in our Athletics Union, so come along at 2.30 and do your bit.

Today marks the last appearance on the University track of the greatest-ever student athlete ever seen at Brum. Ralph Barthorpe's career on the track is well documented elsewhere. In terms we can understand Ralph has been here all through the team's emergence as the top university, with over ten individual U.A.U. and B.U.S.F. gold medals without a single defeat in home student competitions. Ralph hopes to graduate in dentistry at Christmas.

Road walking

By H. Eclantoe

Dave Berry, who successfully defended his B.U.S.F. 3,000-metres title on Friday, came 12th in the National 20 miles on Saturday at Sheffield. His team, Sutton Coldfield, also won 2nd team prize. A team-mate of Dale's was the legendary Jake Paddick. Both clocked about 2 hours 48 mins.



The 5,000 metre field in a reflective mood during the B.U.S.F. Championships here last Friday. Eventual winner: Frank Briscoe (15), of Leeds. (Photo: Tim Pike).

POST EXAM EUPHORIA

ON average, five thousand, seven hundred and twenty-three and a half latent sports-maniacs stagger from the Sports Hall/ New Gym/Great Hall/Med. School/Old Gym (delete where applicable) towards the Main Bar, secret fire extinguisher cache (courtesy of the I.R.A.), etc., etc. As a little light disbursement, A.U. is again staging another Post-Exam Tournament, in the week June 21st-25th.

Monday, 21st, brings the exuberant mixed-tennis tournament, normally played in exotic surroundings on top of the South Car Park. Tuesday, 22nd, brings the six-a-side cricket tournament, dependent on the Public Works Department's supply of new green turves.

Wednesday, 23rd, brings the five-a-side soccer tournament—record entry of 70 teams last year, and the organisers are hoping for the ton this year—and the tug-o-war (four males, two females) to take place the same afternoon (both on Bournbrook).

Thursday, 24th, brings the social occasion of the year—the mixed-hockey tournament, where Walker's

Wobblers will dazzle again (with hockey sticks, of course).

Finally, All's Amazons take on all those who have sufficient stamina in the basketball tournament in the Sports Centre. All tournament entry forms (obtainable at Athletic Union Office) to be handed in by 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, June 17th, at A.U. Office.

Post Script: To all sports reps: Entry forms for 1971-72 to be handed in at A.U. Office before the end of term! You are warned.

MIKE HART,
Chairman, I.D.S.

Trampolining

By A Special Correspondent

Due to the unfortunate publication date of this, the last "Redbrick" issue of term, the trampolining club have yet to beat Coventry in their summer match. However, we are told, on the highest authority, that the team will perform brilliantly to beat opponents who put up a very strong fight. Well done!

Sportscene

SO we come to the last Sportscene of this academic year. As usual, the Sportscene information service has been keeping its ears to the ground and has come up with several pieces of interesting information.

☆☆☆

First of all, a warning or an assurance as the case may be. Several mornings and evenings a week a heavy object can be seen trundling between Small Heath and the city centre, and has even been observed as far south as the University Campus.

This is not an invader from some distant planet, or even an escapee from Birmingham Zoo. Close examination will reveal it to be none other than our old friend Jan Skrybant.

Apparently Jan has become disillusioned with his hammer-throwing progress and has decided to train for the Marathon with a view to next year's Olympic Games. Hence the hazard to shipping and traffic, the increased bill for pavement repairs placed on the shoulders of the Birmingham ratpayers.

☆☆☆

Towards the end of last term, so it is said, the ladies' hockey teams travelled to an away fixture with the men's Lacrosse club. This follows the A.U. policy of combined travelling to away matches.

The return journey was a very quiet affair and not one of the lady hockey-players was molested. Following this the hockey club have lodged a protest with A.U. requesting that the Lacrosse team should never again be allowed to travel with them in future.

by

Andy Holden

At the Intercounties Championships recently ex-University favourite Geno Griffiths set up what is believed to be a new world record and certainly a United Kingdom All Comers best performance. He did this by arriving at the start 23 hours, 10 minutes, 12.5 seconds late for his steeplechase heats.

Fans of this gallant performer will be glad to hear that he is returning this afternoon and may well try to emulate his feats at last year's Cornell, Pennsylvania, party.

☆☆☆

Andy Warhol is believed to have tried to sign up Starlings Superstars to take part in his next film. This follows an 80 m.p.h. car chase through the middle of France this Easter.

Warhol was sitting outside a cafe in a small French village when he saw a minibus-load of bare backsides drive past. Recognising true talent, he immediately leapt into his Lotus Europa and gave chase.

Unfortunately, Dave had to decline the offer because, as he put it, "there's too much beer in Birmingham requiring consumption."

Dave is still worried about his occupation when he leaves University. At the moment he is torn between fire-fighting, demolition work, and television marketing. Despite doing recent crash courses in all these occupations, Dave is still undecided on his final choice.

☆☆☆

AN APOLOGY

As Sports Editor, I would like to apologise to Mr. Jason King for derogatory remarks made about him in the last edition of "Redbrick." I refer to phrases which suggested that there were resemblances between Mr. King and a certain Pete Crone of Lake Hall fame.

around

THEATRES

Alexandra Theatre—Doyle Carte Opera

16th June: "Iolanthe."

17th June: "Cox and Box" and

"The Pirates of Penzance."

18th June: "The Yeomen of the Guard."

19th June: "The Mikado."

From June 21st for two weeks:

"Duet for Two Hands" by Mary Haley Bell.

Birmingham Theatre—"Fiddlers Five," by Agatha Christie.

Repertory Theatre—Closed for move to Broad Street.

Crescent Theatre—"Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf" and
"A Day in the Death of Joe Egg." Until 19th June.

CINEMAS

A.B.C., New Street—"Get Carter." L.C.P. 8 p.m.

From 27th June: "Wuthering Heights."

Futurist—"Love Me Baby, Love Me," "My Swedish Meat-

ball." L.C.P. 7 p.m.

Next week: "Bonnie and Clyde" and "When Dinosaurs

Rule."

Gaumont—"The Day After Tomorrow." L.C.P. 7.20 p.m.

Cinerama, Bristol R.—"Kelly's Heroes." 7.30 p.m.

Odeon Ringway—"The Last Valley." L.C.P. 7.30 p.m.

Next week: "Elvis—That's the Way it is."

Odeon, New Street—"Soldier Blue." L.C.P. 7.35 p.m.

Jacey—"The Anatomy of Love" and "How to Seduce a
Playboy." L.C.P. 7.10 p.m.

Cinephone—"Come Back, Peter" and "All About Women".
L.C.P. 7.30 p.m.

National Film Theatre (Cannon Hill):

18th June: "All About Eve." 10.30.

20th June: "A Kid for Two Farthings" 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.

17th and 18th June: "The Bride Wore Black." 7.30 p.m.

Arts Lab—Closed for the summer.

EXHIBITIONS

Compendium—Upper Gallery. Elizabeth Frink: Prints &
Sculpture.

Central Gallery: Cliff and Marjorie Martin: Paintings
and Pottery.

City Art Gallery—Costumes from the Six Wives of Henry
VIII. 10p.

Stamp Exhibition: "New Zealand: Chalon Heads."

Ikon—Peter Hedegaard. Until June 19th.

Long Gallery, Arts Faculty Building—Photographs and
Drawings by Erwin Piscator. June 19th to July 8th.

DAY-BY-DAY

Wednesday, June 16th

C.B.S.O.—Town Hall. 7.30 p.m. Pieces by Mendelssohn,
Beethoven and Brahms.

Thursday, June 17th

Lecture—"The Early Prehistoric Wooden Trackways of
the Somerset Levels," by Dr. J. J. Taylor. City Art
Gallery. 1.15 p.m.

Friday, June 18th

Wishbone Ash—plus Mogul Trash and Stackridge.
Town Hall. 7.30 p.m. All seats 50p.

Saturday, June 19th

"A Midsummer Madness"—Freaks and Roger Spears
Kinetic Wardrobe. Deb Hall. 8 p.m. 50p.

Sunday, June 20th

Sunday Flic—"This Sporting Life." Deb Hall. 7 p.m. 15p.

Festival Service—"Let There be Joy!" Rev. Richard Cain.
S.F.H. 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23rd

Curved Air—Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets from 50p.

COMING EVENTS

Midlands Film Theatre

June 24th-26th: "La Traviata", 7.30 p.m.

June 25th: "La Regle due Jeu", 10.30 p.m.

July 1st, 2nd, 3rd: "La Boheme", 7.30 p.m.

Union

June 26th: Principal Edwards, Adrian Mitchell and
Denis Brutus. Deb. Hall, 8 p.m. 35p.

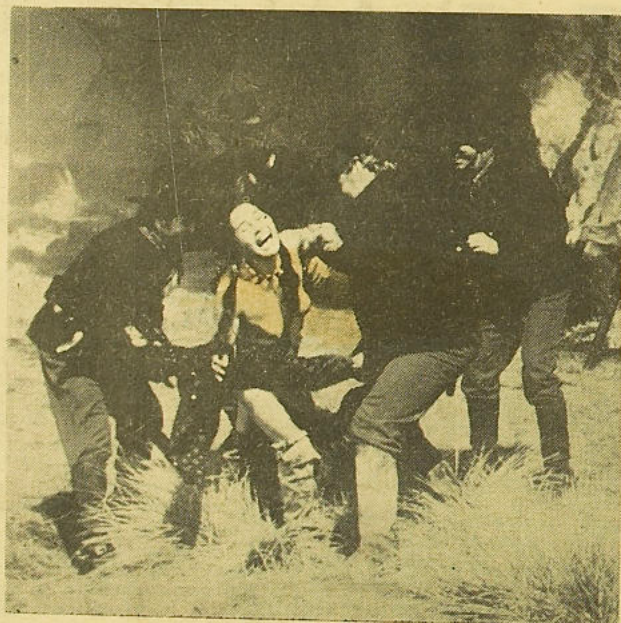
June 27th: Sunday Flic, "Once Upon a Time in the
West." Deb. Hall, 7p.m. 15p.

July 3rd: Disco, 8 p.m. 15p.

July 4th: Sunday Flic, "Cat Ballou." Deb Hall 7 p.m.
15p.

Town Hall

July 5th to 24th: C.B.S.O. Proms.



"Soldier Blue"—Odeon New Street



Curved Air. Town Hall, Wednesday, 23rd June.