

Guild News

The Guild of Undergraduates—University of Birmingham

No. 544

Thursday, January 22, 1959

Threepence

REFEC—THE REASON

The main evening meal service was transferred to the Refectory on January 5. This was on an experimental basis and is to last until the end of the spring term at least.

The reasons for this change-over have already been given in "Guild News" and on the various notice boards.

This is a report on the present state of affairs.

The Refectory—

Evening meals

This is a true and accurate appraisal of the situation. The initial stages of the changeover have now been accomplished and any "teething troubles" are being systematically "weeded out." In the first week the Refec. provided for 2,300 hot meals, 468 on Thursday. In the first four days of the second week 1,945 hot meals were provided—606 on Tuesday.

Queries and faults were bound to arise and all complaints have been taken up by the manager at the Refec. The following points were raised and reasons provided:

Service was slow

Service has been as fast as possible—the very noticeable time lag was on the opening day and Wednesday. Two staff (new to the Refec.) began on opening day. The service is now being speeded up as much as possible.

Differing prices

All prices are economically justified. (The manager will give details of costing to interested parties.) Any difference in price with the Union has been due to basic costs of commodities and new cheaper varieties have been obtained, thus lowering the price (e.g., liver 1s. 11d. down to 1s. 6d. and sausage 1s. 3d. down to 1s.).

Not sufficient quantities

We try to base all quantities on the Union and they also conform with those served at mid-day.

This grievance has been very widespread. Each day there are at least six main dishes (meat, fish, egg, etc.) and three distinct choices of sweet, together with salads and cold meats. These are changed each day.

Not sufficient choice

The manager will try to widen this choice as far as is possible with the equipment at his disposal. He has assured me that he will produce a full week's menu to be exhibited in the Union for the convenience of members as soon as it is possible.

Both catering managers keep in

close touch and standards, price and choices at the Refec. are based on those prevailing at the Union.

The Union

(See notice boards). Waitress service has been installed in the Union and is now available between five and seven p.m. in the Vernon Hall.

Special catering is provided for Guild Societies if adequate notice is given.

Evening meals are available for all members of the Guild at various prices. Meals at 4s. 6d., 3s. 6d. and other prices printed on the a la carte menu. (Please book with the cashier before two p.m. on the day in question.)

Coffee room service is from 3.30—7.30 p.m. and mid-day meals remain as per usual. (Menus are provided for each day of the week, exhibited on Monday.) All menus in the Union are very varied, reasonably priced and, together with the Refectory, cater for all tastes. Both catering managers and myself are always willing to make any explanation, or queries can be taken to Catering Committee.

B. E. LUBY

(Chairman, Catering Committee).

Forthcoming 'Mermaid'

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he to-day that sheds his blood with me

Shall be my brother . . ."

(Henry V iv 18)

One of the most frequent charges levelled against MERMAID in the past is that she is run by a clique, written by a clique and, as a reward, only bought by a clique. There is no smoke without fire . . . This charge is worth investigating. An editor's biggest problem is getting people to write. No matter how enthusiastically he plasters the Union with notices, or distributes circulars, he will not receive a sufficient quantity of material to create a balanced and varied magazine. It is surprising how genuinely talented people have to be "coaxed" into writing for MERMAID. A readable edition is only possible as the result of an editor's heartless imposing of himself on his friends, ruthlessly opening every conversation

● May I take this opportunity, Sir, of expressing my sincere regret at the recent collapse of the Ashby Scheme? It is to be hoped that Mike, the Union barman, will be able to discover some quiet occupation to while away his lonely hours behind the bar this winter. And it seems such a pity to cause the many ladies and gentlemen who prepare and serve the expensive snacks available in Refectory so much obviously unappreciated trouble. The baffled anger which your correspondent experienced on first sampling the new buffet service, waiting for it, paying for it and eating my beans and rice pudding, was more than compensated for on Tuesday, at the sight of the University catering manager regarding with obvious dismay the almost empty Refectory (and this at 5.30). Surely a better solution to the catering problem is to maintain a Union catering service and only allow one-fifth of the Ashby students to eat.

Yours, etc.,
FRED C. THOMAS.

Having lost several pounds in weight during the first two weeks of this term, and having exceeded my normal budget for food, I felt that I must make my normally "still small voice" heard on the subject of catering arrangements. No doubt many complaints have already been voiced, but the choice of food is really deplorable. On approaching the Refectory one is greeted by quite a good menu, but this, after the first half hour is completely useless, as the majority of dishes is no longer obtainable.

I was quite willing to let the experiment run for one week without complaint in the hope that the faults were due to lack of experience, but now, Sir, I can no longer remain silent.

Yours, etc.,

ALL BONO.

CARNIVAL

THE SENATE MOVES

The first session of Council this term proved to be one of the most interesting and fruitful we have witnessed for some time. This was due to greater participation on the part of Councillors and the witty, if sometimes irrelevant remarks from the chair.

What seemed to be the most explosive agenda of all—the consideration of a proposal that the date of Carnival should be changed—turned out, surprisingly, to be a damp squib. This was because the Senate's point of view, as stated by the Vice Chancellor in a letter circulated to members, suggested that a commonsense as opposed to an emotional consideration was required.

The Carnival Committee of 1956 had considered this matter very carefully, and its decisions, which still hold good for 1959, will play a large part in the ensuing meeting with the Senate. The 1956 memorandum dealt with the problem under two headings—desirability and practicability, and its arguments will already be familiar to readers. On this basis, Carnival Committee decided that it was neither desirable nor practicable to change the date of Carnival, and this view was endorsed by Council at the time.

The Senate now suggests that Carnival might be held in June after the exams. It was, however, pointed out by Mr. Sampson that the Technical College may also be holding a Carnival at this time, and the Guild Secretary added that the time left was insufficient since the examinations had already been moved to a later date, a fact which had already caused the winding up of the Arts Festival Committee. Councillors denied the Vice-Chancellor's statement that the 70 students who withdrew from the University in 1957-58 were led to this because of Carnival. (The figures quoted were 31 in Science, 21 in Arts, 14 in Commerce and Social Science, and four in Law, representing about 80 per cent. of the entrance.) The other argument—that Carnival creates a bad impression on Freshers was also refuted by Councillors, particularly Mr. Goss, himself a Fresher. Nevertheless, Council agreed to be logical about this vital matter and authorised a delegation composed of Executive and Carnival Committee members to meet the Senate.

Guild Dinner and Ball

The greatest storm arose in the matter of this year's Guild Dinner and Ball on March 6, when Executive was clearly divided. Mr. Stanley explained that it would be more comfortable to hold both the dinner and the ball in the Union, rather than have guests taken by coach to the Great Hall for the latter at 11.

Mr. Gledhill added that it would be difficult to find people to decorate the Great Hall so soon after Founder's Ball, and in any case the Hall seemed too empty with only 300 guests, a fair proportion of whom were spread over the building, in the bar or buffet. Therefore it was proposed that the dinner be held in the Priestley and Vernon Halls and the ball in the Deb. Hall.

Miss Wood voiced the opinion of many when she said that Councillors would feel insulted at having to dine separately from the main guests and hear the speeches relayed by amplifier. Executive promised that as far as possible Councillors

would be given preference of seating. Mr. Revell, however, made an impassioned plea to try and keep Guild Dinner and Ball not only the event of the year but the best of its kind in Britain. He was sure that the necessary labour for decorations could be found and our own caterers used in the University if required. Moreover, the function could be opened to more people.

Your reporter cannot but help but agree with Mr. Revell, for there is the danger of forgetting that this is the Guild showpiece, and it is the occasion on which we entertain guests from outside, as well as our own universities. Mr. Luby's desire for economy on this occasion was a case of spoiling the ship for a ha'porth. Nevertheless, Mr. Stanley's proposal was narrowly passed from 37 to 31, and it was decided not to limit the members.

Another Press upset

The public Press again came into prominence when the constitution for the new Democratic Union was passed.

Miss Posner questioned Mr. Ace as to statements appearing in the public Press saying that this society would deal with those members of the academic staff whose lectures were being given a Left-Wing bias. Mr. Ace denied that the Union intended any such thing since it existed to inform the Guild on general political matters. Mr. Ace was attacked for communication with the Press, but it was finally decided that the blame lay with the reporter, an external member of the Guild. Mr. Stanley was required to send a letter of admonition to the person in question, and the President, by virtue of his position, promised to do his utmost to prevent undesirable Press communication.

Eventually Mr. Lunn proposed a change in the Constitution to prevent Press communication which had not the presanction of the President.

Question time

This brought forth a spate of diverse topics, though catering came in for the greatest amount of criticism. Mr. Stroud complained about the high price of meals, but Mr. Luby explained that there had been a rise in the cost of commodities; for example, potatoes were 29s. per cwt. as opposed to last year's 17s. 6d., and also new equipment has to be bought out of revenue. We are not open 12 months of the year, as are Lyons, yet our overheads continue that length of time.

Criticism of the new Refectory eating scheme was being analysed by Executive and the results published soon. Mr. Gunn was assured that it would be possible to reopen Coffee Room with Vernon Hall as an overflow. Several questions were asked about library facilities; Mr. Jivani wanted the library open on Saturday afternoon and an Ed. Streeter complained about Ed. Street library whose hours of opening were not extended and whose refusal to take cases at the counter resulted in extreme inconvenience to students and unnecessary additional work for the porters. In connection with Ed.

Continued on page two

You'd be better off

with an

M&B

M&B EXPORT



EDITORIAL

Guild News



Number
544

Selly Oak
1841

THE UNIVERSITY NEWSPAPER,
THE UNION,
EDGBASTON

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1959 will be a year of achievement, a statement which is certain to be verified if we consider the inevitable progress that science is to make, even in a non-Geophysical year. Honours come to the University, and it is with pride that we are able to congratulate Professor A. P. Thompson, Dean of the Medical School on his knighthood. All those, especially, who have some knowledge of the excellent work that goes on in the school under his wing will realise how much the honour has been merited, and we should all take it as a single honour for the University at large. Already the term "red brick" is losing its derogatory significance (and then Oxford has never really been able to explain away the outer shell of Keble), and the term British University is beginning to have connotations other than Oxbridge.

In another sphere we find ourselves cock of the walk in the world of drama, and perhaps it can be hoped that the critics of G.T.G. will be silenced. One cannot expect to win drama festivals every day, and yet it is worth the effort of going round the Union on tiptoe during performances, as well as suffering other minor inconveniences if laurels such as this are forthcoming. This University has shown itself time and time again to be theatre conscious, and "Guild News" has always attempted to cater for that taste. It would not be too pointed to say that charity begins at home, and that universal interest might be invested in G.T.G. who are not a clique of climbing socialites, but a group of keen, energetic enthusiasts whose example is the most worthy in the Guild.

CARNIVAL

Continued from page 1

Street, Mr. Lunn puzzled Council by an urgent inquiry after the Mason's statue, the porter had told him that "He couldn't be expected to know all his friends," and Mr. R. T. Jones assured him that the statue had never existed. Miss Hyde asked if Ed. Street grants might be sent over from Edgbaston in future.

Communications

Mr. J. F. Norbury, 1st Year Maths., had already resigned from Council, and the President announced the bye-election. The latter went on to inform Council that the Senate had acclaimed the plans for non-residential halls of residence, and representatives for a committee were chosen. It also fell to the pleasant duty of the chair to offer congratulations to G.T.G. on their brilliant success in winning the N.U.S. Drama Trophy, and to Professor A. P. Thompson, Dean of the Medical School on his knighthood. Council acclaimed both.

Dear Sirs,

We write this letter in the interest of the furtherance of the activities of the Guild. Frequent are the attempts to expose and criticise the disinterest of students in many Guild activities and the consequent low level of activity in several societies and clubs. We do not pretend to have a lasting solution to this problem. We merely set down here a suggestion for a means of improving the situation. A serious study of the problem is long overdue and we are sure that the importance of the problem makes our suggestion deserving of the consideration of the members of the Guild.

The income of many societies is furnished solely by the annual membership subscriptions. The activity of the societies is therefore, largely limited by the number of students willing to pay a subscription. In order to attract members the societies must keep their subscription low. Thus there exists a vicious circle: students' grants prohibiting anything but a low membership levy, societies find it difficult to organise an attractive programme and so a sufficient number of subscribing members is not forthcoming.

Societies have to consider their financial position very carefully before inviting a speaker from outside Birmingham. Such speakers usually expect to have at least their travelling expenses paid and have a right to expect a reasonable standard of entertainment whilst here. At present, visiting speakers and students are often forced into embarrassing financial situations, which certainly reflect no credit on the Guild.

THE COFFEE BARS OF BIRMINGHAM

OUT
WITH
CHRISTOPHER

"Guild News" articles on various aspects of Birmingham have proved very popular, and this offering, which will be serialised, is by request of several readers.

From the moment I began to write this column I supposed that sooner or later it was inevitable that I should have to turn my attention to coffee bars.

Now at last the fated week has arrived, so I had better submit with good grace and take it as a penance for all my past remarks about coffee bars.

THE icy and obscure atmosphere of the library has persuaded me to abandon knowledge for personal comfort. Hence my presence in Founder's Room this wintry afternoon.

Around me I can distinguish the strained faces of those recently injected into classroom and corridor. Also Mr. Job German who wears a wine-coloured waistcoat, bow-tie and clean white shirt nodding sagely to Mr. Cliff Peartree sporting an increasingly deepening frown—no doubt wondering whether there will be one or two people to grace the next Guild of Dominies social. To my left is Mr. Sean Ferguson whose sex is becoming rapidly indeterminate from the rear and Mr. Henry Cohen, pipe in mouth, dwelling upon the possibilities of opening a Hall of Residence in Mary's cubicle.

Master Wreford is looking highly prosperous and is rumoured to be making a high profit from the sale of the new Chancellor's Hall scarves. Miss Margaret Groves, obviously suffering from a lack of French sunshine, wheels her way between the coffee cups and regrets that her fingers are too numb to sign autographs. Miss Pountney continues to decorate Guild Club with posters and good-looking even a note of fashion: necktie at the waist. And which sailor did those buttons come from?

Meanwhile enter Miss Rosemary Kernan reading the latest play by John Mortimer and wondering what she can tell Caroline. Eagle-eyed Mr. Len Milton, now in his tenth year of the University still looks worried about the mission (we're still not quite sure which).

Two eminent members of Cercle Francois meditate on Moliere and I hear the low murmur of French prose across the nucleus of a pair of socks. Mr. Ben Cowley, who is expected to renounce conformity for wing-collar and bowler hat sits ruminating on things literary.

I must now revive my aching fingers, so over to the dying embers of a fire which I see glowing vaguely in the distance. Or do the sparks fly from knitting needles?

DEMOCRITAS

★ OPEN LETTER TO EXEC

A good meeting deserves good publicity, which is an expensive item. The poor attendance at the recent meeting was due to poor advertising. A few hand-produced posters and a blackboard notice are no substitute for a well-designed poster and wide circularisation.

A few Guild societies thrive at present only by virtue of appeals for money to sympathetic staff and conscious overspending of their assets. The degree of activity which is kept up at a state of near-bankruptcy could be much increased if the nagging worry of finance and the constant threat of defunctio were removed. Two societies, which have maintained their activities, have incurred heavy debts, will have to discontinue at the end of this Session, unless financial assistance is forthcoming. Instances of the financial plight of societies are innumerable.

Membership subscriptions to societies produce inadequate finance for attractive programmes, yet students' grants prohibit increased subscriptions. We therefore propose a financial enquiry by the Guild, with a view to allocating a sum of money to provide subsidies for societies.

The Athletic Union receives an annual grant from Guild finances and it is well deserved. However, the allocation of over £3,500 for Athletic Union and around £200 for other societies seems to place cultural activities in a position of very minor importance. In fact, few would deny that the cultural societies are just as important as the sports clubs. The confinement of allocation of money to Athletic Union, Debating Society, and a small number of other clubs

seems to be guided more by the than by an assessment of the needs of Guild societies.

We suggest that for a trial the sum of £300 per annum be set aside, to which non-Guild societies can appeal for assistance in order to provide this sum. We suggest a revised allocation of present grants. If the money is obtained from the present budget, then raising the annual subscription might be considered, being paid, in the main, direct Education Authorities. As a resort, £300 could be raised annually levied on each student of more than 2s. This might also encourage degree of individual responsibility in the organisation and success of new financial policy.

The fund could be administered by a committee set up as follows:

Chairman, a member of G. Finance Committee; Secretary and Treasurer, these positions held by representative each from two open societies, G. and Debating Society; A representative from each ten to twelve Guild Societies.

Such a committee, meeting regularly, would consider the claims of societies representing societies putting their case in. Financial assistance would be granted for proposed meetings of interest, which the could not otherwise afford. Other than meetings could be assisted, for example, society zines, exhibitions, such as Society's Phoenix, and ventures as G.T.G.'s triumph at the Drama Festival. Priority would be given to those activities of widest interest.

The committee would automatically bring about a degree of co-ordination of the meetings of Guild societies, something which is at present ably absent.

Yours, etc.,
Bob German
Richard L. Joy
Brian King
David Lane
John C. Rees
Jim Riordan
Ian Rolfe
Brian Stacey
Brian Sullivan
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RUDDIGORE IS COMING

"Ruddigore" began life in the Union in October with a cloud over its head! Owing to the re-arrangement of the seasonal timetable, the customary return for rehearsal during the last vac-week before Spring Term was not possible.

By devoting most of the regular rehearsals to the chorus however, and spending extra time on principals, it has been possible to get through the necessary work. You will enjoy "Ruddigore" when you see it, we guarantee that.

Even though withdrawn from direct control this year, the experience of Cliff Peartree has always been available to the new musical director, Ian Marshall. Cliff, of course, has many fine productions to his credit, and it is pleasant to know that his interest and knowledge have contributed to this one.

"Ruddigore's" associate musical director, John Griswold, has shown himself well able to take his share of the responsibilities involved. The performances will be under his baton on two nights during the week's run. Barbara Moore, as assistant producer, is also to be praised for her enthusiasm, and her determination to make the chorus "LOOK HAPPY, for goodness sake!"

Tessa Collins, in her first venture into production for G.T.G., has proved an inspiring and conscientious, as well as decorative, producer. We trust that her threat, made in a moment of stress, to take the first train home after the opening night, will not be fulfilled; but that she will stay to enjoy the fruits of her labours, as we know you all will.

THE CAST

A cursory glance at the cast reveals a mixed lot, containing some familiar faces, and some who have yet to make their first appearance on stage.

"Happily coupled" are Jane Gilding and Olive Tunley, whose standard of performance seems to be reaching a new peak. However, Olive is having to fight for his prize this year, as Mike Dyson has his own ideas about who should marry Rose Maybuds. Mike is a newcomer to the footlights, though by no means a foreigner to G.T.G. His role is the "patter man," and he has designed the set in his spare time.

As Sid Separd, the bad Baronet, Roger Burt proves the effectiveness of type casting, and he is joined by Norma Collins, with her realistic portrayal of Mad Margaret! The loftyness of Mike Pilling is once more in evidence as a decrepit "Valley de Sham," and Christine Garforth proves the finest contralto the group has discovered in recent years. She is partnered by Tony Goss, a fine new baritone.

Behind the scenes we find a hive of activity. The wardrobe is in the competent hands of Caroline Wilson, and Chris Black is directing the construction of a Cornish village and a Picture Gallery.

As a final incentive, most Houses are already at least half full, so if you want a good seat . . . !

LOOKING BACK

With "Ruddigore" Student Opera celebrates its tenth birthday. Anyone knowing his G.T.G. history (does anyone?) will question this. "Yes, but . . ." The first opera, conducted by Tim Hawthorne took place in the days of the old Drama Society, but as a separate entity. Opera became a partner of drama, if a somewhat wayward one, when the Council evolved G.T.G. two years later.

What has happened in these ten years? A high standard of production and musical performance has been reached and, indeed, now becomes a tradition. This is no static tradition, for there is a continual aim at improvement. If some productions have lacked discipline they have always had brightness. "The Sorcerer" of Ken Dives and Grace Holdsworth in 1957 set such high standards of discipline that no intending ticket-holder need fear a shoddy production this year. Reputations are at stake. A welcome feature of recent years has been the increased interest in the Group shown by members of the Music Department. A glance at a programme of three years' ago will soon show this. "The Gondoliers" (1956) had only four "musicians" in the company. Mary Cole, the producer, Clifford Peartree, the assistant musical director, and two chorus members. In 1957, nearly half the members of the Company were members of the Music Department. Reports indicate that the proportion is even larger this year, which must account for the great improvement in the musical performance in recent years. Could the Group have otherwise achieved such a success with Schubert's "The Conspirators" last year?

PERSONAL COLUMN

You may advertise personal adverts or Society notices in this column. Rates: 1s. per 12 words and 3d. every additional 5 words, (internal); 2s. 6d. per 12 words and 3d. every additional 5 words, (for external adverts). Apply: The Adverts Manager, "Guild News," the Union.

FIESTA!! FIESTA!! FIESTA!! A galaxy of girls from Training College require partners for Spanish Circle Party on Friday, January 23, in Founder's Room, Guild Club, 7.30-12.0. Bar. Flamenco. Pandango. THE LORD BALNIEL, M.P., will be speaking on "Future Conservative Policy" at 5.15 p.m. on Friday, January 23, in the Men's Lounge. LOST: False tooth attached to dental plate, last Thursday at Jazz Band Ball. Reward. Apply—B. D. Waterman, the Union.

BUZZ, BUZZ, BUZZ at the BBB Ball. TIDLEYWINKS PLAYERS still urgently needed. Teams are being formed and a mat is soon to be obtained. Apply—Mab, c/o Ed. Street.

Should anyone find a pair of appealing brown eyes wandering around the Union, usually Coffee Roomwise, and should those eyes be followed by a very attractive face, they would be wise to direct them upstairs . . . Not, we must hasten to add, for any nefarious purposes, but merely to ensure that Gilbert and Sullivan's "Ruddigore" is not done ruddy naked!

For two sessions now, Miss Caroline Wilson has been concerned with stage costuming for the Theatre Group, and the Group has been extremely fortunate. Everything she has attempted has been completely artistic and done on a shoestring. Her ingenuity is almost a by-word; it has extended even to persuading naval commanders into loaning three dozen tropical suits from naval stores for a performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore." Undeterred by the fact that the opera satirises naval traditions, the officers were all set to attend the first night in full dress uniform!

But what of Caroline Wilson behind the costumes? As pleasant and sociable a girl as it has been the writer's lot to meet at this University. Her schooling, in Switzerland and elsewhere, has enabled her both to avoid that dreadful teenage awkwardness and the equally objectionable woman of the world air. Always ready to help, whether it be as a member of the Catering Committee or Entertainments Committee, or as one of Guild News staff, and perhaps a little too prone to drink coffee, she has remained sociable without becoming a socialite.

Her one major grouse with university. Her schooling in Switzerland to find time to act. Perhaps the more sedentary amongst us are likely to bog at her list of achievements to date. The old adage of "Jack of all trades" appears to be quite inapt for this particular Jill. R.E.G.

ADVERTISE IN 'GUILD NEWS'



TESSA & IAN

Putting on an opera is essentially team work. Not only does this apply to the people taking part, but also to the production staff. Unlike dramatic productions, there are two people who wield equal power in opera — the producer and the musical director. It is imperative that there should be mutual understanding between these two. This year, G.T.G. is fortunate in having Tessa Collins and Ian Marshall to fill these positions.

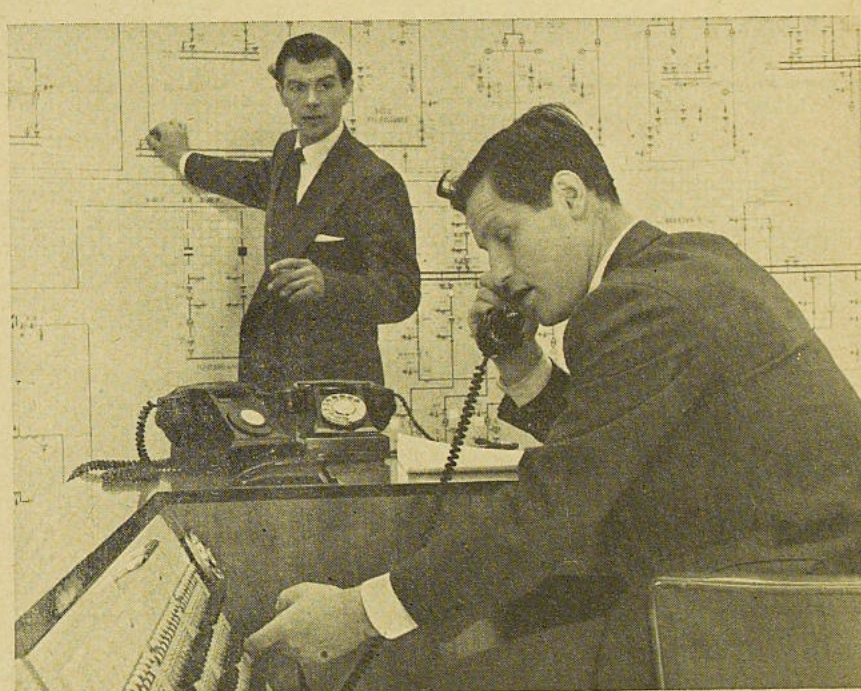
Tessa is not inexperienced in matters of theatre, being one of those few people who have seen the great wide world before coming up to University — working behind the scenes with a repertory company. Ian is not new to G.T.G., having held the position of associate musical director for the last two operas, and showing great aptitude for this sort of work.

Both have great vitality. Opera always demands a great deal of time, and they have given freely, even though both are in final year. They

set a remarkable example to all in the cast by their great perseverance and promptness. They both command the respect of all the opera group, but their friendly personalities show through on all occasions. Neither of them is slow to join with the chorus in enjoying the many hilarious situations which arise continually at rehearsal. With this happy atmosphere, things move on apace, and the opera is rapidly approaching performance standard.

Both of them are reading music, and as a result of this show natural feeling for opera, and bring out many of the finer points so often missed in amateur productions.

It only remains for me to wish them every success in the coming week—a success which I feel is assured. M.E.



Cloudburst crisis

Place: London. Time: Two-thirty p.m. Weather: Cloudburst. Result: Sky dark as night, every light and drainage pump turned on—and a suddenly soaring demand for electricity.

More power is needed fast, but this need has been foreseen. At Thames North Control an Assistant Control Engineer, aged 28, makes a decision, gets on to Norwich Generating Station. Within minutes extra power is being transferred to London. This is the kind of responsibility he likes, the reason for which he joined the Electricity Supply Industry, as a Graduate Trainee, five years ago.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

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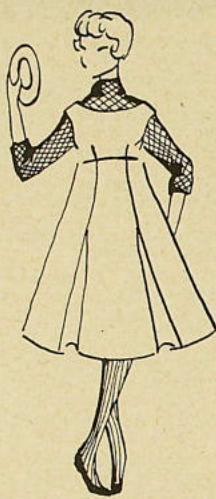
Fashion Column

The woman student's usual approach to the problem of how to keep warm in the winter (especially at Ed. St.) is to pile on thick sweaters and cardigans hysterically until she bulges like the proverbial sack. This unhygienic, unattractive and unoriginal solution can be dispensed with immediately by using a little fashion-consciousness and commonsense.



Firstly she should fully explore the possibilities of the present vogue for warm yet light materials. I have mentioned mohair before in this context, but please don't go to extremes like the lady who "was

wearing so much mohair that she looked like a yak." Its use should be confined to a simple overblouse or skirt. Next, neat and comfortable styles like those sketched here should be chosen. The short swingy jacket worn with slacks is an increasingly popular and very sensible fashion while the lady in the trapeze line jumper is wearing knee-length socks; valuable for their nylon-sacking properties as well as for their warmth. She should show colour-consciousness in matching her separates, in fact a colour theme should be apparent throughout her wardrobe, and she should never ignore the shock-contrast of black. One more plea; for heaven's sake snap out of this Black Watch Tartan haze. Ed. Street at any rate begins to resemble a Scottish orphanage!



PRESS POST

Bournbrook—secretive ways

Dear Sir,
Permit me, as Sub-Editor of "Bournbrook," to reply to Mr. K. R. Williams' letter to my Editor. I intended to point out the secretive ways in which Guild Council acts, and the poker incident last term served to illustrate my complaint. I am sure, Sir, that few Guild members know the full story. At the time we were left in complete ignorance, so I spoke my few words. I was then given the facts but asked by my informant not to print them. Therefore instead I will take up certain points which arise from Mr. Williams' letter. I wonder how many members know about the Guild bye-laws? How many know when Council publish their reports, or indeed that any reports are published? It seems to me that Guild Council encourages this ignorance in that it publishes a minimum of information, and I for one, Sir, can not content to read the text of a law and not be fully informed of its significance. Moreover, I consider it the duty of Council to whip up interest, not only in the Annual General Meeting, of which I shall say more later, but in all their affairs. They represent us, and should make it easy for us to follow their movements. It would have taken a very brave man to stand up at the A.G.M. and halt the slick organisation. How anyone can support Council for contriving an A.G.M. which had only ten minutes of business time I cannot understand.

I would suggest that a copy of the bye-laws be pinned up beside the next list of figures and left up for more than a week. Further, may I suggest that we be let into Guild Council secrets.

I sign myself Sub-Editor of "Bournbrook" because I am no scandal columnist and I do not wish to be accused of hunting notoriety.

Yours, etc.,
SUB-EDITOR "BOURNBROOK"

PETITION OF RIGHTS

Dear Sir,—In the History of Mankind "The Petition of Rights" and other similar pleas are prominent, but I believe, Sir, that never before has a "Petition of Rights" been presented to the tyrant who has assumed his appointed position. Therefore, Sir, through your distinguished columns, I would like to present my cause, to my Lord President of Council, Jarvis

of Mordon.
I petition that I and my followers be allowed to perform the following duties, without being molested.
1. Keeping the Union in good repair, by leaving the oak panels and flaky mixed lounge walls free from drawing pins, nails and the destructive sellotape. May I be stayed from throwing tankards, chairs and bodies at Hops and other grand does.
2. To introduce only friends who I can know and can vouch for. To be allowed to exclude the modern Edwardians and women of the city who wish to gain entrance.
3. To keep silence with News Hounds (other than "G.N." or "Wall's") or to ask Mr. Crump to evict same.
4. To approach a member of Executive Council or the committee concerned to complain about a present injustice that I might get their views and reasons.
5. To be interested in Guild affairs and to be allowed to put more in so that I may get more out.
You will understand, Sir, that being the first man in history to propose such a course, modesty must keep my honour bright, I sign myself,
DUTY MEMBER.

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LEWIS'S TRAVEL

AGENCY

CEN 8251

On January 16, 1959, the National Union of Students published its memorandum of evidence to the Committee on Grants to Students, appointed to advise the Government, which is under the chairmanship of Sir Colin Anderson. From this summary of its recommendations, members of the Guild will be able to formulate a clearer impression of N.U.S. policy towards Grants than will be got from reading N.U.S. Council Resolutions contained within N.U.S. Policy Statements.

Part 1 of the memorandum dealing with the choice of students for awards from public funds has as its first recommendation:

"That awards should be given to those selected by Universities for the first degree courses, and for comparable courses by other institutions of higher education."

The N.U.S. base these recommendations on case-work which the Grants and Welfare Department handles each year, a selection of cases being cited. These cases give ample evidence that some Local Education Authorities use their powers of discrimination in determining the choice of awards to students, other counties treat awards as automatic following upon selection by a University. In illustration of this, they quote from a letter from a Member of Parliament who had taken up one case;

"... it is decidedly embarrassing when some counties operate an automatic system and others consider it their duty to select."

A further point which they make is that the grant is essential for the majority of students in order that

YOUR GRANT

by
W. G. RASTALL
Grants & Welfare
secretary

they may afford to attend a University, thus failure to attend a grant after having secured a place often means that they cannot go to a University. They maintain that if awards were given automatically on University acceptance, University selection standards might be expected to become higher.

The attitude that "the present unbalance between numbers of arts and science students should be rectified by giving many more science awards than arts," was also considered, and it is thought that while unlikely to be ever maintained seriously as a national policy, it could well have influence among L.E.A.s, particularly after the introduction of the general grant, thus making it vital that awards should be given on acceptance.

The second recommendation is: "That the relevant authorities should be invited to review the standards set in 'closed' scholarship examinations."

The idea being that to ensure competition is sufficiently wide, in order to allay the suspicion that it is always possible to obtain a place in certain well-endowed Colleges.

The third recommendation in this

section is: "That the University Authorities should urgently consider the possibility of establishing a clearing house system for dealing with University applications."

This recommendation dates back to the Report of University Awards for the 1948 Working Party; "... the introduction of a clearing house system... would enable University Institutions... to obtain relevant information about the spread of applications to various institutions and about available source of good candidates not likely to secure vacancies in Universities to which they applied."

The second part of the memorandum deals with the question of the responsibility for awards between the State and the L.E.A. The first recommendation in respect being:

"That awards should be financed 100 per cent. by the Government, should be administered by a central grant awarding authority."

The whole intention of this recommendation is to try and gain conformity in the assessment and administration of awards.

The second recommendation is: "Or, alternatively as an interim measure, that they should be financed mainly by the Minister of Education with a proportion to be met from pool to which all Local Education Authorities should contribute."

This pooling of expenditure is in line with the system that has been operated since 1955 very successfully in the case of Training Colleges, has many obvious advantages.

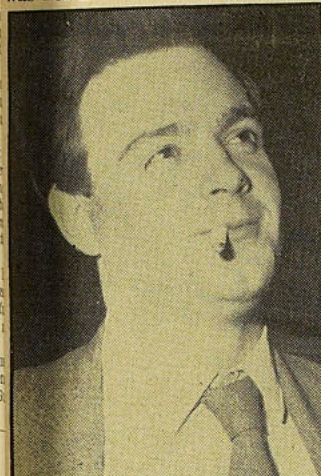
I will refrain from any comment or criticism of these recommendations this week in order to let opinion have its say.

JAZZ NOTES

The rot has set in and is spreading like wild-fire through the previously active Rhythm Club. For at last Thursday's Jazz Band Ball, apathy reared its ugly head and appeared in the form of a dreary atmosphere and completely unmad clientele.

At one time a Jazz Band Ball was an event looked forward to for many weeks and enjoyed to the utmost—now it seems to have deteriorated to a ritual, undertaken and tolerated but never enjoyed.

The Alex Welsh Band played well in the rather hackneyed style of the Muggsy Spanier '39 band and although all the musicians played competently the choice of material was not in the least exhilarating.



APATHY.—THE CHAIRMAN, MR. BRIAN SEELEY, WHO IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH THE "BIRMINGHAM MAIL" JAZZ CRITIC SAID "JAZZ HAS GONE AS FAR AS IT CAN GO. IT CAN GO NO FURTHER."

Theatre

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY (Theatre Centre, Five Ways)

Even a leg pull has its own individual and communicable sensations. It differs radically from a slap in the eye, or a clap on the shoulder. This seems to me an obvious statement. Yet Harold Pinter denies it. If this play, written and produced by Mr. Pinter, is a leg pull, a high charivari of micky taking at the expense of Beckett and the surrealists, it might be polite to allow us to share the joke, to tell us, finally that it is a joke. If his play is so personal it will not give us the key to its meaning, it might equally well be published four feet up on a wall. On the other hand, if the play is seriously intended, I suppose the ill digested gobbits of Auden and Eliot are better in than out. Having got them off his chest, there is room for a play to be written, for Mr. Pinter has undoubted talents in the creation of situation and character.

If I had the courage of my convictions, I would ignore this production, but it does give me the first opportunity to ask you to go to see it. The interesting, if falacious, assumption, that to take the actors into the audience, to allow them to play three dimensionally, rather than within the cinema screen of the prosaic, improve audience-actor relationship and communication. It is a fallacy because even the telling of a funny story demands a pose: some form of artifice on the part of the teller and the willing suspension of disbelief on the part of the listener. The degree of artifice does not matter. It is in the mutual acceptance of artificiality that communication takes place. Whether actors are on stage behind footlights, a hundred yards away buskined and masked, or within arms length, they are still actors telling a

story and demanding sympathy. That is the joy of the theatre.

However, if you are at all interested in the theatre, you will rarely get the opportunity to see such competent, and in the case of David Compton and Dona Martyn, first rate actors playing such an interesting series of plays within a rather unconventional convention. Please go to see them; judge for yourselves; and take advantage, if incidentally, of the special admission price for students.—K.W.R.

OPEN LECTURE

The next Open Lecture promises to be one of the most interesting ever, for Professor H. R. Trevor-Roper is well known for being one of the foremost experts on Hitler. His book on the last days of Hitler is well known to all, and on this occasion his subject will be "Hitler's Place in History." The usual transport arrangements will be in force for Ed. Streeters.

CHEM. SOC. MEETING

The "Template" theory of Protein Bio-synthesis was expounded by Dr. Dalgeish, a Bio-Chemical Research worker at Hammersmith Hospital, at a recent Chem. Soc. meeting. He reviewed theories of the role of chromosomes in the living cell and speculated upon their role in Protein Bio-synthesis.

Although this may sound abstruse to our non-scientific readers, to the biologist these speculations are absorbing and exciting and may well pave the way for advances in knowledge, perhaps leading to the cure of such diseases as cancer. At the very least, work of this type will add to our knowledge of how things grow and reproduce themselves.

"So. Tha's gettin' oor Mary it family way, art ta? Tha girl lubbly lout, stan'in' theer as throng as Thropp's ass. Well, young man, what 'as ta say for thisen? Wharr! Ah've a mind to fetch thi on' round t' lung wi on' o' oor Sarah Annie's oven bottom cakes"

By Jove, yes. Those people were the salt of the earth. Of course the industrial north is no longer like that. Where once a woman would have taken off her clog to punish impertinence, she now accepts the money from Mabel's table. Why, I mind the time when every girl in the street was confined, but that was during the American occupation and times are changing. To-day, you can even walk down Firth Street. One time you would have been lucky not to be hit by a passing lorry. And if you avoided that fate, there was always the stream of wise, old, shawl covered, shoulder high heads murmuring "clogs to clogs I three generations," swirling and moaning like a Greek chorus. Not that you could hear them clearly for the noise of collapsing mills and the strains of the Hallelujah Chorus.

Those were the good old days. Never a week passed but some mill-thanks started a strike and riot. Once a week, regular as child bearing, they would invent a modification for the standard Witch or Dobcross. "Them Merino be up two, Arthur." "Ah, maister, they be." Two wise heads would contemplate the ruin of Armitage of Brookside and sagely invest in Boothroyds.

I know it was like that. Look at all the books: "The Crowthers of Bank-damm," "Inheritance," "Hindle Wakes." Even television cannot keep off it. "Eh lass, theer's trouble at mill." "Nay, Joshua, lad not again." "Ah, there be. I'm no claim theer on strike an' t' employers say it's a lock out. Theer's nowt we can do. We mun sit down and wait for some on 'em to riot." "Ay, Joshua, it's a 'ard life. Come y' in an' ave a cup o' tea." And when you get there, Cynara,

The Editor of *Gongster* (Nottingham) who has been subjected to severe criticism from both the Union Executive and other sources, chiefly for daring to show a little independence in the running of *Gongster*.

HERE AND THERE

John Berridge, President of University of London Union, has made a revolutionary proposal to improve the standard of debating there. Briefly, the scheme is to hold debates on the system so successfully used at Glasgow University, where three hour debates are held each term on the lines of a Parliamentary Debate, with each party holding Government office in turn. During the course of the debates, points will be awarded for speeches, interruptions and attendance, by three clerks. Details of each debate will be contained in a "Hansard" type report. This seems a lively and workable method of running the debates, and might repay a trial run here in Birmingham. (Information based on report in *Sennet*).

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This week in The Listener

(ISSUE DATED JANUARY 22)

A PRIME MINISTER REMEMBERS
(in conversation on television with Francis Williams)
Lord Attlee, O.M.

HELLAS REVISITED
Sir Compton Mackenzie

PROBLEMS OF THE MOON
Patrick Moore

THE SATELLITE'S RETURN :
CONDITIONS IN HUNGARY
Report compiled by B.B.C. Foreign News Department

MYTH AND COSMOLOGY IN
CLASSICAL GREECE
D. J. Furley

REVOLUTIONARIES AND THEIR
PRINCIPLES

II: Milton's vision of a reformed England
J. W. M. Watkins

MY DEAR PUSS
Donald Boyd

ART: ROUND THE LONDON
GALLERIES
David Sylvester

MUSIC: DVORAK AS A
COMPOSER
John Clapham

and other features

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CROSS-COUNTRY

ON ICE

IN conditions unsuited to any open-air activity, the cross-country club had their first eight runners in the first nine men home, to score 27 points against Cardiff's 77, and Bangor's 92.

This was accomplished without Dave Shaw, who was representing Yorkshire, in the Inter-County Championships, in London. Dave Spence and Mike Down were the nearest to Currie, of Cardiff, who was the individual winner. Pete Roy and Dave Royal were next home, followed by four more Birmingham runners. Dangerous icy patches and rough frozen ground caused several falls, but nothing more than grazes and bruises resulted. Aberystwyth, who should also have been running, were unable to do so, and were last heard of ice-bound in the Welsh mountains.

RIFLE POSTAL SUCCESS

ON Saturday, January 10, Imperial College visited the Club. After a close and exciting match, the visitors emerged winners by only one point, the scores being Birmingham 758 points, Imperial College 759. In view of the very cold conditions, not conducive to good shooting, the standard of marksmanship was high, Smith scoring 99 and Foister 98.

Last Saturday, the Club visited Loughborough, and were able to repeat last term's success. After a poor start, the team was five points behind, but good shooting by Gelling, Smith and Foister (98), eventually pulled back the deficit. Kidd and Britchett were able to swing the match in our favour and we were able to record a very narrow victory by 768 points to 767.

In the postal leagues, the Club

On Saturday, two teams travelled to Bristol for the return fixture. Although Brummie had already beaten Bristol 66-55 at Birmingham last term, it was generally acknowledged that the Bristol side on their own much smaller court would be a difficult proposition. Even the all-conquering U.A.U. champion side of 56-57 had suffered an inglorious defeat on this pitch. Bob Kempson, one of the main scorers in last term's Bristol fixture was unable to come due to injuries he received on Wednesday, and Tony Draper came up from the second team to play a very good first game.

Although the first half was fast and exciting, it was not satisfactory from our point of view, as even the best shots frequently came out due to the springy rim of the basket. The half-time

CLOSE MATCH AT BRISTOL

BIRMINGHAM 70
BRISTOL 62

score was 20-29 in Bristol's favour.

After the start of the second half our side achieved the highest scoring rate so far this season. Bot Mettlan, with his fast breaks and long shots scored 19 points, and Umit Imre with jump shots from both corners scored 24. Also prominent were Dave Geldard, the pivot of the team, who hardly missed any rebounds from the basket, and Derek Winslow, our

captain, who proved his worth by initiating many excellent movements, and by fine ball control. In a period of 20 minutes at the beginning of the second half the team scored 50 points. This magnificent performance—a record—gave Brummie a good win.

The Second Team game was a somewhat slow one, because frequent disagreement of the referees tended to confuse the players. The result was consolation for Bristol, as the home team 25-26. In this match, P. Shahideh won by the narrow margin of did well for Birmingham scoring 14 points.

★ How The Teams Are Doing ★

AT this stage in the season it is possible to see how we stand in relation to the other University and college sides. On the whole the ladies have been doing considerably better than the men; though this may be due, in part, to the fact that the ladies do not play teams equivalent to Loughborough College, and the fact that the Oxford and Cambridge ladies' teams do not measure up to those of their men.

However, nothing can detract from the record of the ladies' hockey club whose first team have remained undefeated throughout the term. During the vac., members of the first XI also gained credit for their club when they represented their counties. A. Thompson (Warwicks.) and J. Roberts (Northants.), played at Rams-gate in the Midland district tourney, and R. Thompson for Gloucestershire at Weston-super-Mare. From these matches district teams were selected and R. Thompson was selected for the West of England and A. Thompson for the Midlands.

Of the two major sports soccer and rugby, the former has just about held its own, and the latter has had rather a good season so far. One member of the soccer club, McIntosh, added his name to the small number of internationals in the University when he was selected for Wales during the vac.

The table tennis club is another of our teams expected to do well. Back-house has been made first seed in the U.A.U. individual championships, and together with Bolton first seed in the doubles. It is to be hoped that this promise will be fulfilled when the championships are held later this term.

The most outstanding event of last term, was, however, the cross-country club's defeat of Loughboro', the first time since the war, that they have done this. This was not just a narrow victory, but an overwhelming one. It is to be hoped that, now the snow has gone, the winter clubs will be able to do even better this term.

MEDIC. RUGBY

Medics. 0, Bromsgrove II 3

On January 3, the Medic. team visited Bromsgrove once again, this time to play their 2nd XV. Some of the boys took one look at the outside puddle which was the pitch, felt the sleet slicing down and decided that this was going to be... well it was. The Bromsgrove pack were far heavier than the Medics, and in the conditions this certainly counted. Neither of the three had much to do and it was a forwards game almost entirely. Bromsgrove scored towards the end of the first half with a long run from the half way line, after which the game was even, neither side showing any great superiority.

Chemistry 0, Medics. 3

Although most of the game was played in a blinding snowstorm, the standard of the game suffered but little.

The first half saw Medics, in control of both ball and game. After long spells in the Chemistry half, Medics, succeeded in crossing the line for a try. Chemists came into their own in the second half. Their forwards played exceedingly well, especially Bromwell. Twice Chemists almost scored, once with a 40yd. penalty kick and then with a good rush by their forwards.

Both sets of three's had little to do, but Medics were obviously superior here.

The result was probably a fair one.

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SOCCER

● Playing their first game since December 10, the First XI entertained the strong Cresconians side in a Birmingham and District A.F.A. match. Conditions were not as bad as had been expected, continuous light rain having softened the icy surface to a soft slush, but nevertheless, it was difficult for players to move with any speed off the mark.

The game was hard fought and even throughout, with the University if anything having more of the play. Once again, however, as in last term's games it was the inability of the forwards to finish off movements decisively which swung the game in the Cresconians' favour.

There was no score at half-time, and typically, it was after another University raid that the Cresconians scored their first goal. A penalty, for hands, gave them their second goal and though the home team fought hard they could not penetrate a defence which packed its goal well.

McIntosh, on the right wing, showed several flashes of class, but the rest of the forward line were in need of match practice. On Wednesday next, the team travel to face the formidable Loughborough College side, and it is to be hoped that they can find a more direct approach to goal.

With three lifts totaling over 600 lbs. However, though the other team members did well, the Institute home by 21lbs.

The main feature of the match against Sheffield University was the tremendous strength of Hickman, Sheffield captain, who lifted a total of over 900lbs. more than any other competitor. The only person equal him on any of the lifts was Mike Hurworth, who managed a squat with 300lbs. It was largely to Hickman's performance that Sheffield were able to win by 73lbs.

It is to be hoped that this club will be supported by the many individuals who use the weight room in the Institute for training or just to keep fit.

FENCING

The Men's Fencing team, who last term was undefeated and reached the finals of the U.A.U. team Championships (to be held in Birmingham) lost its first match of the term, when it was unexpectedly beaten by 14 to 14 at Liverpool.

Of the team only Howorth was top form, winning two epee and three sabre fights. Three other members gained representative honours when Hoffman, Warner and Howorth were selected for the Southern Universities team to play the South African touring team. Hoffman was made epee captain, Warner sabre captain.

SQUASH CLUB'S SUCCESS

The first team reached the semi-final of the team championship by beating the Universities of Nottingham, Loughborough and Leicester. In the semi-final they are playing Southampton, away, on February 7.

The individual championship was played at Leicester. John White did well to reach the semi-final, where he lost a close match with Thompson, of Manchester University. Also Julian Hobson reached the quarter-finals. Apart from the individual championship, John White has lost only two matches so far and Robin Creed three.

Only one fixture has been played this term, the return against Handsworth, resulting 4-1 in favour of the University. This made up for our defeat at Handsworth last term. However, in each case the losing team were weakened by the absence of their second string.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

The weight-lifting club are to be congratulated on a very interesting and well organised first match. Nearly sixty people watched the two types of contest staged, an Olympic weight-lifting match against the Digbeth Institute narrowly won by the Institute, and a strength contest against Sheffield University.

In the match with Digbeth, Howard Payne, who has been elected club captain, was the individual winner

HALF-TIME SCORES

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points For	Points Against
RUGBY						
1st team	16	12	4	0	237	15
2nd team	13	10	2	1	230	15
ASSN. FOOTBALL						
1st team	13	5	7	1	25	15
2nd team	19	8	11	0	36	15
3rd team	13	7	6	0	59	15
4th team	5	3	0	2	16	15
MEN'S HOCKEY						
1st team	15	5	8	2	27	15
2nd team	13	3	5	5	19	15
3rd team	8	1	5	2	12	15
SWIMMING						
Men's team	9	3	6	0	235	15
Ladies' team	5	3	2	0	238	15
WATER POLO						
1st team	10	1	9	0	15	15
2nd team	4	2	2	0	11	15
SQUASH						
1st team	16	11	5	0	—	15
LACROSSE						
1st team	8	4	3	0	87	15
FENCING						
1st team	5	4	1	0	91	15
2nd team	3	1	1	1	20	15
NETBALL						
1st team	11	8	1	2	177	15
2nd team	6	4	2	0	88	15
WOMEN'S HOCKEY						
1st team	8	8	0	0	38	15
2nd team	10	6	3	1	39	15
3rd team	5	1	3	1	—	15
"A" team	2	1	1	0	3	15
"B" team	1	1	0	0	3	15
WOMEN'S SQUASH						
1st team	11	5	6	0	21	15
BADMINTON						
1st team	10	5	5	0	37	15
2nd team	1	0	1	0	2	15
CROSS-COUNTRY						
1st team	7	6	1	0	—	15

MAN MEETS GOOD JOB: JOB MEETS GOOD MAN

Starting on January 19, some of the country's most important companies have taken full pages in the Manchester Guardian to speak about themselves: to announce what they are looking for in the way of executive personnel and what prospects they offer for the right man with the right ambitions.

This is the Guardian's sixth 'Careers' series. Past years have shown that they serve as an excellent introduction between men-in-search-of-jobs and jobs-in-search-of-men.

So keep an eye on the Guardian over the next few weeks. Through these 'Careers' pages you may find the job that will be the beginning of a lifelong association.

At the same time—who knows?—the other pages may give you a taste for news presented in the Guardian manner: and that may become a lifelong habit too.

... IN THE

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN