



REDBRICK

birmingham
university



PRICE 3d

No. 741

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8th, 1968

Price 3d.

Demonstrators' grants threatened

STUDENTS engaging in political activities may have their grants stopped. This warning, from several education authorities, followed a recent demonstration against Patrick Gordon Walker at Manchester University. After disciplinary hearings, two students, Hornung and Carver, were suspended and their grants subsequently withheld. Twenty-five students then signed confessions of culpability with the two, along with a protest of victimisation against Hornung and Carver, and these were sent to the university authorities.

The confessions were returned as acceptable only if the 25 accepted identity of treatment along with equal culpability. A circular to all departments warned that general support for the demonstrators would "prejudicate" their interests. The 25 made no further response for fear of suspension.

Meanwhile the authorities notified local education authorities of pending disciplinary proceedings. As a result several grants are being partly or wholly withheld—although proceedings have been dropped. In a Commons adjournment debate (April 26th), Sir Edward Boyle, Shadow Minister for Education, and Mrs Shirley Williams M.P. deprecated the L.E.A.s' attempts to in-

timidate students who expressed their views.

Manchester President Dave Worsley has since established that the university meant only to reprimand the 25 and had not wanted to imply suspension.

A warning will be sent to students receiving awards from Southport Town Council, that the Committee could terminate grants to students considered "unfit" to receive public money. This follows Friday's Leeds incident where an M.P.'s wife was kicked and trampled after a political meeting. Similar warnings have been circulated by Blackpool and Wolverhampton authorities.

Grants rise not much comfort

It is expected that the increase in students grants after October will be no more than twenty pounds, and may be only fifteen pounds. This low figure was only to be expected after the Government announcement in January that, as part of the new economy measures, any proposed increase in grants would be automatically halved.

This decision led to the immediate establishment of a strong student lobby with the aim of putting pressure on the government to get them to reconsider, or at least make allowances for students in financial difficulty.

The increase in grants will cost the Government an extra six million pounds on top of the present bill of more than £100 million.

The major concession is that the means test on the residual income of students' parents should start at £300 instead of £700 as at present, and this is expected to give at least 40,000 extra students maximum grants, and a similar number higher ones.

If a parent's residual income is less than £1,100, the student will need slightly less financial aid from his parents, and above the £1,100 mark the parental contribution will not rise by more than six pounds.

The maximum grant at provincial universities is expected to go up from £340 to between £355 and £360, and £370 to about £390 and £370 to about £390 at Oxford, Cambridge and London.

N.U.S. has also been fighting for a concession to allow students to be regarded as mature in the September after their twenty-fifth birthday. Only if a student is

Portrait of a failed idealist



(Photo: Ian Salmon)

Nothing personal but...

Charles Wright has recently been admitting to certain people that he has been a bad President, and that he has made "a lot of mistakes."

For the greater part of his year in office he achieved nothing, but talked a lot.

Recently he has become very militant, particularly on the subject of immigration.

He officiated at the E.G.M. when only 200 people turned up, and bulldozed through a motion whose result had already been anticipated. The march into town immediately afterwards had been arranged beforehand.

He had the Union showered with handouts advertising the Wolverhampton rally. Hardly anyone turned up.

In fact, the whole pantomime failed dismally. He ought to have realised this; someone should have told him before now that reality does not always match up to the ideal.

We would like to give a comprehensive criticism of his activities while in office, but we can't remember when he last did anything.

Only 3% at meeting

CARRYING banners reading

"Not Race War Only Class War" and "Fight White Bosses Not Black Workers" 120 Birmingham students marched from the Union last Wednesday to join the protest against Enoch Powell's immigration speech.

The march followed a general meeting attended by about 200 of the 6,500 students entitled to attend, at which a motion denouncing the inflammatory tone of Mr. Powell's speech and supporting the demonstration was passed by 164 votes to 19.

Charles Wright adamantly refused to split the motion when Malcolm Macourt and Jeff Defries demanded that the demonstration be condemned as inflammatory and pointless. Perry Christie attacked the Press for distorting the facts on immigration, while Pete Gowan, Chairman of Socialist Union, denounced the Commonwealth Immigration Acts as racist legislation and condemned the Labour Government for its betrayal of equal rights. Richard Inlesby pointed out that a man who looked forward rationally could not be called a racist or a fascist, two words which were bandied around without ever being defined or understood.

Towards the end Roger Hird made the strong point that for every person present thirty people could not give a damn for the meeting or the motion. He was largely ignored. But as one student who was not at the meeting said: "Union politicians are obsessed with perpetuating the radical image of the University, so let them get on with it."

ANTI-POWELLITES GOOD AS GOLD

"THE most peaceful demonstration I've ever seen" was how one demonstrator described the anti-Powell rally outside the Cathedral last Wednesday. And it was only too

true; the hundred and twenty students who marched from Birmingham were joined by over 200 from Aston, and they listened in comparative order to a series of speeches by prominent citizens.

The first speakers were the chaplain to immigrants in Birmingham and the local head of CARD; after this the audience were stirred to one of their few moments of action by a Powell supporter who was soon hustled off the platform. Canon Burrows of the Cathedral and Sir Frank Price, leader of Birmingham's Labour councillors, appealed for moderation and maturity in protest, which was not popular with all the demonstrators.

Towards the end of the demonstration arguments broke out in the crowd between students and people who had gathered to watch; in one case some Powell supporters were hustled away by the police. The meeting ended with impromptu speeches by students, including Pete Gowan, chairman of Socialist Union, and Charles Wright, who made a dramatic appeal for a major reorganisation of the whole country, in addition to action on specific fronts.

No fireworks at Wolverhampton

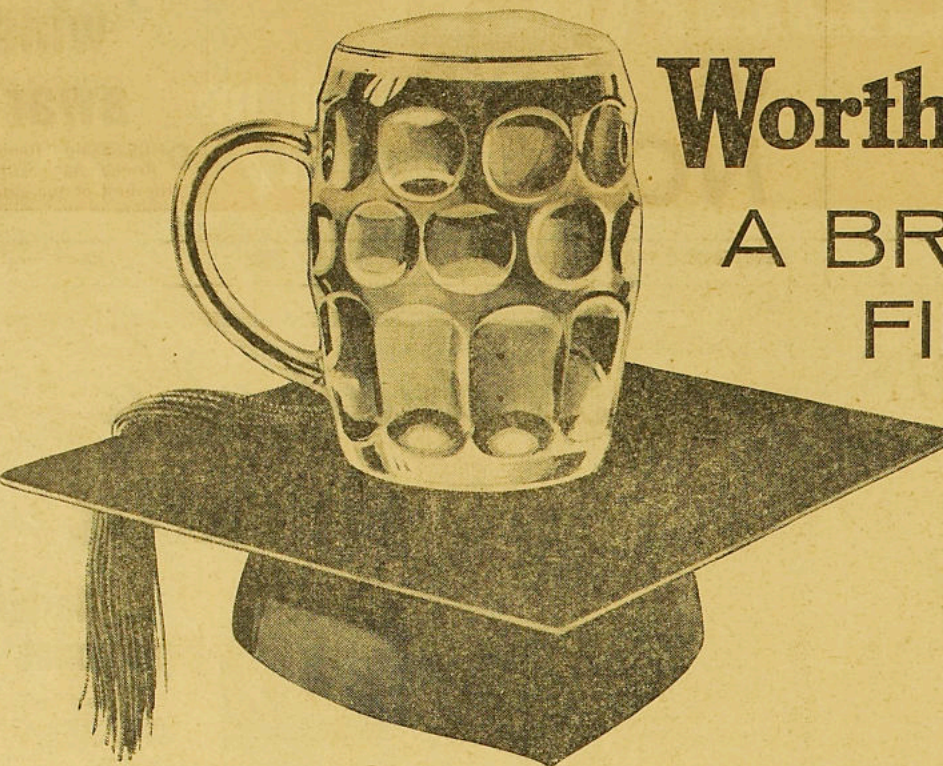
ENOCH POWELL refused to accept the petition signed by several hundred Birmingham students when he returned to his Wolverhampton constituency to conduct one of his regular "surgeries," at which he deals with the individual problems of his constituents.

The petition was eventually accepted by his agent instead, after a silent march from the centre of Wolverhampton to the Tory headquarters, where Powell was holding his "surgery." Afterwards, in a meeting in the town centre, a crowd of several hundred heard

speakers from the Caribbean Association, the Council for Racial Harmony (who, along with Wolverhampton students, organised the demonstration), and others including the Liberal candidate who will be opposing Powell at the next general election.

Although several people had expected the demonstration to meet with a large degree of hostility, if not actual violence, there was no trouble at all to contend with. The main theme of the demonstration was "racial harmony," and as such could not condone violence, but the meeting was criticised as being little more than a collection of tame, cliché-ridden speeches.

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Abortion Act 1967

Ch. 87

ELIZABETH II



1967 CHAPTER 87

An Act to amend and clarify the law relating to termination of pregnancy by registered medical practitioners.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

THE first thing about the new Abortion Act is that it does not make abortions instantly available for those who want them. Much worse is the fact that there exists nothing like the hospital facilities needed to cope with the far greater number of legal abortions.

At present, there are about 100,000 abortions per year, of which only 3,300 are done under the National Health Service. The majority are done under private practitioners whose fees range from £75 to an extortionate £300 (the fees being lower if the abortion is done early in pregnancy).

Fees for private practice, however, will decrease as facilities increase, and financial assistance can be gained from medical insurance schemes and charitable organisations. But many abortions are done by backstreet abortionists, and it is their clients who make up the 30 women who die from illegal abortions every year.

Under the new Abortion Act the number of abortions in Britain is expected to rise to 150,000 or 200,000 annually — nearly 20 per cent of all pregnancies. Unfortunately the N.H.S. has not the facilities to deal with more than 10,000 or 15,000 of these and hospitals are already announcing reservations as they can't cope with the demand. So the majority of women who are legally entitled to abortions will either have to pay for them or, if they can't afford to, be driven underground to the illegal abortionists again. The Act won't stop the backstreet abortionists—there will probably be as much need for them as ever.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in the face of women seeking legal abortion is the attitude does not need her parents' permission. Supporters of "abortion made easy" tend to be labelled with "promiscuity"—as advocates of an evil, permissive trend in society, determined to bring out the beast in all of us. For their part, abortionists accuse their opponents of slapping on the sexual blinkers and attempting to make an ethical and moral objection obscure their inveterate hostility towards sex. Pregnancy, intercourse and contraception are only referred to euphemistically and are decidedly not to be encouraged. Twenty years of controversy has resulted in the act

Risk to child

The question of on what exact grounds is abortion legal under the Act is, of course, crucial. An important feature of it is the "social" clause—those permitting abortion where the birth of another child would be detrimental to those already living (i.e. if there is not enough money to support them all adequately) or where the environment of the mother would be harmful to the child. Besides this there are new medical grounds for abortion; if the physical or mental health of the mother or existing children is in danger, or if there is a considerable risk that the child

Two doctors

Abortions have to be sanctioned by two medical practitioners to be legal and there is nothing to stop a woman going to other doctors if her own G.P. is unsympathetic. A woman does not need her husband's permission, or that of her baby's father, and a girl under 21

should take precedence over an unborn foetus. Moralists affirm that a doctor has no right to extinguish human life, even before the 28 weeks which are necessary to the fetus before it ("he", "she") can exist independently of the mother. This rather dim concept may confuse "life" with "existence" or it may be valid, but it leads to individual situations where G.P.s, whilst admitting birth would be unwise, yet refuse to abort the foetus. Because of this many women resort to illegal abortions. On average 30 women die each year as a result of illegal abortions.

Conspiracy by society

Conspiracy by society

Society works what amounts to a conspiracy to make women pregnant. Contraceptives are made difficult to acquire, and the N.H.S. wants nothing to do with abortion. This is unrealistic in the extreme. In a society of increasingly liberated sexual standards, Objection to legal abortion often hesitates to "make things easy" almost as if women everywhere were pinning for the chance to get an abortion performed on them.

Obviously abortion is not a complete answer. The need is to liberate sexual experience from childbirth—prevention rather than cure. A permanent contraceptive state is the answer, from which couples would emerge when they wished to produce. Teen-aged couples have increasing inclination to practise sexual love—but they make notoriously bad parents.

The effect of an abortion on many young unmarried couples is to make them avow henceforth to avoid sex completely, and this is the worst possible result. Waffle about the sanctity of human life does not solve the 10 per cent illegitimacy rate in Birmingham, for example; the death rate from illegal abortions and the unwanted children born into families who cannot afford them—because of G.P.s who mixed personal prejudice with professional care.

Reluctant to 'spar'

However, there must be a reconciliation of views. Dr. Martin Cole—humanist and head of an Abortion Advice Centre at Aston, is reluctant still to be cited as sparring partner of Dr. McLaren of Birmingham—a Presbyterian Christian and opponent of legalised abortions. Dr. Cole feels that the time for controversy is past. Now that the Act is passed he would like to play down dissension and concentrate on making the Act work smoothly. He is angered that women should have to "tout around" to get an abortion. In Birmingham very few doctors will consent to carry out the operation.

Dr. Cole believes that the safety of the mother and the possible difficulties of her social situation

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'Redbrick' wins award

ONCE again "Redbrick" confirmed its position among the best of the student newspapers in the country. At the Student Journalists' Conference over the Easter vac. it won the Sunday Mirror award for the Best Feature of the Year, presented by Michael Christianson, editor of the Sunday Mirror.

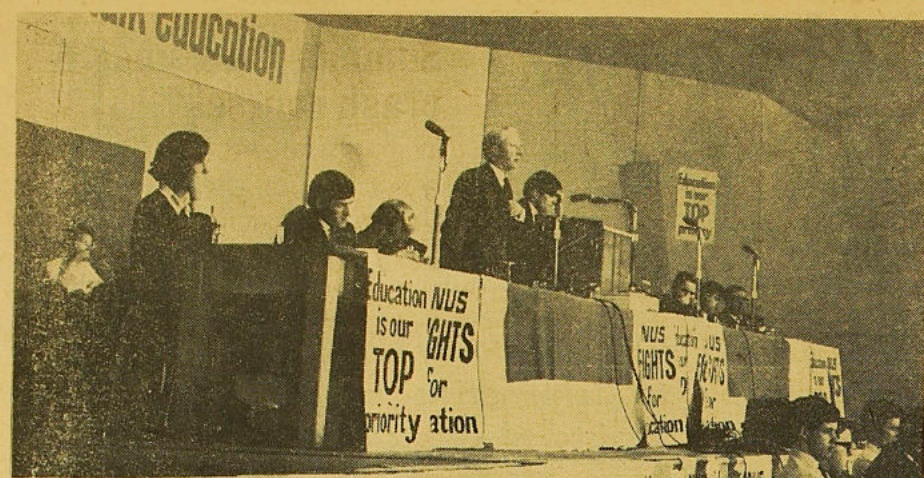
The feature which won the competition was entitled "A darker shade of Night" and appeared in the fourth issue of last term. Written by Anthony Maddock, it comprised three conversations, with a prostitute, a homosexual, and a "down and out" found hanging around the centre of Birmingham late one night. This is the first time "Redbrick" has won an award since 1965, when it again won the award for the best feature. "Winpress," the Sussex University newspaper, was adjudged the best student newspaper for 1968, a decision which shocked many of the delegates—there was an audible gasp when this result was announced. Said the Editor of "Guild Gazette", the Liverpool University paper:

"This decision negates any standards which the major newspapers 'Cherwell', 'Varsity', 'Redbrick', or ourselves, have been aiming at for the past five years."

A whole, the conference was not as good as the previous years; the journalists who had been invited to speak were good in themselves, but they had little to say of relevance to student journalists. Many delegates complained about the lack of seminars and discussions specific to student journalist issues.

On the last day, a long discussion took place in which the effect that the national student newspapers, "Student Life" and "Student", were having on vital national advertising was debated. Most of the delegates present were in favour of banning these publications, with the object of reducing their claimed circulations, and informing the advertisers that the only way to reach the general student body was to advertise in the local student papers. However, no definite course of action was agreed upon save that a meeting is to be held in Birmingham later this year to discuss the problem further, and if possible to set up an R.S.A. of the student Press world. Approximately 200 students attended the conference, of which "Redbrick's" delegation of a dozen was easily the largest.





EDUCATION— the last thing on N.U.S.' mind

REPORT BY TRICIA ELLISON

I WANT to get down to grass roots—grants should be raised for all men under 5ft. 6in.,” said Tony Klug, one of three newly-elected vice-presidents of N.U.S. Electioneering can be fun, if you're not directly involved, not like Trevor Fisk, President-elect, or Albert Preston, who spent the four days of the Leicester conference under the threat of challenges to their eligibility for their new positions. Confusion arose from the increasingly obvious position of Council not being able to interpret its own constitution. The eligibility question and

the nerves of Elections Committee were further frayed by Jean Bundy, whose nomination papers hadn't reached Central Office on time, having been shunted into oblivion for three days by British Rail, an occurrence she could liken only to an act of God. She received fair publicity, the active sympathy of Council and success. Generally speaking, as one of the consistently unsuccessful candidates lamented over his beer, the election results were all too clearly prophesiable. The "ticket" system whereby you are the favoured of Exec. or the left wing worked smoothly. Tony proved that it's not infallible by refusing to compromise his views to either side and still getting in.

Procedural wrangling delight of Council

Procedural wrangling is so obviously the delight of Council, particularly the large political unions, that you might have doubted that education was "top priority." Constant fights with Steering Committee over time allocations for various debates substantiated the criticism that conference had become a race and that it would surely be better to discuss fewer, better constructed motions than the present random conglomerations.

Of the educational issues debated, Birmingham spoke in two concerned with making the sixth form a better introduction to life in colleges and universities; to provide comprehensive information on opportunities available and to broaden curricula. Greater controversy resulted from a motion criticising the Government for postponing the raising of the school leaving age, but Council eventually carried this and Martin Lowe's amendment calling for the abolition of the present family allowance system in favour of allowances for children still at school or in full-time training.

Conference was concerned by

This year's NUS conference at Leicester had as its motto 'education is our top priority'. His fond hope remained little more than words on a poster. Most of the conference was taken up by a political struggle between moderates and radicals, in which the latter were finally defeated.

As anticipated, grants, representation, and Geoff Martin were the objects of most interest. Nothing like a spot of personal invective to get Council worked up. To the distress of the radicals amongst us, the censure and no confidence motions both on Geoff Martin and Exec. for their incompetent handling of the Grants Campaign were defeated. The radicals were slammed right at the opening of conference and never recovered. Virtually everything the radical Unions (Leeds, Keele, York and Birmingham included) supported which was of a vaguely controversial nature was defeated by a display of conservatism in voting which those raised on the idea of students as a riotous, power-crazy mob would find hard to believe.

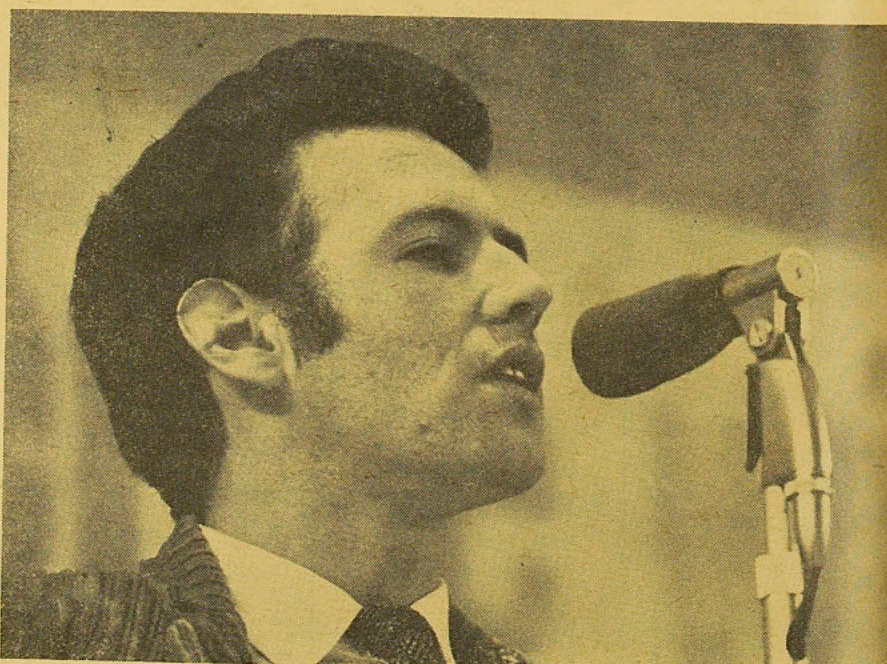
Concept of student violence condemned

Starting with Geoff Martin's opening speech and at every possible juncture subsequent to it—the concept of violence as a legislative means of furthering student interests was condemned. In the motion on representation, discipline, and autonomy, calling for increased participation in the

government of academic institutions the York-Leeds-Keele amendment calling for N.U.S. support for direct action when all other methods had failed, was passed only after a terrific struggle to have the words "non-violent" inserted. Keele, in proposing the amendment, had not thought it necessary to stipulate. Violence is antipathetic to the most radical of radicals.

Police persecution

Little said at N.U.S. could be regarded as revolutionary. In political terms, the most notable motion was that of Queen's, Belfast, condemning police persecution of the university's Republican Club and its members, and the avowed increase of Special Branch interest in left-wing activities in English universities. The general tone was one of calm reason in keeping with Executive's image of N.U.S. as an educational pressure group. Nevertheless there seemed considerable disillusion both in large unions and the smallest delegations. Political splits and the status gulf were both seen as threats to the effective future of the National Union.



Tony Klug, last year's Birmingham President, at the Conference. He was elected as one of the three part-time N.U.S. Vice-Presidents. He was the only one of the candidates for the positions whose eligibility for the job was not questioned.



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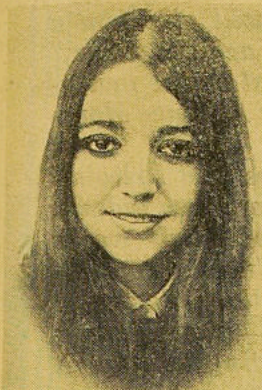
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Proposed by: RHYS VAUGHN
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SUE JACKSON

PROPOSAL

WE are proposing Sue Jackson for Vice-President because we consider the job to be primarily a public relations one, and she is the one candidate who has the necessary qualifications for this job.

She has wide experience in this field from her year as Guild Relations Officer and in addition has shown in her years in the Guild that she has an unrivalled capacity for hard work in the committee field and is not daunted by the prospect of negotiation with the University and City authorities.

She has been a Guild Councillor for two years, was elected president of a Hall of Residence, and this year has been a member of Executive; she has shown that she can negotiate the complexities of the Guild and University committee structure with ease.

In short, we think that Sue Jackson is a hard and skilful worker, a good advertisement for the Guild, and the best girl for the job.

PERRY CHRISTIE
(Chairman of Deb Soc.)
PATSY SIMISON
(Editor of "Mermaid")

MANIFESTO

IN standing for the position of Vice-President I believe that, although there is considerable room for the expression of personal opinions, one's first responsibility is to the President, the Executive and members of the Guild for it has been proved that the smooth running of the Guild is dependent upon the existence of a united Executive and its co-ordination with Guild Council. I intend to do everything in my power to ensure that Executive and Council are united and efficient bodies.

But nothing in the Guild can be achieved unless the President, Vice-President and members of Executive interest themselves in the whole campus and not just the Union.

This would be my primary aim if elected as Vice-President—to spend as much time as possible in all departments and areas of the University finding out what people really want—from making the Union more attractive with more imaginative décor to pressing for economies in the Halls and Refectory.

I have many contacts about the campus having spent two years in Hall and been a member of several societies, and I should use these contacts really to get to know students and help them to get to know me.

HAMLET

EXISTENTIAL OR NOT?

ALAN BOOTH'S production of the bad Quarto of Hamlet, strengthened G.T.G.'s reputation in Europe. Having been turned down by G.T.G. Committee for entry at Nancy, the production went with minimal G.T.G. backing to the Festival de Liège.

On arrival at Liège the company were to their surprise that they were billed as "the best young group in Europe." Not unreasonably, about their performance these were to be unfounded, going to a packed house in the

Palais des Congrès they gave a more emotional performance than had been seen in Birmingham. This increase in emotion did not, however, detract from the starkness and brutality which was the essence of the production.

A standing ovation was a measure of the play's impact on the audience. Belgian newspapers echoed the enthusiasm of the audience. It was a "Hamlet existentialist" for the critic of "Le Monde du Travail" and "the best Hamlet I have ever seen." Parallels were drawn with the work of Jan Kott, the Polish director, although Alan Booth himself claims there is no direct intention to follow Kott's ideas.

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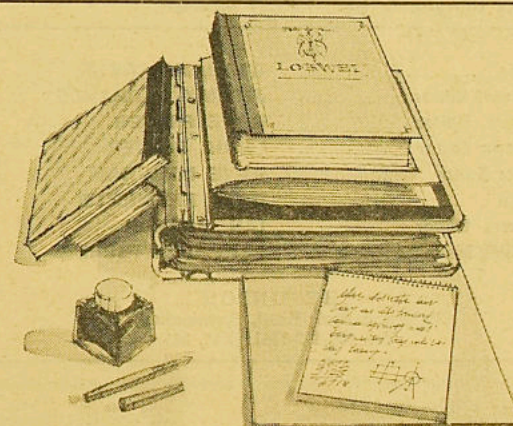
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REDBRICK

Powell not worth shouting about

It is very easy to criticise in retrospect, but the attempt to produce some kind of meaningful, positive protest against Enoch Powell in this University should never have been made.

Enoch Powell is the wrong target. The speech he made at Birmingham was only the latest in a series of inflammatory, embroidered and downright misleading tirades on the subject of immigration. One need only study two examples of the kind of statement he makes in public to see that the only sensible thing to do would be to give him enough rope to hang himself.

In a speech at Walsall on February 9th, he mentioned a constituent whose daughter was the only white child in her class. Such a school was never found. . . . On "Panorama" on February 12th, he said: "If the flow of immigrants to Britain continues at the present rate, there will be 3,500,000 by 1985 according to official estimates." Two days earlier he had estimated 2,000,000 by the year 2000. If "official estimates" are studied, it will be found that even the lower figure is a wild exaggeration.

By jumping on the Powell bandwagon, Charles Wright and his cohort could only aggravate the local situation. Perhaps fortunately, the whole thing was handled so ineptly, and had to contend with so much indifference, if not hostility, from the 6,300 students who did not turn up to the E.G.M., that no real harm could be done.

The great danger with all kinds of organised student protest is that they should not go off at half-cock. It is true that the quorum for an E.G.M. is only seventy-five (a ridiculously—even dangerously—low figure, at only 1.2 per cent of the student body), but when only two hundred bother to turn up on such an important issue, no weight whatsoever can be attached to any decision taken in the name of the Guild.

And it is surprising indeed that out of the loyal two hundred there was only a handful of coloured students; nobody yet knows what they think about Powell's speech.

The march itself was highly dubious. Charles Wright has said in the past that the only value of such a demonstration lies in its Press coverage, and that the opinion of the bystander is unimportant. This is a dangerous frame of mind to be in, for presumably the smaller the turn-out the greater will have to be the efforts to get adequate coverage.

The meeting at Wolverhampton on Sunday, which had been expected, even hoped, to be violent, fizzled out when the embarrassingly peaceful atmosphere did nothing to enhance the turgid, hackneyed speeches.

If the Guild wishes to do something positive about immigration, it might be more advisable to concentrate on the Government decision-makers, whose racialism is much more subtle than Powell's crude fascism. It might interest Birmingham students to know that, when the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1968 was passed in February it was described in a "Times" leader as "probably the most shameful measure that Labour members have ever been asked by their whips to support." Yet, of the thirty-three M.P.s for the Birmingham-Wolverhampton conurbation, only one member voted against the Bill. Nineteen of those thirty-three were Labour members.

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Features Editor	DAVE FRASER
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IT is no coincidence that the size of the problem of immigration from the Commonwealth has coincided almost exactly with the transition from Empire to Commonwealth, and, of course, there is a direct connection between the two.

The transfer of power to the former colonies changed nothing in principle as unrestricted entry in Great Britain of all citizens of the Empire had always existed in theory, and had not been challenged in practice. But there was a fundamental change in the exercise of privilege, for by granting independence Britain relinquished the right to exercise control from the other end. The attitude of mind unwittingly encouraged immigration.

To soften the blow to national pride that the loss of colonial power implied, it was insinuated that the change meant very little—it was the fulfilment of Britain's long-declared policy of guiding the colonies to control their own affairs, as had been done so successfully in earlier years in the cases of Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Soothing voice

In fact, the Empire was not breaking up but growing up, as the Prime Minister of the day so soothingly described the process. There was emerging a great family of nations united in common loyalty to the Crown, imbued with common ideals and governed by the same democratic parliamentary system that had its origin and successful development in Great Britain. And in view of this, it would be unthinkable and politically difficult to diminish in any way privileges that had attached to the colonies before they attained independence. Consequently, every Act of Independence enshrined the rights of Commonwealth citizens, including the traditional, but up to then little exercised privilege of entering the "Mother Country."

Immigrants have been unable to integrate into English community life and there exists a degree of tension between themselves and the native population. This has been created by the unchristian, uncharitable and uncompromising attitudes of some of the people among whom they live. The English populace seem unable to grasp and understand the deep psychological and sociological reasons why Commonwealth immigrants come to this country. They are ignorant of the colonial history of their country, what colonialism was, and the effects it had upon countries subjected to it.

Exploitation by Britain

When Britain colonised the new Commonwealth countries, she used them primarily to meet her own needs, to provide her own industries with raw materials and her tables with food. She did not concern herself with establishing balanced economies which would provide a higher standard of life for their peoples. It would not be appropriate in this article to delve into statistics and malpractices. These facts are easily obtainable from historic journals of the Colonial Office. To put it starkly, most Commonwealth immigrants are economic refugees. Most of them are victims of poverty, and for this poverty Britain had some responsibility during the years she ruled their territories.

To get as much as possible from the colonies and to keep the people peaceful, a variety of

IMMIGRATION

Poetic justice

By Elvin McDavid

"Militant action is the only way to combat Racialism. Thanks to Powell. I will give him a medal when I achieve power," said an official of the newly-formed Black Alliance Movement.

Everybody knows that Britain's Immigration problem did not begin two-and-a-half weeks ago with Enoch Powell's speech to Midland Tories in Birmingham — though many people are acting as though it did. The dockers have only taken the opportunity to express "what everybody is thinking." But what everybody is thinking is often

policies were followed. The most famous was "Divide and rule." The people of the multi-racial territories were kept apart for fear that they would have united against British rule. As a result of this the newly independent territories like Malaysia, Mauritius and British Guiana are now grappling with the enormous problem of trying to work a multi-racial democracy and to prevent racial alignment in social and political spheres. Another was "not to educate the natives too much" for fear that they would understand what was really happening to their country, and retaliate.

'Great white chief'

The results of this were a general low standard of education and the present exodus of students to Great Britain. And last of all, they were indoctrinated into believing that England was their home and they had as much right to her as any

Englishman. They were taught that the great white King and Queen were their father and mother, and would always save the Queen" was a national anthem, and the Jack their flag. This is a case in the few remaining

In schools they were taught English history, and the of all school notebooks were photographs of the King and Queen. The reign of the reigning monarch was public (Bank holiday) a day of rejoicing and festivity. They were given the systems of administration, the colour of Post Office telephone vans are the same here. The same with boxes, which also bore the Royal coat-of-arms.

The cosy anachronism of Mother Country was not out its value so long as "children" did not touch "mother's" skirt. Because

(Photo: Pete Mills)
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find themselves

pre-judged and not given a chance. They are not judged as individuals but as blocks of people. Each member of the block is expected to behave in a certain way.

There is no doubt that in the present state of the economy the immigrants are of value to the nation. In all the areas where they live, there is a demand for labour. The hard fact is that in many industries, without their work, orders could not be fulfilled and production essential to Britain's position in the world could not be maintained, let alone increased. This is true of the motor car industry, engineering generally, the multitudinous light industries, textiles, the docks, etc. They have also proved rather valuable in manning the transport services.

Saviours of N.H.S.

The vitally important sphere of British life where immigrants have proved invaluable is in hospitals, which would have to close down if it were not for immigrant nurses and doctors. Forty per cent of the working doctors in British hospitals are from overseas, mainly India and Pakistan, 17 per cent of nurses are from the Commonwealth. They have saved the National Health Service. When one hears people denouncing the coloured, one often wishes that they could be sent to hospital, not for treatment (though a few need it), but so that they could experience the care and kindness of Indian doctors and West Indian and African nurses.

The advent of the immigrant has created many problems, the most acute being the housing shortage, which is a volcano of racialism. It is the germ of racist poison. It is up to the Government and local authorities to find means of solving this.

Ridiculous talk

In contrast to what I have just mentioned, there is the situation of the immigrant who has worked hard, broken the barriers, and is able to afford a house in a pleasant district, being either refused sale by agents or, if he is able to buy the house, he incurs a flood of petitions and ridiculous talk of reducing the value of property in the neighbourhood.

How often had it not been said, "Until I met some of them

A vote was taken after four or five speeches and the motion was passed with a large majority. In effect unless one agreed with Powell's speech then in disagreeing one was supporting a protest demonstration.

The subsequent march began immediately to join the main rally in the city. That this march should have been organised and carried out in the name of the Guild of Undergraduates without the same body being asked on this issue, is deplorable. Even if more students had come to the aforementioned meeting the motion was so arranged that it had to be carried.

The possibly large body of opinion which wholeheartedly condemns such counter-marches was totally ignored. Those who believe that these protests, which often end in violent clashes, only add fuel to a fast-growing fire and provide more opportunities for the Mosleys, Jordans, Carmichaels and Rap Browns of this world, should have been heard before their name was attached to the march.

Yours sincerely,

JEFF DEFRIES,
President, Mason Hall J.C.R.

or travelled with some of them, or my child started to invite some of them to our home, I didn't know they could be so nice!"

There is the fallacy that the immigrant children keep back the education of English children in schools. This argument has arisen from the fact that the mother tongue of some immigrants, mainly from India and Pakistan, is not English when they arrive and this created problems in the early stages.

But teachers — if not the general public — realise that Indian and Pakistani children learn English rapidly, and often stay at the top, not the bottom, of a class. In any case, the problem is more one of lack of educational resources and poor teaching methods, than of immigrant inadequacy.

Doubt and distrust

Teachers have also found genuine advantages in having immigrants, and I quote the Ministry of Education pamphlet "English for Immigrants" —

"It is certainly true that the presence of immigrant children can give an added immediacy to many of our Geography and History lessons. Their contributions from the arts of their country can add interest and variety to many school occasions. Their different religious customs, dress and food can provide most useful and immediate material for the inculcation of at least some measure of international understanding."

Doubt and distrust are inevitable when races with different backgrounds and social levels are thrown together. The clash has been intensified on both sides by those who have reacted badly. The immigrants are conscious of ill-will. In search of accommodation and in public houses they are refused because of colour. They find signs at work reading "Get out, nigger." They themselves may sometimes be seen responsible for estrangement. For instance, it is natural that they wish to live with their own, but ill-will they encounter drives some to resist integration with the people to whom they have come.

There are difficulties, yet there is hope. Problems can only be solved with goodwill, co-operation and a record of common humanity. It is understandable that some of the things immigrants do which incur the displeasure of the public, is a defiance reflecting their frustration, and partly an effort to drown their feelings of home-sickness. Increasing the frustration by, say, preventing the arrival of relatives, will only aggravate the problem.

Prejudiced parents

The next generation of immigrants should be, and must be, integrated. Children have no natural feelings of racial or colour difference. As infants, toddlers, juniors, they mix, play and learn together; white, brown and black, without any reaction of distinction of superiority or inferiority. Racial prejudice only begins, and this is limited to a few, as boys and girls come under the influence of prejudiced parents.

The British have a moral obligation to remove the conditions of poverty in the Commonwealth, which impel immigrants here. This should not be a matter of paternal charity. In fact, the needs of Britain and the Commonwealth peoples are complementary. Their urgent requirement is the provision of capital goods, and Britain's economic development largely depends on demands for capital goods to maintain the engineering industry.

She still requires raw materials from the Commonwealth (tea, coffee, etc.). This can be verified by close examination of things used in everyday life. It is not for me to go into economics, but it should not be beyond the wit of man to resolve this problem of complementary need.

Once admit race as a factor, and one repudiates the basic principles of the integrated world, and denies the human family. One then accepts the deplorable doctrines that there is some difference in personal quality between white, olive, yellow, brown and black, that the pigment of a person's skin decides the worth of his personality that physical is more important than spiritual.

YOUNG BUMLEY

Mike Hartley Brewer M.P., P.M.

SELF-CONFESSED genius, Mr. Mike Hartley-Brewer, after wasting too many of his precious years in this institution, has broken into a new field of conquest. He is prospective Labour candidate for the Selly Oak parliamentary Division. His powerful personality, striking good looks, brilliant intelligence, and aristocratic name should help a great deal in the election campaign, although knowing the gentleman he

might open his mouth and ruin all his chances. But winning is not essential to him. If he conducts a good campaign, and makes a good impression, then he will be offered a safer seat next time. But after he is elected, then what will he do? Such boundless ambition is never content. Reliable sources are certain that his ultimate ambition is to be Prime Minister, no less. My country, how I weep for you!

There's a speck in your eye, brother

Corpse-like Charles Wright, famed for his wit and talent, and once referred to as President of the Guild, decided last week to do something to justify his sabbatical year. He got in touch with a store in town to ask about vac. jobs. "Yes, we'll employ students." What about coloured students? "Yes, we'll take five per cent." "Five per cent!" he stormed to his cronies

later. "Fascists!" he shouted, until Martin Lowe pointed out that five per cent was really quite good, when one considers that the Union employs no coloured labour at all. The face of the great man turned a delicate shade of death, as he admitted his faults. Ah, in my young days we were right to appreciate the value of confession of our sins.

Advice for unmarried mothers

The most sought-after, but best-hidden, institution in Birmingham, the Brook Centre, which gives advice and prescriptions for contraceptive pills to unmarried people (such as students) has changed its address. From Fiveways it has moved to 7 York Road, Edgbaston, an out of the way site but easy to reach.

Follow the Hagley Road away from town, and then go up

Portland Road, which is the third turning on the right after the Ivy Bush. York Road is the first turning on the left from Portland Road.

The situation is very handy for certain students who live opposite, namely the Carnival Chairman, the Editor of "Wall," the Chairman of the Flat Earth Society, and Young Bumley himself.

Demonstration fiasco

The anti-Powell demonstration last Wednesday was a strange affair. Officially a simply anti-racialist expression, it developed, with active encouragement from the Guild President, into an anti-capitalist march. Banners were mass-produced, bearing legends such as "Black and White Workers Unite," "Class War not Race War," and facile scribbles depicting black and white workers killing little men in

top hats. If the Communist and Socialist societies are prepared to use such issues as race to further their own ends, then their much-vaunted principles on these issues would appear to be nothing more than fabricated conveniences.

Perhaps the best comment on the demonstration came from a coloured man in town, who was watching. He turned to his companion, and said: "Bloody students again!"

Bumley

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MANPOWER

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The Child Care Service, including residential posts such as those in approved schools, offers careers for men and women who are satisfying and worthwhile. It should appeal particularly to those who are looking for a career in which their concern for children can be expressed in a service of considerable importance to the community.

Child Care Officers, most of whom are employed in the children's departments of local authorities, are appointed for the purpose of helping families who are encountering difficult circumstances in order that the children may continue to live at home; when this does not prove possible they ensure that individual plans are made for the care of the children and try by advice, guidance and assistance to strengthen family life. They make enquiries whenever a local authority receives information suggesting a child is in need of care or protection and if it is impossible for them to remain at home make arrangements for placing them either in a foster home or in a children's home as may seem best in each particular case.

Training Courses qualifying for the work of a child care officer are provided at a number of universities including this one. These include post-graduate general courses, social casework and special courses in child care. For the one-year courses beginning in October each year most university qualifications in social science are a sufficient academic qualification. There are courses of seventeen months and two years specially designed for graduates in subjects other than social science. More applications from men would be welcomed.

The minimum salary on appointment by a local authority as a child care officer after training is £1,000 rising to £1,435. There are opportunities for advancement beyond this point.

Housemasters and Housemistresses are required for challenging work in APPROVED SCHOOLS. The primary concern of these staff is the welfare, social, educational and leisure activities of the boys and girls in their charge. Graduates are eligible for appointment on scales rising to £1,510. There are also opportunities for QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTORS in a wide range of subjects. Graduates can apply, after suitable experience, for one-year university courses of training to improve their qualification for posts in approved schools.

Write to Secretary, Central Training Council in Child Care, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London S.W.1. (Y2)

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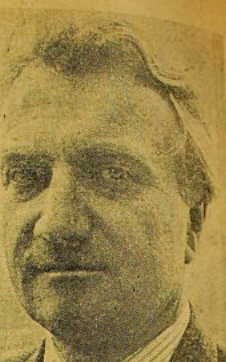
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How I loved to stop learning and worry

by Phil Irving



MR. WANKOWSKI
 (Photo: Graham Sharples)

HAND in hand with the impending summer exams comes the annual crop of worries, fear of failure, and the odd nervous breakdown or two. The nervous breakdowns are possibly the lucky ones—they can always resit, but every year brings its quota of failures and dropouts. Whether students leave willingly or unwillingly, the ten per cent wastage rate at this University is too high for the comfort of anyone concerned in higher education.

Paradoxically though, most of us actually like exams—60 per cent in fact—and we would become very worried indeed if some other method of assessment were to be suddenly used.

An investigation of the wastage rate at Birmingham University is being carried out by Mr. Wankowski, an educational psychologist, based on a survey of most of the students on the campus over the past three years. An interim report is soon to be published containing the results so far.

Most students on the campus, according to the survey, have some goal in mind when they obtain a degree—whether it is purely for their own satisfaction, or whether they have some goal on the other side of a degree—a specific job for instance. Students not possessing this goal, who in addition feel that they did not want to come to university in the first place, but were pushed into it, are likely to start losing interest in their work. Consequently they find difficulty with their work, become liable to fail exams and are finally thrown out.

Most students like the exams because this is something that they are good at; something they have been used to all their lives, a remnant of the school system in a strange university environment.

At school, students are always pushed, and made to feel that they are something different—an intellectual elite. On arrival at university, suddenly, there is no-one to push, and they react in

a number of ways. Most find their feet in a few weeks—especially if they have the "Goal" requirement, and manage to balance academic work with their life at school.

Others decide that they did not really want to come to university in the first place, and devote themselves solely to the social life. In this case they are likely to become dropouts, leaving the university with no regrets. Finally there are some who are caught between the two extremes, cannot work without being pushed, also unable or unwilling to socialise; usually they become very depressed, eventually leaving the university very unhappy.

There is very little correlation between G.C.E. results and the students who fail; demonstrating one more the vagaries of the examinations system.

The exception here was a small group of students who took part in the survey, having a wide range of A-level subjects. The students all did exceptionally well in their finals, and Mr. Wankowski concludes that if school sixth forms gave a broader education to potential students, then the standard of degrees would be improved, and the dropout rate possibly lowered.

Inter-departmental personality differences have been surprisingly revealed by the survey. Female biologists, it seems, are among the most stable students on the campus. Mechanical engineers tend to be rather introverted compared with the rest of the engineering faculty who tend to be extroverted.

The main introverts are the ideas men and theoreticians—Maths, Philosophy, Theology. Mr. Wankowski feels that there should be differences in teaching methods to allow for these differences of temperament in various departments. But on the whole university life tends to favour the introverts, as they can put up with more in a new and strange environment.

He does not see himself as trying to change the system of university admissions, but rather to help both students and lecturers in their work at the university, and hence try to reduce the wastage rate.

Ents Comm — new ideas for summer

THIS Saturday's "Fiesta," 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in Deb Hall, will be the first large-scale try-out of Ents. Comm's new policy for Union events. Instead of having dances featuring big-name groups, at which the scope for enjoyment is necessarily limited, and which people tend to avoid due to the high cost of tickets, the emphasis is to be placed on producing a varied, cheap programme with a higher entertainment value, with the price of tickets kept to a minimum.

The Fiesta, organised by Ents. Comm. on behalf of the newly-formed International Club (of which every Union-card holder is a member) will include a cabaret featuring a world-famous team of limbo-dancers, a steel band, and several other attractions. There will be a bar extension till midnight, and a coffee-bar extension until 11 p.m. The usual discotheque will be moved to Priestley Hall if numbers warrant the opening of another room; it is hoped to make a profit from Fiesta, as only about six hundred ticket sales are needed to break even.

On the worrying problem of spending large sums of money on well-known groups with no guarantee of making a profit, a member of Ents. Comm. said: "The fact that Mason Hall lost so much last Friday on the coffee-bar extension reinforces our theory that it is not wise to have an expensive function in the first week of any term—last term we had a similar experience with the Troops dance, which made a large loss."

With the next major Ents. Comm. function, there is a problem—Tyrannosaurus Rex and B.B.C.1 "Top Gear" disc-jockey John Peel have been booked for June 15th, but because the nature of the act, which will probably include read-

ings of modern poetry, it is unlikely that it will be treated as a normal dance. It may be presented as a concert in the Refectory, but nothing has been decided definitely yet.

Ents. Comm's most ambitious scheme this term is to take place during the week after exams, June 15th-22nd, when it is hoped to have a whole week of entertainment, with something different happening every day—jazz, folk, poetry, fashion shows, films—but here also the plans have not yet been finalised, and so any ideas or offers of help will be welcomed by the committee.

The Sunday Flies will continue until the end of term, and include "Dr. No," "Lord of the Flies," "Becket," and "Family Way." The flies, together with discotheques, are the biggest money-makers and form most of the anticipated profit of £200 which Ents. Comm. will be making this year. These events require virtually no outlay, and so all income is pure profit.

Entertainments Programmes can be obtained from the Union reception desk, or from Ents. Comm. office.

THIS TERM'S DEBATES

Tomorrow: "THIS HOUSE WOULD LEGALISE CANNABIS"

Proposing: Jerome Liss (from the Anti-university, London)

Cindy Ashworth (Treasurer, Deb Soc)

Opposing: Hilary Belden (Moral Rearmament)

Perry Christie (Chairman, Deb Soc)

Next week:

DEBATE ON IMMIGRATION

motion and speakers as yet undecided

BOTH AT 5.15 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

Union T.V. service not far away

by Kate Taylor

RAY PHILLIPS, next year's President, is intending to start the closed-circuit television scheme into full operation for the beginning of next term. This enterprise would initially involve one half-hourly programme per week, covering up-to-date news of Guild happenings, debates, interviews with lecturers and students and other documentaries of interest to the University.

Mr. Phillips claims, will be a complement "Redbrick," by presenting opinions, on-the-spot reports in full drama, and devalued reports formerly covered by brief by "Redbrick."

Due to lack of financial backing the scheme has been in hibernation for the past two years and has been far unheard of by the majority of students. However, Dr. Whitaker, University Television Officer, has helped to develop ideas technically and is now keen to stir up student enthusiasm.

He is arranging for a temporary line to link the Department to the Union Educational Centre studio in the Educational Department should be completed by the end of the summer vacation.

Whitaker himself is prepared to help students to put together programmes during the first four weeks—the experimental period. With the fairly primitive equipment available, the running cost of the scheme has been worked out at 7p per programme. However, if the series is a success there will be Council motion to set aside more money for a permanent T.V. set.

It is hoped that ultimately, by the 70's, the scheme will be an extensive and much more ambitious service, with lines linking the Educational Department, the Medical School, the Refectory, as well as the Physics Department and the Union. The launching ground for the scheme will be the Students' Conference, presenting background to the university, people with interviews. After that, therefore, a number of enthusiastic students with technical, artistic or administrative ambitions will be required to put together a programme, training intensively so that within a year they will be competent enough to run one on their own.

There will be an open meeting on May 11th at 1.15 p.m. in the Education Department to discuss this scheme.

Enoch Powell and Conservative students

TONY PAGE, ex-Vice-Chairman of BUCUA failed in his attempt to be elected Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students at the Annual Conference over the weekend. Earlier he had succeeded in getting a motion passed concerning the Government's recent Commonwealth Immigration Act.

On the first day of the conference Enoch Powell addressed the conference and was applauded for his encouragement for students in particular not to be afraid to be the first people to challenge a view; he should not, he said, be ashamed to be like the boy in the poem who dared to say "The Emperor has no clothes." This tempts one to surmise that he had been planning his Birmingham speech for some weeks in advance, and it was no sudden outburst.

On the following morning Enoch Powell received a distinctly warm reception; in fact, it was surprising how strong the right wing of the party was at this conference. The Monday Club proved an effective pressure group, and estimates of feelings at the conference put right wing strength at 40 per cent or more.

University and the alienated society

by Trevor Blackwell

New Left Discussion Group.

provided he doesn't question the rules of the of-course-so-disinterested academic game.

He is able to shape his own destiny within certain limits. Provided he knows his place he may even be "consulted" by his Vice-Chancellor. Provided, of course, he doesn't want to actually radically alter what he is being taught, or the way in which he is being taught it. Or want to question, perhaps, the objectivity and precise function of the examination system. Or walk through the permanently locked "link doors" between Refectory and Staff House.

About a term and a half ago a group of students and staff, drawn mainly from the Arts departments, whose experience

of this university had seemed in important ways limited and frustrating, began to meet to discuss that experience in the hope that a clear description would lead to greater clarity and more effective action. It was a difficult and fragmented discussion, but it soon became clear that, what had before seemed to be personal disabilities and limitations, could be seen to be conflicts and limitations held and transmitted by the university structures in which we worked and lived.

We then began to look at those structures and interconnections. We talked about departments, admissions, grants, housing. We tried to place our experience of these in relationship to wider social develop-

ments, such as Hippies and student power groups.

Tomorrow's issue of "Mermaid" will carry articles drawing on these discussions drafted by individuals, but discussed and worked through by the group. We are conscious of the limitations of these articles.

They don't pretend to make anything more than first attempts to describe and thus to change our own immediate experience and environment. What we want to do now is to contact students and staff who share our sense of frustration and feel that the descriptions offered could be the beginning of useful discussions and action.

We therefore intend to hold an informal meeting next Tuesday, May 14th, at 7.30, in the Union Discussion Room 1, at which we would like to meet any students and staff who want to talk to us about the kind of analysis "Mermaid" attempts.

For some time we have talked to ourselves in order to better understand what we were saying. In "Mermaid" we have tried to open up a dialogue. We look for a response.

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FASHION

HEATHER WILMAN

To see or not to see . . .

AS the fashion world looks optimistically towards summer, the "to see or not to see" controversy no longer centres on the mini versus maxi in hem-lines, but on the see-through dress or blouse. Essentially, however, the designers and publicists who now urge us to display our bosoms to the world at large, veiled by a flimsy covering of chiffon or organza, are merely carrying to a more outrageous and blatantly sexual logical conclusion the implications of the maxi and the 30's look, with their accompaniments of extravagantly curled hair and lush red lips.

After the Twiggy era which stressed the equality of the sexes—freedom of movement in mini-skirts or hipster trousers, and low-heeled shoes, flat chests, the sin qua non of models girls, close, cropped short, or straight long hair—the voluptuous, womanly woman is now the ideal. The

ubiquitous sheer black stockings of last season, always, outside the spheres of nursing and the police force, the ultimate symbol of sexuality in dress, exemplified the new trend.

But before the bolder among us rush to bare our bosoms in a dramatic assertion of our femininity, it is perhaps advisable to consider the wisdom—and probable effect—of such a move. The horrors in the name of legs which the mini-skirt revealed should be remembered in the new context, and bosoms exceeding 35in. remain supported and discreetly covered.

It is probably unnecessary to suggest that the professor who has become accustomed to lecturing to vast areas of exposed thighs might take less kindly to rows of quivering breasts, and that the "see-through" look, if worn at all, should be reserved for evening wear when one is sure of one's audience.

A final word on the subject must be a personal view, supported to some extent by masculine opinion, that, in dressing in order to be provocatively sexy, suggestion is always more effective, more alluring, than total revelation. The maxi-skirt with the frilled opaque blouse or the plunging neckline is a more feminine look than the rather aggressive measure of transparency. In any case, English summers are not all that hot, central heating cannot always be relied upon, and goose-bumps are never attractive. But let there be no half-measures—the body stocking is the most asexual article of clothing ever invented.

FILMS

ROBERTA PLUTZIK

You've got to give a little

TWO of the year's most acclaimed films happen upon Birmingham this week—one, an Academy Award winner, the other, the Venice Film Festival choice; two valid excuses for exam, unpreparedness.

Guess Whos Coming to Dinner? questionably aided by the theme song, "The Glory of Love," tried to prove the foolishness of racial prejudice and the possibility of beauty in an inter-racial affair. The lyrics cox: "You've got to give a little," as proclaimed liberal parents wrestle with a daughter who had gone so far as to confuse tolerance with romance.

Spencer Tracy, in his last role, urges the lovers either to ignore or feel sorry for intolerance, to cling tightly to each other and say, "Screw to all these people." The viewer is relieved and gladdened at this final confrontation with personal conviction and by Tracy's warm and concerned performance. Most admirable is Katherine Hep-

burn, named Best Actress by the Academy. These are beautiful tears, precious expressions of sadness and gaiety on a strong and still majestic face. Sidney Poitier is Sidney Poitier is Sidney Poitier . . . Katherine Houghton, as the daughter, rarely displayed perception of character, and one wishes the call from her father to "shut up" in the last scene could have been expressed earlier.

"Guess Whos Coming to Dinner" often suffers from triteness among serious intent, but deserves viewing because it represents a new advance in cinematic acceptability. **Belle de Jour**, at the Scala, is a psychological drama troublesome in its realistic possibilities. A young woman cannot find satisfaction with her husband, she is plagued by dreams of sadistic wish-fulfilment, and finally quenches her restlessness in the brothel.

The film weaves in and out of the dreamworld, and it is in these distant, transcendental scenes that the established creativity of Luis Bunuel is commendable. Unlike "Un Homme et Une Femme," which made a castle of romance, "Belle de Jour" makes its points with stark brutality.

Following this extended run will be Olivier's "Henry V," "Blow-up," "A Man for all Seasons" and, on June 12th only, "The Life of Mozart."

Film Soc presents "La Guerre Est Fini" tomorrow, and a Lauree film at 2.00 today in Council Chamber.

Cinema concession for students

From now on, students will be admitted to the Scala Superama, Smallbrook Ringway, to matinee performances (except on Sundays, Saturdays and Bank Holidays) at a special rate of 5s. (to the 10s. seats) on production of their Union card.

The Scala is showing until May 18th Bunuel's "Belle de Jour"; other films in the summer programme include Olivier's "Henry V," "Blow Up," "El Cid," "A Man for all Seasons," and "Dr. Zhivago."

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Spencer Tracy—his last role in "Guess who's coming to dinner."

BOOKS

PETE ULLATHORNE

ALAN MUNTON

Challenge to Europe

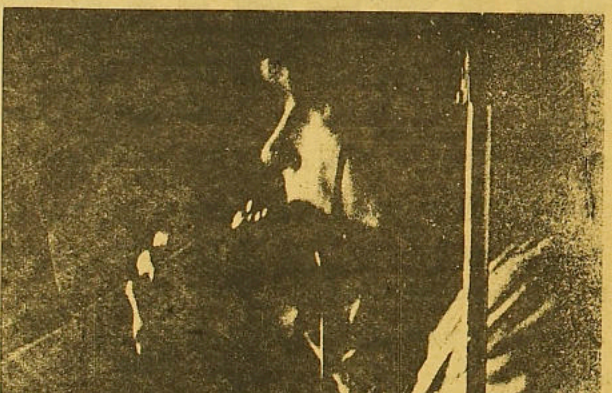
AFTER THE COMMON MARKET by Douglas Jay (Penguin Special, 4/-).

PERHAPS the most important point in Douglas Jay's new book is his challenging of the concept of "Europe." He questions the validity of the supposition that the continent of Europe can be considered as a whole, with all its different nationalities, languages and customs. Is Britain part of the Continent? To many people it is alien as Africa or Asia. We have far more in common, Jay

Revolutionary masterpiece

REVOLUTION IN THE REVOLUTION? by Regis Debray. (Penguin, 3/6).

ONE of the most appalling mistakes made by Oz magazine was to publish a poster which idolised the revolutionary fighter Che Guevara—and spelt his name wrongly! It showed up the irrelevance of the soft-fingered N.W.I. revolutionary, who knows he is un-



Member of the Herd at Friday's Mason Hall dance.

(Photo: Ian Salmon)

Film Soc

present
"LA GUERRE EST FINIE"

Directed by Alain Resnais

TOMORROW - 7.30
HAWORTH

argues, with Canada, U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand, even with India, than with Europe, especially with regard to culture, language and literature.

What is the European Economic Community? Jay states that it is an organisation founded on two main principles: an undemocratic bureaucratic Commission and a protective system of agricultural levies. The Commission, composed of 6,000 personnel, who are servants of no nation, and responsible to no legislative or democratic body, issues regulations which immediately become binding on member nations. The "Common Agricultural Policy" as it is known, consists of imposing tariffs on imported food, thus creating high prices within the community; the money raised in tariffs going to the Commission, not the individual governments.

Finally, Jay does not only present an acid attack on the Common Market, he presents the alternative of a North Atlantic Free Trade Area, based on the startling success of E.F.T.A. This extension of Free Trade areas would, he says, provide a practical alternative to the E.E.C.

likely ever to be fighting a guerrilla war in the Home Counties.

Régis Debray here presents with brilliant conciseness the theory and practice of guerrilla warfare; that its political line should always include a practical way of destroying the capitalist state; that this should be seen in historical terms, not Trotskyist fiddle; that in practice, a guerrilla army depends on mobility and flexibility, and should be built up in secret, not in public, as the Trots would have it done; that the cities are dangerous and should not be entered until the very end; and that the revolutionary leader is precious—hence the disaster of the death of Che Guevara.

Debray emphasises that no revolutionary war can be carried out in terms of a previous one: the Vietnamese experience is irrelevant to the Cuban experience, and the Bolivian. There will be confusion and mistakes at first, but from the tactics, a broad and effective strategy finally emerges.

All this is not irrelevant to Europe. We shall not be fighting revolutionary wars here, but what we desperately need, particularly in Britain at the moment, is a tough, intelligent and revolutionary analysis of our political condition (something that the romantic idealists of Oz and IT will never give us).

Debray is the product of the rigorous French educational system, and he is able to combine philosophical, political and military arguments in urging the revolutionising of the world's revolutionaries. We ought to learn how he does it, even if we won't be carrying guns ourselves. There's an application in the Universities, for a start.

UNIVERSITY HOUSE - June 14th

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Kath Barclay (Biology II), University House.

THEATRE

GLEN BURROWS

Unique isolation

EVEN Charles Lamb would have been impressed with the "contemplative machinery" with which they mimic the storm in the current R.S.C. production of "King Lear," directed by Trevor Nunn at Stratford. The stage is bare, grey, dusty, and Lear and Cordelia are isolated in their passion to great effect.

The play opens upon a Golden Age—a glittering court—Lear is a dominant figure, Eric Porter, nevertheless, lacks the brusqueness of Cordelia. Goneril and Regan to the fore, Trevor Nunn has substituted the hackneyed theme of the daughters' expression of final affection, for the important theme of Lear's repudiation—which is the first stage in his decline to the beggar—the lowest form of humanity.

Eric Porter is a glittering star behind the tumult of Lear's madness. His curse on Goneril and Regan is horrifying, and his soliloquies pitiable—but this is more than that should be.

Goneril and Regan were terrific—hard, glittering and callous Cordelia is a boring, weakly soul, and any actress with the misfortune to be cast in that deadly role can only make the best of it.

I don't understand why Lear's real tragedy lies—unless it is his unique isolation. As so often, the play is semi-inclined to identify with Lear rather than suffering Lear's way is no-one else's way—his military lack of reason alienates him and he descends and ascends again as a solitary.

Reputation resurrected

"MERMAID" has been a dead duck for so long, that it's surprising to see it finally get up and waddle around. One of the very few traditions of Birmingham University has been that of not buying "Mermaid." I never thought I'd say this, but it would be a pity if people didn't buy and read this issue; it has a worthwhile purpose and deserves an audience.

I could start by saying that the cover is awful, and that the design is sometimes curiously inept. But "Mermaid" has never sold on its presentation (or on anything else, for that matter). In this case the layout, and especially the choice and variety of type faces, are on the whole very good indeed. The cartoons and photographs are excellent.

The fact is that this "Mermaid" makes a competent job of disseminating something patently bad: the university as it is. But the very processes of production and sale of this issue provide a far more damning indictment of the whole system.

I recommend that you buy two copies. Put one away (after you've read it) and watch what happens to the "system" in the next year. See how Jonathan Gairdner's little help here to understand what's like here. The middle-class parents who have (vicariously) flung their children to university must be disillusioned, and discover why their precious offsprings are cracking up all over the place. "Mermaid" is on sale tomorrow.

SPORT

Athletics: B'ham v AAA-Cricket-Tennis-Soccer

Athletics

A.A.A. HONOUR B'HAM ATHLETES

20 Internationals in BUAC v AAA

AT 5.45 p.m. tonight, the Birmingham University athletes, past and present, will compete on the University track for the second time against an A.A.A. team. The A.A.A.'s selection will include fourteen internationals, the Birmingham team six.

It is a great honour that the University has once again been awarded a fixture of such importance. The event will be financed by the Athletics Club through the sale of souvenir programmes (price 2/-).

Most people are aware of Birmingham's advance to the athletics forefront during recent years. The present array of talent is mainly the University's finest men. Dedicated training and wholehearted performances have produced very encouraging early season results. A depleted team due to the R.A.F. on Saturday only because the baton was dropped during the 4 x 110 yards relay race.

TRACK STARS

The Birmingham team has many established stars and some brilliant freshmen. Ralph Banthorpe, Birmingham's freshman—dentist, sprinter, and a British international, will run in the 100 and 440 yards and possibly also in the 220 yards which he has held the world's fastest time indoors. Ralph has had an inspiring effect on our sprinters, especially Geoff Silman (Law I).

Bob Morrod, who was impaired by injury last season, has had an excellent indoor season. A recent injury has affected his outdoor performances but on Saturday he proved that he still retains his speed and determination over the hurdles. He could win the 120 and 220 hurdles, though Jim Gathard (Dentistry III) will not be far behind.

Roger Richardson (Met. Res.) the club captain, improved his best time for the 440 hurdles by 11 seconds on Saturday and he could lower the club record to 1.44 tonight.

Peter Miller (Hist. III), the University 880 yards record holder, seems certain to run a personal best and Jim Aukett, freshman dentist, should not be far behind him. A fast time is assured in this race, since John Boulter, the British record holder, will run as a guest and international J. Davis and Walter Wilkinson will be eager to establish themselves as Olympic Games probabilities.

Robin Davies (Geog. II) has run four mins. fourteen secs. for the mile. Tonight he is determined to break Jonathan Gairdner's club record (four mins. 11 secs.) and he should come close.

Dai Davies (Chem. Ph.D., now returning in London), a Welsh international in the steeplechase, and Dave Norman (Phys. Ed., Italian Graduate) now at rough-borough should provide excellent competition for John Jackson in the 3,000 metres steeplechase. Howard Payne (Phys. Ed. Lecturer, Commonwealth Games Hammer Champion, should win the hammer this year. His tussle with P. Seddon was the highlight of last year's match. Peter Aston (formerly Chemistry) is throwing better than ever and Birmingham

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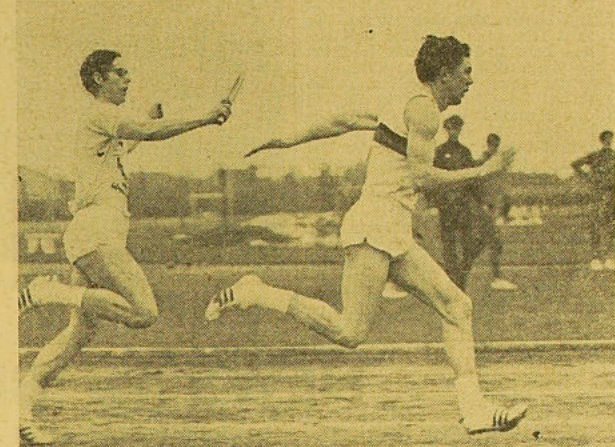
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TONIGHT ON RUNNING TRACK



Ralph Banthorpe handing over to Dave Parsons in the 4 x 110 yards relay.

Cricket

Pacemen bridge gap

THE Cricket Club had a very pleasing turn-out for their pre-season trials. Several promising medium pace bowlers were discovered, to fill the gap left in last year's side. Over the weekend, in its first games, the University 1st XI beat A.E.I. (Rugby) by seven wickets and then lost to the very strong Birmingham League side, Mitchells & Butlers, by a similar margin.

A poor A.E.I. side were bowled out for 79. P. Gilchrist taking four for 22, and Truscott showed prowess as a fast bowler in his first game. The University had no trouble in beating this score with the loss of only three wickets. M. & B., on the other hand,

Soccer

Double for Penncroft

Birmingham Utd. 1st XI 0, Penncroft 2.

IN the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup, during the Easter vac., Penncroft F.C. completed the double over the University Soccer Club, by beating the 1st XI 2-0. Last term they defeated the 2nd XI in the Junior Cup final.

The Easter game was very disappointing for the 1st XI. They came out of the game with no credit at all, except for goalkeeper Greg Walker. He turned in a great display to keep down the score.

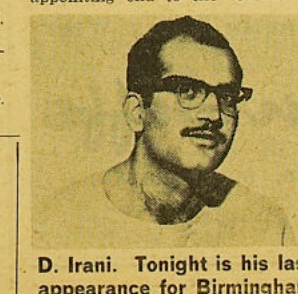
As for the rest of the team, they tried hard enough but not having played together for a month, they could find no rhythm. Everyone was out of touch particularly in attack.

The only time Birmingham looked like scoring was when Dave Rosbrook moved forward, during the last 20 minutes. He caused the Penncroft a great deal of trouble, mainly physical and was booked, eventually, for arguing with the referee. Indeed, the referee seemed very concerned with protecting his ears from criticism.

It was on the whole, a disappointing end to the season.

All the other matches on the tour against Woodstock L.T.C., Taunton, St. Luke's College, Exeter, Exmouth L.T.C. and Exeter Univ. were won 6-3. It is the first time that the club has won all its matches on the Easter tour. All the team gained from the practice on the wooden court in the Sports Centre in the winter.

Just as the first team is looking forward to a successful season, once it gets over injuries to two of its players the second team, led by Vic Polley, shows a lot of promise and enthusiasm.



D. Irani. Tonight is his last appearance for Birmingham.

Canoeing

B.U.S.F. SLALOM WASHED OUT

DESPITE changing its name to the Kayak Club to avoid initial confusion with University cricketers, the University Canoe Club plans an active summer term, with the warmer weather adding an attraction lost by the proximity of exams.

Since last term much has happened, though not all was successful. In fact, the B.U.S.F. Slalom championships, which the Birmingham Club organised was literally a wash-out. Rain began almost as soon as the course had been put up on Friday, and by Saturday morning the outlook was very, very wet.

Impossible

A white-water race was held in the morning successfully, but slalom was impossible after lunch and it was with considerable regret that the main competition had to be cancelled. It was however the only possible course as already the camp site was affixed, many tents were ruined by high winds driving the rain, and generally all were glad to leave Wales to the Welsh.

Over Easter weekend a University team did well to come fifth at a Slalom in Scotland. Some good individual runs were recorded, though John Rutherford is still trying for his first win. And at the end of the vac. the team captain, Richard Prince, travelled to Monmouth to compete as a British Team member in his first international competition, recognition he has trained hard to achieve.

New boat

Finally, the University has broken into L.D. racing at last; two medals finished the gruelling 120-mile Devizes to Westminster race in an old canvas canoe most people would dismiss as a coal scuttle, a mere 52 hours after starting, and 32 hours after the winning army team. But they finished, and less than half the starters can fairly claim that. If the club can afford it, they hope to purchase a racing boat so that these two lads, and any others who may wish to join them, can really have a go at the arduous sport of long-distance canoeing.

SHORT SPORT

Queen's College, the Postgraduate hall, have been fielding a team in the Central Birmingham Alliance, with mixed success. They lie about fourth in the league but have reached the final of the Div. II knock-out competition under the leadership of Richard Ledger.

The men's Badminton team have failed by five rubbers to win the Birmingham League Div. I. This is largely because of the unnecessary loss of rubbers early in the season and an away defeat to champions Junior Birmingham.

Mermaids A.F.C. have faded a little in their bid to gain promotion from Div. II of the Birmingham League. Although since the vacation they have held the top two teams to draws, this will only be good enough to give them third or fourth place.

The Rugby Club tour in France was not as successful as in previous years from the playing point of view. They narrowly lost all three hard-fought matches.

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University House wants to be alone

THE system of central administration of the halls of residence, particularly on the Vale Site, comes in for severe criticism in a report produced by University House J.C.R.

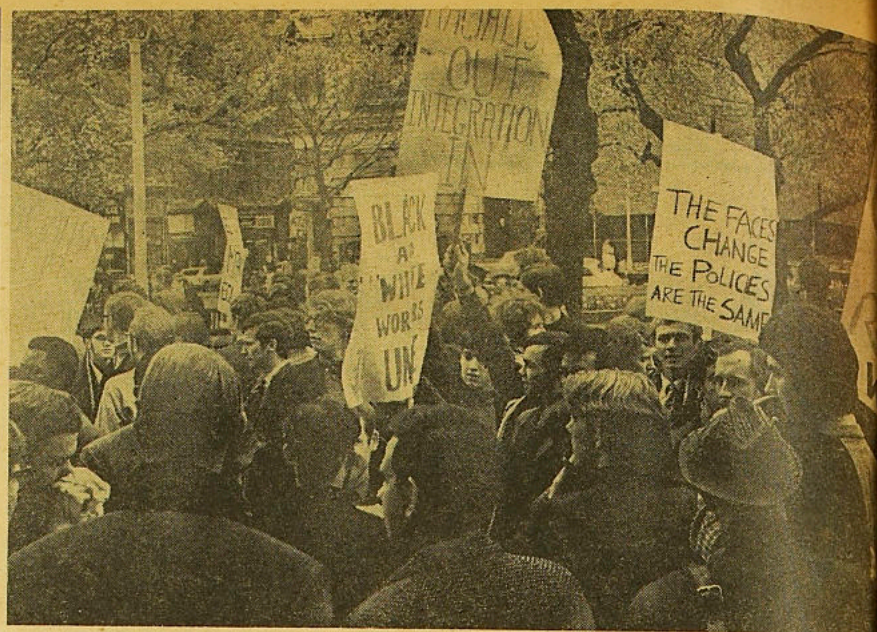
University House is at present outside the Halls Central Administration system, but it was felt that attempts might be made on the resignation of the present warden, Mrs. Friend, to incorporate University House in the H.C.A. A commission of hall members was set up to examine the advantages and disadvantages of union with the other halls.

Relationships between J.C.R.s and S.C.R.s, the report found, are "tenuous if not completely nebulous" on the Vale Site. The phrase "Junior Common Room autonomy" is virtually meaningless not only on the Vale, but also in Chancellors and Manor, where relationships are otherwise much more

successfully developed; even minor decisions of the J.C.R.s have to be ratified by the Central Administration.

The lack of liaison in the Vale Halls is contrasted with the extremely close integration of the two common rooms at Chancellors and Manor. This dichotomy stems, it is felt, from the fact that the new halls had no strong tradition of integration as a working base before being absorbed into the H.C.A. "The feeling of helping to run a community is lost when it is quite clear that the hall is controlled in the end by the Central Administration and not by the community as a whole." The importance of J.C.R./S.C.R. meetings has vanished, and as a result, the complete integration of the community, which is so desirable, is lost.

Needless to say, the report concludes that University House should retain its present system of administration.



Demonstrators from Birmingham and Aston at the meeting in the centre of town last Wednesday.

(Photo: Ian Salmons)

Specialisation in the University

ONLY about 50 people attended the conference on specialisation in the Union on Sunday.

The conference began with the Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Gaskin, the headmaster of Mosely Grammar School, discussing ways of broadening the sixth form curriculum, the latter expressing doubts about the Vice-Chancellor's Committee's proposals of four or five subjects in the sixth form. While attacking over-specialisation he believed that five subjects would create teaching difficulties by not allowing teachers to digress from set syllabuses.

In the second session Professor Allanson gave an incisive analysis of specialisation, distinguishing three elements in courses: subject matter, skills and attitudes. Charles Critcher (Comb. Subj.) attacked the training of Graduates, critical only within the limits laid down by industry.

The last session developed into a prolonged debate between Professor Tobias and students present. Professor Tobias defended a pragmatic approach to engineering education, giving the engineer a basic technical competence and a general knowledge of the most important aspects of society. Other abilities were of course important for the engineer in his roles as "citizen, friend, father and lover." He attacked English literature as being a far more specialised course than engineering.

Professor Tobias justified the present teaching load in engineering saying that students do not use extra time to "sit and think" and blaming lack of motivation on inadequate school teaching.

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JOHN PALMER SACKED —late news

Last night in Council, John Palmer was voted off Refectory Committee in his absence, after failing to attend two meetings. The excuses he offered were considered inadequate and caused "considerable stir." Charles Wright was elected in his place.

University Challenge

The Birmingham University Challenge team of Dick Holt, Colin Gilthorpe, Roger Hird and Martha Jenkins has already won three games, and is now through to the semi-finals. The first match, against Somerville College, Oxford, will be televised a week today at 10.30 p.m.

Publications elections

Dave Entwistle and Pete Leech were last night elected editors of "Wall" and "Mermaid" respectively.

N.U.S. flats

People getting rid of flats this summer and wishing to pass them on to other students are asked to get in touch with Freda Walbridge at N.U.S. Office. The aim is to compile a list of suitable accommodation with indications as to the standard of each flat.

Massive loss on Mason Hall Dance

The dance at Mason Hall last Friday, starring the Herd and Spooky Tooth, resulted in a loss to the Mason J.C.R. of £200. Factors contributing to the financial failure of the dance are thought to be mainly the price of the tickets (nine shillings), and "exam fever" among university and college students.

John White: Disciplinary proceedings

John White, the third-year Biochemist who was brought before the Guild Disciplinary Board last term after a fight in the Union, is to have his case heard again today at 5.15. The previous decision of the Board—to ban him from the Union till June—was quashed after it was decided that he did not have sufficient time to exercise his right of complaint about the composition of the Board.

Discontent over new Halls meal arrangements

Last week, a new system for meals in some of the Vale halls was inaugurated, under which students must take back their own crockery to the servery after meals. Students have already complained in Lake Hall, on the grounds that there was no previous consultation, and that the new regime has been announced as "permanent."

Libel Damages against Medic Professor

Professor Hugh McLaren, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Birmingham University, has been ordered to pay substantial libel damages to the editor of the weekly medical journal, "Medical Tribune," as a result of remarks Prof. McLaren made during an unscripted discussion on abortion on the "Frost Programme" in January, 1967.

Race Bill discussion

Today, at 2 p.m. in the Mixed Lounge, there will be a meeting to discuss the aftermath of the Race Relations Bill. Several speakers from outside the university will be taking part, including Maurice Ludmer and J. Joshi (who was one of those arrested in last Sunday's demonstration outside the Town Hall), both from the Co-ordinating Committee Against Racial Discrimination.

Guild Council elections

On Thursday, May 16th, Guild Council elections will be held to fill a total of thirty-one vacancies. Thirteen of the vacancies are for the present Council, which only meets three more times after the elections; the rest are mainly "Open Seat" vacancies for next session's Council.

Member of Representation Committee replies on "Student Role"

DEAR Sir,—The suggestion in your article last term, that any need for sit-ins or demonstrations is removed by "Student Role" is somewhat jumping the gun. In fact, the activity at Aston and Leicester came primarily as a result of the rejection by university authorities of memorandum from the student body. It seems unlikely that Birmingham authorities are going to be as tactless as those in other universities, but it is quite conceivable that some of the major proposals will not be accepted.

I am sure that 50 per cent or more of the original members

of the Commission on Representation, of which I was one, would consider that "Student Role" represents nothing more than a set of minimum demands, already compromised to the full. As a long-term perspective it falls short in a number of respects. For instance, the demand for student control of the refectory, which has now been supported by over 2,000 students and staff, is not included in the report.

Also, many of us thought that complete democratic residents' control of the Halls is the only acceptable long-term solution. The present generation of hall-

dwellers and hall presidents do not, as a whole, think in these terms, but in the near future students may well raise such demands. Nor has the question of the student rôle in departments been very deeply considered, with the vital question of student control over courses, as this was felt to be a matter for a large volume of grassroots initiative. (On this matter budding initiators would be well advised to consult the original research for the Commission, some of which was not included in the final report.)

Even given the acceptance of the recommendations, the situation is still in the experimental stage. The importance and weight that the student representatives can carry on the committee will depend on the stand taken by the student body—which may well have to be a militant one if the students are not to be absorbed into a phony consensus.

The appearance of "Student Role" marks only the beginning, not the end, of the process of democratisation of the University. **ROGER CLIPSHAM.**

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE. One hairpiece, dark brown, 16ins., £5.—Kathy Smoker via Union P.H.
REWARD offered to finder of original site for party.—Reply Box 007, Redbrick.

ASTRONOMICAL Society: Horatio Miles, Head of the Artificial Satellite Section of the British Astronomical Association, talks about artificial satellites in the Lecture Theatre, Physics Department, 5.15 p.m. Monday next.

WANTED: Self-contained flat, Moseley; summer vac.—Details to D. Sang via P.H.

NEWMAN Cath. Soc.: Peter Sellers "Only Two Can Play." Sunday, May 12th at 7.45.—29 Harrison Rd.

LATEST posters from London: Otis Redding, Jimi Hendrix, The Stones, Twiggy, Alf Garnet, each from Ents. Comm. 50p.

"SUNNY" and "Sitting in the Park" wanted: contact Sue James via Union P.H.

SHEET music with lyrics: pop, folk, dance band; i.e. everything suitable for club singing. To buy or borrow for the summer vac.—Contact Paddy Tibbels via Union P.H. or Mason Hall.

LOST: Navy blue file containing drama notes. Imperative for return—revision—10/- reward if returned to S. Ralph (Drama I).

TURKEY: Reading-Istanbul return £28 by minibus. Includes Channel crossing and two nights accommodation in Yugoslavia. 41 weeks leaving July 25th.—Liz Watts, 4 London Road, Reading, Berks.

30 PER CENT discount on wedding and engagement rings. Discount also on all other kinds of jewellery, watches, etc.; for introductory notes contact Rodney Watts via Union P.H. or department, Medical Biochemistry.

NATIONAL 3rd Div. Slalom and Open team event, May 18th/19th at Easby. Canoe Club for details.

PSYCHOLOGY Society presents talk on Witchcraft, tomorrow 6.30 in Committee Room 1.

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