

SLOWDOWN BY SENATE EXEC.

No. 753

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22nd, 1969

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Debsoc Elections Tonight

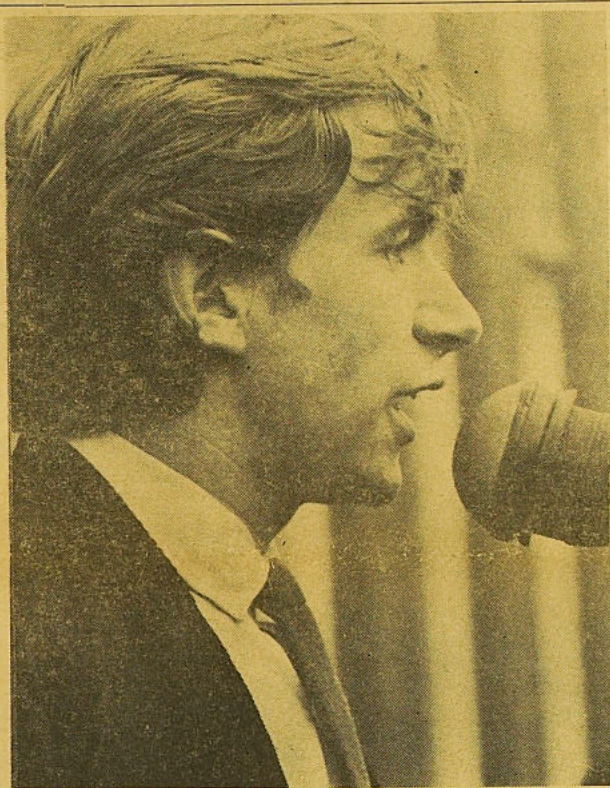
TONIGHT'S meeting of Deb. Soc. promises to be lively and entertaining when the business commences with the election of a new chairman. The vacancy has been caused by the resignation of Rhys Vaughan who stated on Monday that he wishes to devote much more time to his political activities. Aspiring to fill the post is Pete Jackson whose proposer feels that his candidate should be rewarded for his services to the society in the capacity of secretary. The other major contender is Gerald Hitman, who is being backed by Tony Page of the Conservative Association. Mr. Hitman bases his policy on the opinion that Deb. Soc. should be kept "a forum for debate rather than a political force in itself." He also condemns Pete Jackson for "wilfully bypassing Deb. Soc. Committees in his withdrawal of the invitation to Colin Jordan" despite the fact that he was not in sympathy with the original invitation. The proceedings will continue with a debate on the motion: "That all Capitalists should be shot, and stuffed in the British Museum as a monument to human folly." Proposing the motion will be Mr. John O'Rourke of the British Communist Party and opposing His Serene Highness Prince Michael Grusinski, Pretender to the throne of Georgia (Russia).

MAJOR BIAFRA TEACH-IN

THE Council Chamber should be the scene of a lively and important symposium on the Nigerian Civil War tomorrow afternoon, when prominent speakers will talk on various aspects of the conflict. The most prominent of these is Auberon Waugh, political correspondent of "The Spectator" who will speak on the British Government's policy towards the war; Waugh was responsible for the first public criticism of the British Government's involvement in the war.

The symposium, which is organised by International Club, will also provide a full and sociological and historical background to the present events, and a full explanation of the results of Biafran secession by Colin Legum of "The Observer" and Sam Uba of the "Birmingham Post".

After the individual speakers there will be a discussion between a panel of experts including lecturers from the Centre for West African Studies in the University, and both Biafran Nigerian students. The meeting starts at 4.30.



Ray Phillips at the meeting which finally ended the occupation.

Council doubts on Sit-in Bill

UNIVERSITY Council has recently presented a bill for £796 to the Guild to cover the cost of damage caused by the sit-in. The original estimate of damage was £4,650 but, according to the Registrar, the Finance and General Purposes Committee reduced this to £796 "as an act of clemency." Nevertheless, such minor items as missing ashtrays, tunic badges and "one medium-sized apple" have been included in the bill.

The major item in the bill is for £250 expenses attributable to extra cleaning. According to a senior member of the cleaning staff this may very well include the purchase of an automatic machine for cleaning the Great Hall floor. This machine is, however, useless except on a floor as large as that of the Stock Exchange. There is no trained operator for this machine and on the only occasion on which it was driven it crashed into a wall.

The bill may also include the cost of certain cleaning materials which the staff do not know how to use. Because of this mis-application they have been destroying the surface of the floor of the Great Hall.

According to this source and many other of the cleaning staff, the Great Hall was left in a far better condition than that in which it was found.

Guild Council will be analysing the bill more thoroughly before deciding whether or not to pay, it decided last night. They admitted that they would have to pay some, but wanted a further breakdown of the figures involved.

NO SECRECY

Guild Council last night voted to accept the Statement of the Decision of the University Council on November 27th, 1968. Mr. Martin Lowe had earlier raised the issue of confidentiality regarding the student who might be elected to serve on University Committees as outlined in the Statement, and showed an envelope marked "Confidential", containing merely the minutes of a meeting of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee which was established at the end of last term as a result of the occupation.

"This," he said, "showed that anything might conceivably be considered confidential in their eyes."

The final acceptance of the Statement expressed the policy of acceptance as an interim measure only, and that the Guild "cannot accept concepts of representation or confidentiality as outlined in the statement," and "cannot accept Council's attitude to a University Commission implicit in it."

Since the decision last term to admit eleven student representatives to the Faculty Board of Social Science pressure has been brought to bear on the Faculty Board to review its policy.

This culminated, last term, in a motion, passed by the Committee of Deans and Principals requiring the Faculty Board to slow down the implementation of student representation.

Subsequent to this the matter was passed on to Senate Executive who submitted the proposals to all Deans and Faculty Boards. After receiving the reports of the Faculty Boards, Senate Executive have decided after a heated controversy to recommend that Senate should not accept student representation on the Social Science Faculty Board.

The Guild Executive has since been in contact with the more liberal Deans to clarify the situation. A move will be made at the next meeting of Senate to standardise procedure in all the Faculties. This has been widely interpreted as an attempt to placate the Faculty Board of Science and Engineering which is totally opposed to any form of representation.

Professor Davies, Dean of Arts Faculty, has put forward the idea that students could be consulted by Faculty Boards in order to give student opinion on matters of student interest. Mr. Chris Tyrrell, Guild Secretary, thinks that there is a 50-50 chance of representation being implemented in the Arts Faculty and describes the possibility as "the chink in the armour" of the Science and Engineering Faculty.

At a meeting of Guild Executive on Monday, Chas Critcher, the retiring Education chairman, said that although he was not looking for a confrontation issue he felt that the Guild should make a stand on the implementation of the Social Science representation. Mr. Martin Lowe said, "any interference by Senate in the internal affairs of the Faculty of Social Science would be a complete denial of any concept of academic freedom."

Mr. Critcher said that "if we accept consultation in other faculties we will be killing representation in Social Science." And a senior member of the Faculty said yesterday, "it is a breach of academic freedom."

There are widespread fears that unless the Faculty of Social Science makes a firm stand there will be no opportunity for it to implement its plans for representation within the near future.

LATE NEWS

Elections: Assistant Editor, "Redbrick," Jenny Wickham; Guild Treasurer, Ian Johnston; Education Chairman, Clare Dutton.

Warden of Guild said late last night that University are not contemplating any action against Nelson Bathurst at present moment, over activities during sit-in.

The Teach-in (see Page 16), is now definitely fixed for March 15th-16th, it was announced last night.

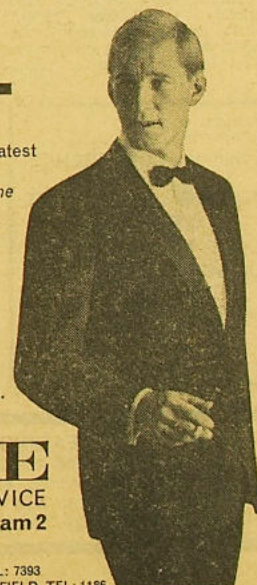
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In search of the elusive Corot

HAS anyone here seen "le pêcheur à la ligne" by Jean Corot, advertised in that illustrious and illustrated volume "Birmingham University—its History and Significance" as part of the Barber Institute's art collection?

Some people have, it seems, not in the Barber galleries, but perched conspicuously in the Vice-Chancellor's office, for Dr. Hunter at least, if not the whole world, to see.

The days of occupation are over, however, and we have looked our last on this thing lovely, in particular. Enquiries at the Barber produced a good deal of prevarication on the part of the Officials. Some thought it might be in store—some were positively sure it was out on loan, but could not say where.

Finally, curator Mr. Taylor de-

clared that it would never be on general display again, since "there are doubts about its authenticity."

If this is so, then why is the painting described as part of the art collection on permanent display and why is there a postcard reproduction of it on sale in the Barber as a souvenir of the Institute? In his inaugural lecture "The place of the fine arts in the University," Sir Thomas Bodin said: "A relish for the higher excellencies of art is an acquired taste which no man ever possessed without long cultivation and attention."

One hopes that the savage breasts of this and future Vice-Chancellors will be soothed by a solitary contemplation of this possession of the Barber trust.



"Le Pêcheur à la ligne" by Corot.

Henry Dumulo's Needless Alley Rag

A MODEST, as well as not so modest, host of good, bad and indifferent poets has emerged via the "Tuppence" channel (by the end of the first year of publication — 1965-66 — 32 had been published, in one form or another). Some have even found fame (Stephanie Smolins was missed by "Mermaid" and then gained second place in the "Birmingham Mail's" poetry

competition, and John Ash won first prize last year.

Poetic activity does not end here, however, and the Poetry Groups were an attempt to get contributors on to collective practical criticism — but one can too easily imagine the hazards involving keen, self-conscious young things wanting to linger lovingly over their latest production. All-in-all, the poets scene in the University cannot be said to be startlingly lively.

A new venture, which the authors hope will materialise by Festival-time will extend the activity into the whole of Birmingham. A Review Magazine, dealing also in pop and films, will include contributions from schools and colleges as well as the universities, and hopes to establish a live circuit of poetry-reading and criticism — any poet living and working in Bir-

mingham qualifies for publication, although the new magazine will necessarily adopt a more selective policy than has "Tuppence."

Likely names could be gleaned from the "Tuppence" annals, to represent this university, and more interesting — how many know that Professor Charles Madge (Social Science) was a practising Thirties poet?

Where possible, published authors will give a reading of their poem, in the context of the magazine and its readers.

Andrew Tiffin and Matt Conely will remain in Birmingham for some time to come, in order to get their self-financed scheme off the ground. "Henry Dumulo's Needless Alley Rag" will be a non-glossy, costing not more than 1/- and sales will be by personal distribution on all the campuses involved.



Dave Entwistle

Our man in Margate

PHIL IRVING (see review page) has been faithfully reporting N.U.S. conferences since last Easter and getting paid for it. His latest write-up, however, on the November conference at Margate, will not be published by "New Student" although he will receive his usual remuneration. The reason is that it denounces the whole thing as a farce.

Delegates were not informed of the agenda topics for discussion until they arrived, so had no opportunity for prior preparation. After only a hurried read-through, the conference was launched.

The whole thing exhibited the usual N.U.S. tendency towards morbid self-analysis—its own structure, etc. Irving's main contention was that Charles Critcher's motion on

Education, originally tabled for two hours' discussion, was reduced to a miserable 10 minutes on the last day.

"New Student" has its own explanation of its failure to print a report of the proceedings. They claim that the photographer they sent along to Margate produced no pictures worth printing.

Plans for the Easter conference? It is impossible to continue publishing straight reports, "New Student" claim, and so in future there will be merely discussion of issues brought up by the conference.

Which, if the gatherings are not vastly changed, will not provide much meat. "There will be no opportunity to report critically on these conferences," said Phil Irving.

Festival protection

FESTIVAL progress suffered a severe setback last week when organisers were driven to panic stations after a single telephone call from the heart of the city. A certain Mr. Johnson, who refused

to give his address, bitterly complained about the letter he received which asked for the support of local shopkeepers.

Having expressed his opinion on students in no mild terms, he continued to say that he wanted nothing whatsoever to do with Festival, convinced that it was all "a bloody protection racket." When told that the appeal he received was all in aid of charity, he added: "If your lot come snooping down here, me and the boys will do them over."

Waning Liberalism

"Redbrick" congratulates Brian Priestley, Assistant Editor of the "Evening Mail," on being awarded the accolade of "Reporter of the Year" for his articles on Race Relations while Midlands Correspondent of the "Times." Priestley it was also, who first brought to light the policies of Peter Griffiths in his successful campaign at Smethwick in the 1964 Election.

However, since his move to the "Evening Mail," his liberalism seems to have withered somewhat. He was responsible for the article "Crisis on the Campus" and then for the hysterically anti-student "Mail" editorials during the occupation, which, as Alan Munton said, made one feel like an unwanted immigrant.

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P.I.B. REPORT; would it harm universities?



Clare Dutton

CLARE DUTTON, NEWLY-ELECTED CHAIRMAN, DISCUSSES SOME QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE REPORT.

THE initial reaction, both by university teachers and Government spokesmen, to the P.I.B. report on university teachers' salaries was described in a letter to the Press by the N.U.S. Executive as "an hysterical outburst." However, many of the recommendations of the report were lost sight of in the heated argument on the nature of "academic freedom" that followed its publication. The N.U.S. Executive has been strongly criticised at recent N.U.S. conferences for its initial support for the report and attack on the A.U.T., which is not representative of the feeling of the majority of constituent organisations. With this first fire dying down, now seems a calmer time to examine just what the report covered, which was more than merely a rejection of the A.U.T.'s claims for a rise of 15 per cent and a controversial statement for students to assess their lecturers' teaching performance.

The P.I.B. rejected the A.U.T.'s claim for two main reasons: Firstly, that this would lead to further inflation and aggravation of the present economic crisis; and, secondly, "in the light of the trends in higher education as we see them." Referring to the latter, the report explains that with the increase of courses in higher education offered at institutions other than universities, there is a need to tighten up the costs per student in this level of education, and a shift in the distribution of finances away from the universities. However, the point made here by the report that should incite much objection from university quarters is the need to distinguish the functions of the different types of institutions of higher education,

and "to encourage some universities to concentrate on certain ranges of subjects as against equality of treatment in all departments and all universities." This seems alarming interference by a Government body insufficiently competent to make a qualified judgment or definition of what a university education should include.

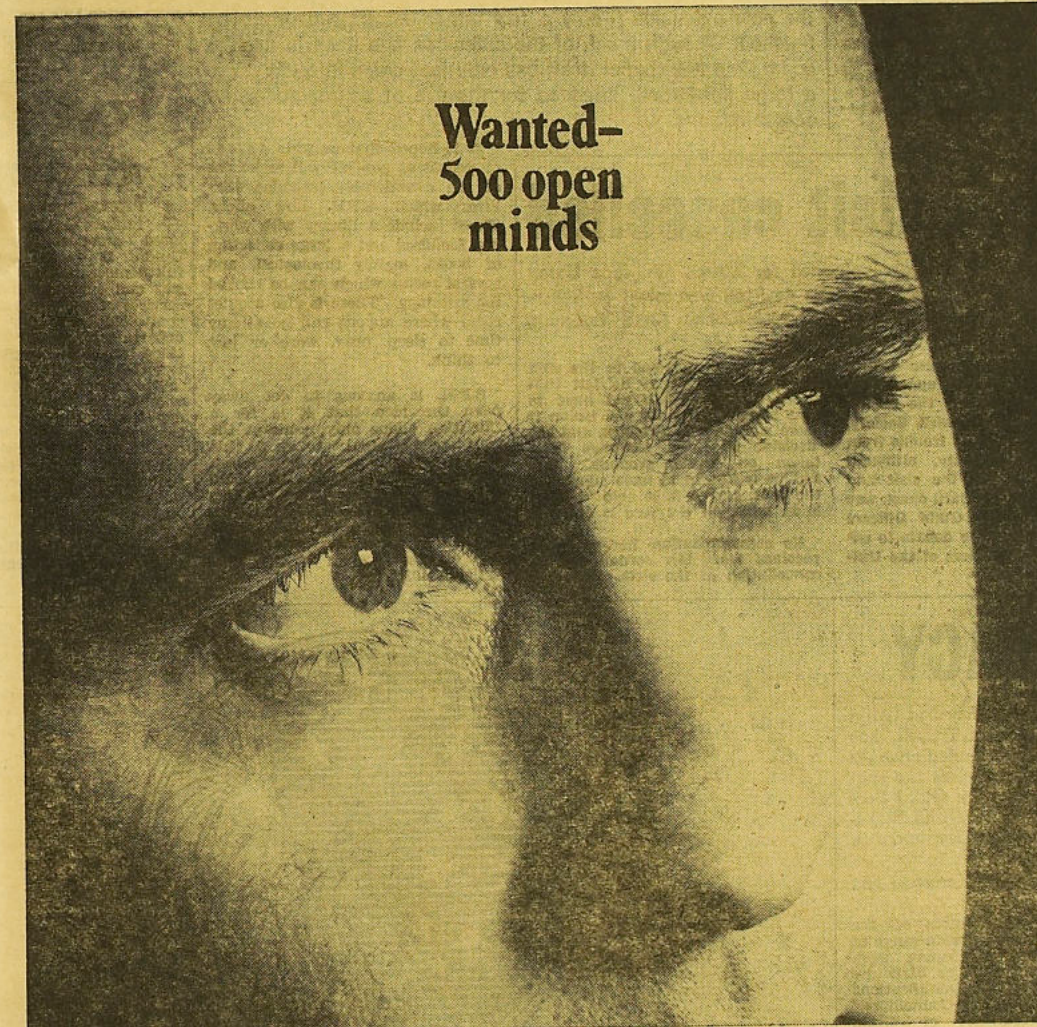
But still worse, in the report's evaluation of higher education, the P.I.B. sees a need "to encourage some shift from research to teaching" by allowing each university authority the right to make discretionary payments of up to four per cent to all staff, except clinical and professorial, for the "quality" and "responsibility" of their teaching. It is here that the controversial

questionnaire for students is suggested.

In praising this recommendation as an opportunity for student participation—a participation in a direction that will cool rather than improve staff-student relations—the N.U.S. Executive failed to note the damaging concept of higher education that the P.I.B. seems to be advocating. In emphasising and rewarding the teaching performance of staff, the universities would prevent any possibility of changing the present relationship between staff and students. As long as staff must continue to churn out often superfluous lectures; as long as their teaching may be assessed by students on some arbitrary criterion; as long as a dichotomy

is held to exist between teaching and research, then staff and students can never meet each other on the same plane, a plane where both are learning. While accepting that staff must have more knowledge of their subjects than students which they can and do impart, they cannot know all, and instead of defining higher education in terms of "research and teaching," it should be defined only as "research" carried out by both staff and students in pursuit of some unattainable ultimate.

Perhaps the Government does have a right to at least suggest the way in which much of its money is being spent, but it can only do so if it has a much clearer understanding of what it is judging. It is not so much on its infringement of academic freedom on which the report should be attacked, as on its dangerous concept of higher education as little more than a "teaching factory." The one enlightened, though small, recommendation in the report is the setting up of some body similar to the Science Research Council for awarding grants to research staff in arts subjects. This, however, is merely an economic proposal, to take some of the financial burden away from the Government, and is not part of a recognition of the importance of research. The two and three per cent rises for senior staff can be dismissed as little more than gestures in a remarkably shortsighted and disappointing report.



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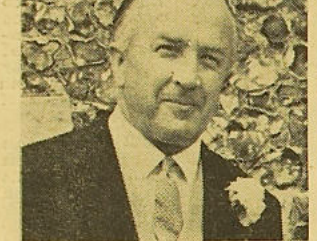
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Two fierce criticisms of the Guild Warden

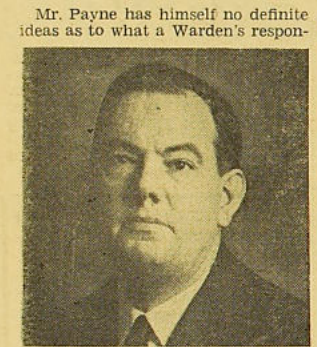
THE Warden of the Guild, Mr. J. E. Payne, has come under severe criticism on two fronts this week. In a thinly-veiled attack in "Hot Air," he has been criticised for his conduct over last term's occupation. He made a statement to the Vice-Chancellor, allegedly accusing Nelson Bathurst of tampering with secret documents in the Vice-Chancellor's office on the first night.

However, he did not supply a copy to the President, and when asked for one before the vacation said he would try to get one. One month later this still has not been given to the Guild. Executive Officers have questioned the worth of the post of Warden, especially in the light of the divided offices of the present Warden who is also on Council, and in view of the Latey Report which implies the end of the loco parentis position at the University.



Mr. Payne.

Mr. Payne has himself no definite ideas as to what a Warden's responsibilities are, and has often said that he would find out by trial and error.



Mr. Lewis, the Registrar.

Subsequent to the Warden's statement, Nelson Bathurst was summoned to the Registrar's office and asked to make a statement.

Bathurst denied the allegations made in Mr. Payne's statement, and has not heard anything since. Secondly, this week's "Red Base", the magazine of Socialist Union, carries an article which strongly condemns the attitude of Mr. Payne's shoe repair company towards its workers by "cutting wages by as much as 25 a week".

The article asks whether such a man should be allowed to remain as the Guild's Warden.

Baltic exchange

TWENTY-EIGHT Russian students will be visiting the University next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as part of an exchange tour of Great Britain.

Martin Lowe, Chairman of External Affairs, said yesterday, that no special timetable had been arranged because they seemed to like to do as they pleased. However, they will probably be shown around the town and the University, and a party is being arranged for Wednesday night.

Jordan visit cancelled

THE visit of Colin Jordan, planned for March 5th, to a Union debate, has been cancelled. The decision was taken on Saturday by Pete Jackson, Deb. Soc. secretary, and Rhys Vaughan, retiring chairman.

There had been pressure within the Guild to have the appearance cancelled, notably from the Socialist Union and the Jewish Society, but no direct threats of trouble from outside the University, although this was feared. If the visit had taken place, a Guild Card check was envisaged by some Guild Officers on the evening of the debate to ensure that only members of the University were present.

GUILD DEMOCRACY

IN a comprehensive memorandum which was considered at Guild Council last night, the Guild Secretary, Chris Tyrrell, has discussed the structure of the Guild, making recommended changes in the Constitution and Byelaws. The paper summarises the suggestions that have arisen out of the discussion on the Guild Secretary's Report for session 1967-68, the first paper on Guild Structure last term and several other events of the last few months, including the Sit-in.

The Sit-in especially has aroused greater interest in Guild Council but this is not something to be complacent about since, as Chris Tyrrell says: "the interest is partially a result of some rather questionable aspects of the Guild's structure and operation."

Open lectures

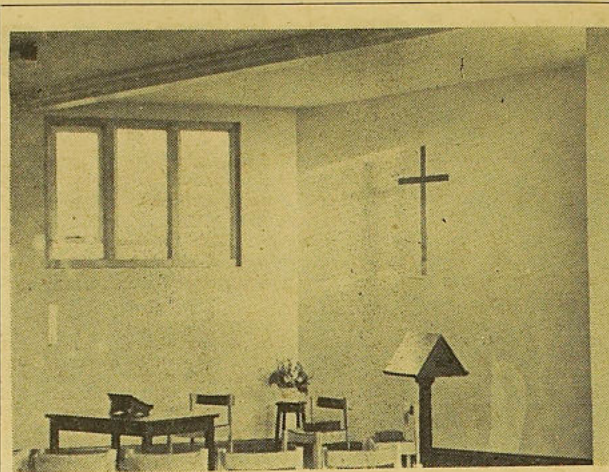
THE speakers for this term's Open Lectures include Sir John Newsom, Chairman of the Central Advisory Council for Education in 1963 when it produced its controversial report on the education of pupils of average and less than average ability entitled "Half Our Future". His lecture, "Education in the '70s," on February 26th, should be of particular interest in the light of recent discussions on the future role of the University.

The first lecture of the term is on February 4th when the Bishop of Southwark will speak on "The Church in Contemporary English Society" and the following week Birmingham's City Engineer Neville Borg will talk on "Urban Problems—Some Answers." On March 4th a recital of 18th-century Organ Concertos will be given by Professor Ivor Keys.

All lectures are on Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

The principal features of the memorandum cover a wide range of Guild activities enveloping such general matters as "The Structure of the Guild," "The Qualifications and Elections of Guild Councillors," "The Responsibilities of Guild Councillors" and "Disciplinary Procedure." More particular aspects of the Guild are investigated in a large section which deals with membership, the name of the Guild, general and constituency meetings and a review of the new Executive and Committee Structure. The paper concludes with a look at the Guild's role in the future.

One of the most important points raised is the whole question of democracy and a step in the direction of more effective representation has been made in the proposal that co-opted members should use their voting-right. Further to this it is recommended that each Department, Centre or Institute with 20 or more full or associate members of the Guild shall form a constituency. In this way increased democracy is envisaged and more effective representation hoped for since under the present system several departments may comprise one constituency which is represented by only one Councillor.

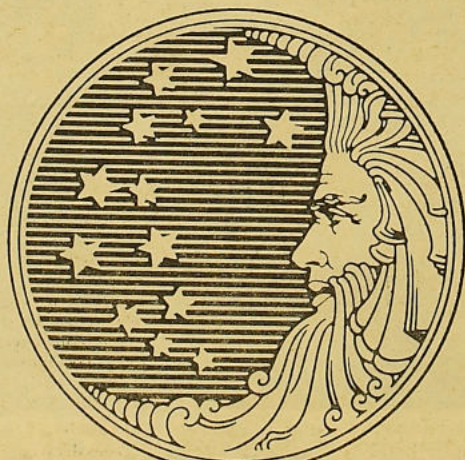


NEW CHAPEL COMES INTO USE

AN informal dedication service was held in St. Francis Hall on Sunday to mark the completion of the major work on the new extension; only a few minor details remain to be finished. Though much of the extension has been in use for some time the chapel itself has only just come into use; it is a large light room intended for the use of all religions and denominations.

It is hoped that as wide a range of people as possible will make use of the considerably extended facilities which S.F.H. now offers. These include a library with working facilities and a large collection of books, mainly theological, and several rooms which can be booked for meetings. There is also a quiet room where anyone can go at any time to sleep, pray, work or just to think.

S.F.H. is anxious to get away from the idea that it is for a Christian clique only; perhaps the most obvious manifestation of this is the footpath built beside the chapel for the Muslims who hold a service there every Friday. This ecumenical spirit is in keeping with the purpose of opening the building and facilities to everyone which was expressed when it was first built in 1936.



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National action this term

ACCORDING to a survey made over the vacation it appears that a large number of British universities have been encouraged by last term's sit-in to the extent of contemplating direct action at their own universities.

The University of East Anglia recently passed a motion supporting any activity in which Birmingham students may engage in order to democratise the University. After several terms of discussion U.E.A. is now in a state of turmoil. Action may well result from the talk to be given today at the U.E.A. union on "Student tactics for a democratic university." The movement of U.E.A. is led by moderate opinion who are becoming increasingly impatient with mounting bureaucracy. At Oxford and Cambridge several lengthy reports have been produced on educational problems and Cambridge medical students will be holding a meeting this term to hear the Dean's reasons for refusing to implement the Todd Report proposals. Lord Todd will be present at the meeting and action will be contemplated if satisfaction is not gained. Mr. Simon Shorron, who arranged the meeting, has said that he regards this as "the test case for progressives in the University."

Several universities are planning action this year and the report of many radical groups suggests that Birmingham will be used as a model.

Welfare takeover

A PAPER, published under the initials G.S.H. has been circulated amongst students in the Union. It presents arguments for a full democratisation of the University and suggests that all welfare services of the University should be controlled by a body elected on a departmental basis. This would include control of Lodgings, Halls, and Refectory Committee.

The author may be Gerald S. H., man but he would only say that the views expressed in the paper are very similar to his own. The paper points out that the amount of work involved in the running of the new committee would not put an intolerable strain on the students involved. The paper also analyses the work of the new committee and suggests that the V.C.s as an infringement of independence of the University.

It is unlikely that Guild finances are investigated at this point but a paper probe may ensue if the situation becomes a regular event.

COURT FOR BRISTOL STUDENTS

EIGHT students involved in the Bristol sit-in were served with High Court writs and interim injunctions at the end of last term. Four of these appeared before a judge in chambers and had costs awarded against them. Seven of the eight students are to appear before the discipline committee and all eight are to appear in Court later this year. A usually well-informed source says that an action for conspiracy will be brought against them. The Registrar was not available to comment to the Press on the matter. The deputy president of the N.U.S., Mr. Jack Straw, said that N.U.S. is totally against any form of double discipline and legal action as a remedy is completely inappropriate in dealing with student protest. The implication of the action for conspiracy against any student union which talked about direct action would be brought before the Court. The attitude of the V.C.'s is reminiscent of nineteenth century employers and the whole thing smacks of conspiracy and anti-combination acts.

Bristol Students' Union has been suspended. Thirty-three students have been instructed to submit written evidence to the Discipline Committee and two lecturers from other colleges involved in the sit-in are at the moment awaiting decisions on their future from their governing bodies. Many students who were identified from Press photographs and B.B.C. films have been contacted by the Discipline Committee.

The sit-in was to support a Union demand for reciprocal membership to be extended to all colleges in the town and many of the participants were members of outside

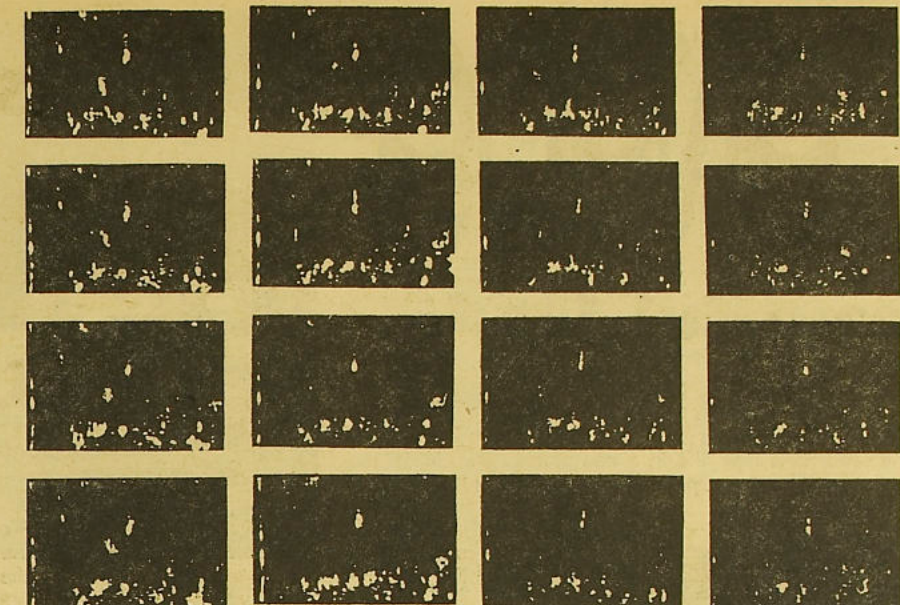
WHITEHALL TO PROBE UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTS

By Gerald Hitman

colleges. It is not known how many of these have been suspended. It does not appear that Birmingham University Discipline Committee will be taking proceedings against any of the 70 Birmingham students who were involved in the sit-in.

At the first court hearing some hundred students staged a protest outside the High Court in London. N.U.S. will not be making representations to Professor Collar, the Bristol Vice-Chancellor, but is considering taking up the whole question of legal action and double discipline with the committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. "Big Mac", one of the leaders of the Bristol sit-in, said, "I'm just off with the whole affair."

Birmingham Socialist Union will be bringing up the whole question of victimisation at Bristol at the "General Assembly of the Sit-in" on Thursday at 1.15 in the Council Chamber.



Frames from a consecutive series taken at 10-second intervals. Irregularities on the bottom of each frame show the Loch bottom. Objects at the top are surface clutter on the Loch. Objects of interest appear in centre of frames.

HAVE ELEC. ENG. SPOTTED LOCH NESS MONSTER?

SAID the First Duke of Buckingham and Normanby, John Sheffield, "A faultless monster which the world ne'er saw." This gentleman, dead and buried 250 years ago could well have been referring to the Loch Ness Monster for stories of such a creature have a history many hundreds of years old. In the 16th century Black Jamie, the giant Scottish Laird, was reported to have been overwhelmed by a vast creature which reared up from the surface of the Loch and destroyed his boat. Some days later Black Jamie's mangled body was washed ashore.

In national and world-wide fame the monster story is young, and now it seems definitely not dead nor to be forgotten. It first made a public name for itself when in 1933 it allowed a large jutting eminence of its body to be photographed. Since then arguments over its existence have sporadically raged and we have grown accustomed to the reports of some evolutionary dropout lurking in the murky 700ft. depths of Loch Ness.

But now Professor D. Gordon Tucker and Mr. Hugh Brathwaite of the Electrical Engineering Department have swept on to the monster scene with what appears to be reasonably hard evidence pointing to the existence of some kind of unknown animal life after having examined during the vacation cine films of cathode-ray tube displays from a sonar arc beamed across the

loch last August. Their findings were published in the "New Scientist" of December 19th and they appear to have complicated existing views by implying that the whole lake could be swarming with the creatures. Three objects were recorded and are described cautiously as Objects A, B and C, of which B can be readily dismissed as being almost certainly a fish or a small shoal of fish.

Object A—over a hundred feet long—rose from the loch bottom, ascending at 100 feet per minute with a horizontal component of 6.5 knots. It then had a brief rest on the bottom and ascended again. As A was rising, Object B sailed in and after it disappeared a few seconds later Object C, 20ft. long, appeared briefly on the scene, giving a display of its physical agility by diving at the incredible rate of 450

feet per minute whilst moving horizontally at more than ten knots. The authors analyse the movements and speeds of the objects in detail yet their interpretation is tentative and short. They believe that A and C were clearly animals and fishery biologists say they are unlikely to be fish.

Professor Tucker said that A was either a "large shoal of small animals" or a small shoal of large animals and that C was probably a single animal, due to its consistency of shape on the recording during its brief appearance. Their findings have been covered widely in the national and world Press and all of the reports have been favourable with the exception of one carried by "Nature" (December 28th) which, along with Dr. Maurice Burton, accused the University of using faulty equipment at Loch Ness. This subsequently, said the Professor, proved to be nothing short of downright lies.

By Pete Harrigan

As for future investigations the Department is developing more refined equipment and it is hoped that a boat, also containing equipment, will be used to pinpoint any recorded activity and then move in to make a more detailed examination of the area.

The findings may have started a wave of glory-seeking prospectors in other departments. Looking to the loch in the hopes of making a quick kill. One bearded gentleman, it is rumoured, is to visit the Loch this Easter where, using a small launch, he will drop a series of explosives in the water in an attempt to stun one of the creatures and bring it to the surface ready to be netted. Yet his hopes may be shattered for, said Professor Tucker, "the Loch Ness Monster is protected by an Act of Parliament." Another is developing a high-powered homing harpoon and by using drug-tipped barbs is optimistic that he will "catch something big" with time on his side.

A catch of this sort, if brought back to the University alive, would prove a big draw for Festival, although we will probably have to make do with the 38-stone model who is to visit the Union. Also if other science departments enter into the spirit of the competition U.F.O.s, mermaids and giant pumas could well be in danger.

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CANADA:

beautiful land

CANADA has been the land of golden opportunity for many generations of Europeans who, for one reason or another, have found their old life oppressive and who have felt the need for a new life in a new world. But is it the "beautiful land," or just a pale imitation of the United States?



A comb made by Hingit Indian wood inlaid with abalone.

SOME ASPECTS OF CANADA WHICH MIGHT APPEAL TO GRADUATES: AN INVESTIGATION BY JENNY WICKHAM

The Canadians would disclaim the second of these; though Canada is militarily and economically dependent on the United States, and its rich mineral wealth is being exploited largely by American capital, it sees itself as having an important role in world affairs.

As much as anything this is because it is one of the few Western countries still respected by the Third World; its uncomfortable position as a buffer between the United States and Russia also emphasises its world importance. Northern Canada is studded with early warning stations, and American scientists almost outnumber Eskimos now.

But it was the Eskimos who called their country the "beautiful land." And from Newfoundland to British Columbia, from the Tundra in the North to the Great Lakes in the South, Canada has some of the most beautiful scenery and natural phenomena in the world. For the Eskimos, the country's original inhabitants, the "beautiful land" was the snow-covered North; the Indians who inhabited the rest of the country has now been driven into reserves as their nomadic habits were unsettling to a growing nation like Canada.

Yet both these groups have had a certain social and cultural influence on the European settlers who are now the Canadians. The dominant influences on Canadian culture have been from the English and French settlers, but each wave of trouble in Europe sent a fresh batch of emigrants to seek peace and freedom in Canada. Thus there are large groups of Germans, Dutch, Italians, Ukrainians, and many other nationalities.

One of their important aims has been to build their different traditions into a unified nation without losing them in anonymity; thus many groups such as the Jews and Italians have kept to small areas, and one finds in cosmopolitan Montreal or Toronto areas of strong national independence — whole streets where only Italian is spoken, or areas devoted exclusively to the distinctive Jewish culture.

The largest groups, of course, are the French and the English, and the struggle of the French to maintain a degree of independence has often been exaggerated and misunderstood, particularly by people such as de Gaulle, who caused uproar by his call for "Québec Libre".

Few Canadians want to split their country into two nations, and certainly not to create a French Canada under the wing of France. Rather they want French Canadians to be recognised as equal, to be given equal chances in high-level jobs, and for French to be a first language as much as English is. With the recent election of Pierre Trudeau, a French Canadian, as Prime Minister, this movement has taken a major step forward.

So, hopefully, French and English cultures will continue their peaceful cohabitation in this country, where different cultural groups have provided a rich heritage.

Recently, for example, acclaim has been accorded to a group of Canadian Jewish writers, including



Habitat: the housing of the future, from EXPO '67.

Mordecai Richler, Adele Wiseman, and (though he left Canada at an early age), Saul Bellow. Leonard Cohen has recently won himself fame with his incredibly beautiful poetry and songs; his comic-erotic novel "Beautiful Losers," which is, unfortunately, banned in Britain, is about the quest for the reality behind the myth of an Indian saint, and thus links back to the original Indian culture in Canada, revealing its modern relevance. And Jack Kerouac, one of the prophets of the Beat generation, and an immensely compelling writer, is of French Canadian origin.

But Canada was not built on art. It was built on energy. On natural energy, from coal, wood, and more recently from its huge potential for hydro-electric power and from atomic energy. Canada's natural energy is inexhaustible, particularly its water power from the St. Lawrence and other rivers of the East, and from the steep-flowing torrents of the Rockies in the West.

And it was also built on human energy, on the energy of the early settlers and of the engineers and workers who have exploited Can-

ada's mineral wealth to make her one of the richest countries in the world. On the energy, too, of the Chinese coolies who by driving the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Rockies, fulfilled the challenge of what was at the time one of the world's greatest engineering feats.

It is tenacity of the kind which made this possible which has also led to the vast exploitation of Canada's seemingly endless resources. Canada is the world's largest producer of nickel, zinc, platinum and asbestos, and also produces large quantities of gold, iron ore, copper, petroleum and natural gas, large quantities of which were recently discovered in Alberta and which have made Canada the world's third producer of natural gas.

Canada's agricultural resources, of course, have also contributed to her wealth; her forests have made her one of the world's leading timber and paper producers. With over 3,000 miles of coastline, she has superb fisheries, and the rich lands of Central Canada have made her one of the world's leading producers of, and traders in, wheat.

Compared with other Western

countries, such as the United States or even Britain, Canada has few problems. No great poverty; with high incomes and low taxation, it has one of the highest standards of living in the world. No colour problem, no immigrant problem, no involvement in the militarily embarrassing situations in which greater powers often find themselves irrevocably bound up.

Though Canada was built on the assumption that there was always more money, Canadians are now beginning to realise that money sooner or later runs out; nevertheless, they have enough wealth to ensure a reasonably comfortable future for Canada.

The Canadians, well-paid, well-educated, well-fed, well provided for by improved social security schemes, well-housed in projects such as the Habitat '67 scheme, which was one of the best features of Montreal's Expo '67, can sail painlessly into the future, into the rosy glow of Pierre Trudeau's "Just Society."

Canada has not suffered and will not suffer. Perhaps this is its only disadvantage.

CANADA

Canadian and non-Canadian students who are interested in receiving specific and general information on opportunities in Canada for

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are invited to arrange a counselling appointment by writing to the address below, or by telephoning Mr. John Corning at 643 3005, Monday to Friday, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Canadian Government Immigration Service, Rotunda Building, New Street, Birmingham.

PRESSURE GROUP FOR RESEARCH STAFF

A RESULT of the Sit-In that no-one would have predicted has been the forming of an association by the research staff. With every other group in the University having hurried meetings to work out a policy on reform, it was brought home to the research fellows and assistants that they had no such association to turn to. The fault stems from their doubtful status, being neither staff nor student, and one of the declared aims of the new association will be to define their position, most likely with a view to joining the Non-Professional Staff Association.

Persian Gulf bridged

At a reception held at the end of last term, the Iranian Ambassador expressed his Government's sincere thanks to the University for its contribution to the future of Iran. Twenty students from Iran are studying at the University and they would, he hoped, participate in the future development of his country. At the same reception the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Hunter, was installed as Honorary President of the Iranian Students' Society, one of the most active national societies in the University.

Its other aims, which were formulated at a General Meeting on January 10th, are to prepare a policy on University reform "to reflect the distinctive interests and contribution of the members of the Association," and to seek representation on "existing University representative bodies."

Such an organisation should prove a valuable feature of University life, by providing a link between staff and students. For this reason some research staff feel it would be unwise to join the Non-Professional Staff Association, or the Guild, for not only would their rather special interests be submerged in those of the larger group, but also this would tend to even further consolidate the difference in status between students and staff.

EXPEDITION TO CROSS ASIA

IN 1965 the pilot Commonwealth Expedition, Comex 1, of 210 members, travelled overland to India, during the Indo-Pakistani war. Bridges were blown up behind them and so the expedition returned to Britain by air.

July 15th, arriving in India on August 24th, departing from India on September 8th, and returning to Britain on October 8th. The party will consist of 20 coaches with 25 in each coach. The cost to each participant will be only £55—remarkably cheap for a three-month tour over such a distance.

Any student who wishes to know the details of Comex 3 is advised to contact Mr. R. G. Bird in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Slogan campaign launches GAG

THE Socialist Union has started its campaign this term by painting various slogans on University buildings to advertise its meeting in the Council Chamber tomorrow. Socialist Union already has a debt of over £70 for duplicating and it is unlikely that they will be able to pay for the removal of these slogans. Having disbanded the Ad Hoc Group the Socialist Union is now using the name "Guild Action Group" on its posters.

The meeting next Thursday will be to discuss the victimisation of Bristol students and to discuss activity for the coming term.

Loss of freedom?

AN interim report produced recently by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, has raised again the problem of student accommodation. The report asks whether it would not be feasible to increase the number of students living at home in order to increase university intake as a whole.

At present an average of 18 per cent of students live at home, mostly in London and Scotland (last year in Birmingham there were 8.3 per cent of the students living at home). If the national average were raised to 25 per cent, however, which is what it stood at 10 years ago, British universities would be able to take 20,000 more students per year. For the scheme to work successfully, though, financial incentive would have to be offered to both students and university authorities.

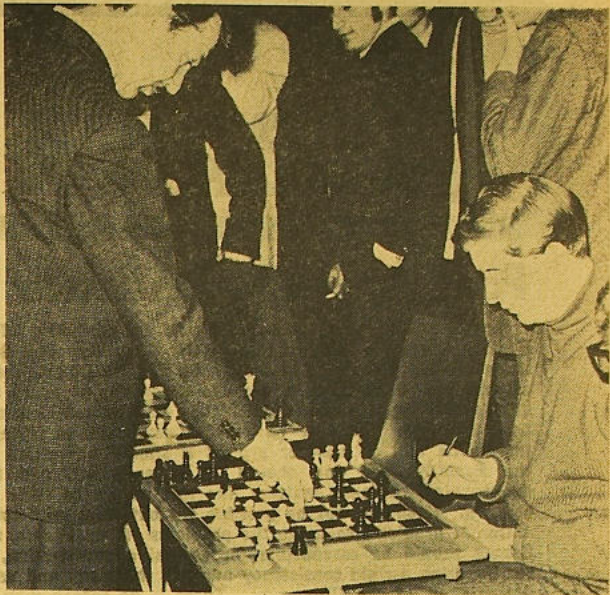
The creation of neighbourhood universities, which would be an inevitable result of the scheme, has many drawbacks, and N.U.S. are very much opposed to it.

For one thing, many students do not have adequate working facilities at home; an ever-increasing number are also wanting independence and freedom from home restrictions at an earlier age.

However, no definite policy on the subject has yet been formed; before this happens interested parties such as N.U.S., the Department of Education, the V.C.'s committee and the Universities Grants Committee must be consulted.

Exploration award

An award of up to £2,000 is being offered for the best expedition idea for a project to be sponsored by "The Guardian." Details may be obtained from the Union Welfare Office of Europe, and to discuss activity by February 1st.



PLAY CHESS FOR WORLD PEACE

THE brilliance of the International Chess Grandmaster, Svetozar Gligoric, startled even the best players in the simultaneous display in the Great Hall last Friday evening. Gligoric is currently rated about 15th in the world, and last year reached the final eight in the world championships. He has been Yugoslav champion 15 times, Yugoslavia finishing second only to Russia in the 1968 Chess Olympics. In view of this impressive record the University did well to secure three draws (D. Taylor, H. G. Scott, D. Wand). Taylor's draw was particularly gratifying as he drew

with Gligoric five years ago in another display. Another of the University hopes, C. Close, was, however, unnervingly annihilated. About 60 spectators watched Gligoric complete his first few circuits at amazing speed, hardly breaking his stride as he moved around the circle of 23 boards. The University was fortunate to obtain the Grandmaster as he has limited this year's tour to seven displays. While being entertained informally by the Chess Club after the display he commented that the world would be a much more peaceful place if everybody were a chess player.

Dissent over grant increase

AT the N.U.S. conference last November it was decided to campaign for an increased grant of £380 for all students as it had been previously denied by the Government. The Brown Committee, set up in July '67 "to consider the changes necessary to maintain the real value of awards" recommended that the students' basic grant should be increased from £340 to £380. But the Government resolved that any increase would be cut by 50 per cent, which gave us a rise of £20 instead of £40.

Although it was official Guild policy to support the N.U.S. campaign, the Midland branch of N.U.S. (at a meeting last Saturday) expressed its lack of support for the issue "due to the present economic and political situation in this country."

However, Rod Playford, who was present at the meeting, "put forward certain anomalies which are to be discussed later by Guild Council."

Tory Conference

This Saturday the Midlands Universities Conservative Associations are holding their third regional conference in the Union. Under the chairmanship of Graham Frost, newly elected Chairman of Birmingham Tories, delegates will discuss their roles in the universities, with particular reference to educational reform.

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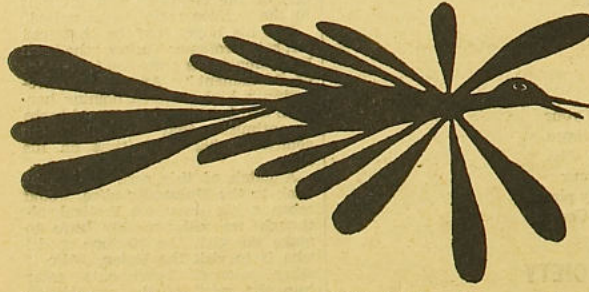
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REDBRICK

Faculty independence

The reaction of the Senate Executive and in particular of the Faculty Deans, to the proposal of the Commerce and Social Science Faculty to put students on the Faculty Board, is quite astonishing. Only three weeks ago academics of every rank were protesting at a report which they claimed would infringe their freedom. Yet now one set of academics is trying to impose its will on another group; it should be settled that the Faculties are and should be independent, and their decisions on academic matters like this should be their own concern. It should not be possible for outsiders with totally different problems to judge the problems of one Faculty: the Senate should be responsible for central administration, not for imposing a rigid consistency over all the many and varied departments of the University. There is no reason why one Faculty should not, if it sees fit, institute progressive reforms like this without being subject to any external control.

Ill-considered

The decision to cancel Colin Jordan's visit to the Union is ill considered not just because of the freedom of speech that is being denied, but also because of the way in which the decision was taken. By not allowing either the Deb Soc. Committee or Guild Council to fully discuss the pros and cons of his visit, the people who cancelled it have done a definite disservice to Deb Soc. and the student image generally. They have exposed the hypocrisy of students who call for free speech etc. ad nauseum, yet cannot bear to think of their opponents enjoying such freedom. By yielding to pressure from such groups, a bad decision has been taken.

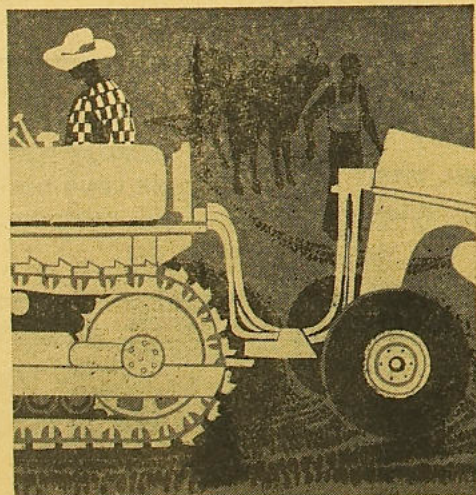
To allow him to speak at a debate (which has been arranged since September) would have exposed his policies for what they are, and done much more good than harm. After one denial of freedom of speech, one can no longer respect the sincerity of its usual advocates.

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ONE WAY OUT

PETER JARRET came to university from a South London grammar school in September 1966. He had two grade 'A's and a grade 'B' at 'A' level and had applied to Law though he was uncertain just what this entailed. He was apprehensive at the thought of university but was nevertheless glad to get away from a somewhat stressful family background.

By the end of the first month of his first term he had written one brilliant essay, had failed to attend two tutorials and had consulted the health service. Soon afterwards he ceased to take any part in university affairs and remained silent and aloof during tutorials. Towards the end of this term he suffered several extreme bouts of depression. He then left university.

By the end of that year one hundred and fifty of his contemporaries—about ten per cent of the intake—had followed suit.

Though the above case-history is fictitious, it is also fairly typical. Dropping-out is the last and most extreme alternative (short of suicide) to an unlivable situation. Primarily the difficulties that can lead to eventual failure are those of motivation, personality and mental health. To a greater or lesser extent these same problems face us all.

University entrants in Britain today represent eight per cent of their age-group, an elite selected for intelligence and achievement. Virtually none of these will fail for lack of adequate intellectual capacity. Yet the average drop-out rate from universities in this country remains at 13-14 per cent of the intake. The root causes of failure are almost always emotional, the product of an interaction between factors in the institution and problems in the individual.

OBSTACLE

Lack of motivation leading to loss of interest will obviously present an obstacle to academic success. In some cases this lack of motivation may be the result of an over-ambitious parent or teacher persuading a student to embark on a course of study for which he has no real affinity. He may not have wanted to come to university at all. But in a recent survey of drop-outs from this university, Mr. Wankowski, educational psychologist, discovered that uncertainty about the future, about the more immediate professional goals after graduating, often resulted in an ambivalent attitude to the course with a natural loss of interest.

"Attempts to study subjects which point the way to the achievement of future goals not to bring rewards of immediate satisfaction may, not unnaturally, become a boring task and result in apathy and in increased difficulties in academic work," he said. He explained that since boredom was not a state of restful relaxation but rather a state of frustrated tension, it tended to deepen the apathy and bring about depression.

And the cure for loss of interest is obviously to stimulate it. An awareness, on the part of tutors, that goals and motives are helpful in academic success and that they may often be born out of satisfaction with the work at hand, could enable them to plan their courses (or, for individuals, to emphasise certain aspects) in a way which would lead to enhancement of future goals and to an increased confidence in academic work.

A child born today in the UK stands a ten times greater chance of being admitted to a mental hospital than to a university, and about a fifth of mental hospital admissions are diagnosed schizophrenic. This can be taken as an indication that we are driving our children mad more effectively than we are genuinely educating them. Perhaps it is our very way of educating them that is driving them mad.

—R. D. LAING: "The Politics of Experience"

An awareness also, on the part of school students, that success in the "protective" environment of school does not necessarily lead to success in the new teaching and learning situation at university, might prevent feelings of bitter disappointment leading to failure. High 'A'-level grades do not automatically signify that the student has learnt how to learn outside the school environment.

The problem of mental health is an altogether different one. Psychiatrically disturbed individuals fall into two main groups: the obviously ill suffering from delusions due to schizophrenia, depressive illness (as opposed to ordinary depression) etc. and those, not obviously ill, but who have a neurotic conflict interfering with their relationship to their tutors or their commitment to university.

STRESS

In the former case time away from university is indicated, while in the latter, psychotherapy or simply an understanding tutor may help to overcome the neurotic work block. However, the common characteristic of the psychiatrically disturbed is that nearly all of them come from homes marked by emotional stress. This, coupled with what is often a vulnerable temperament, can lead to a breakdown.

In such cases it is not the university they come to but the families they come from that is the root

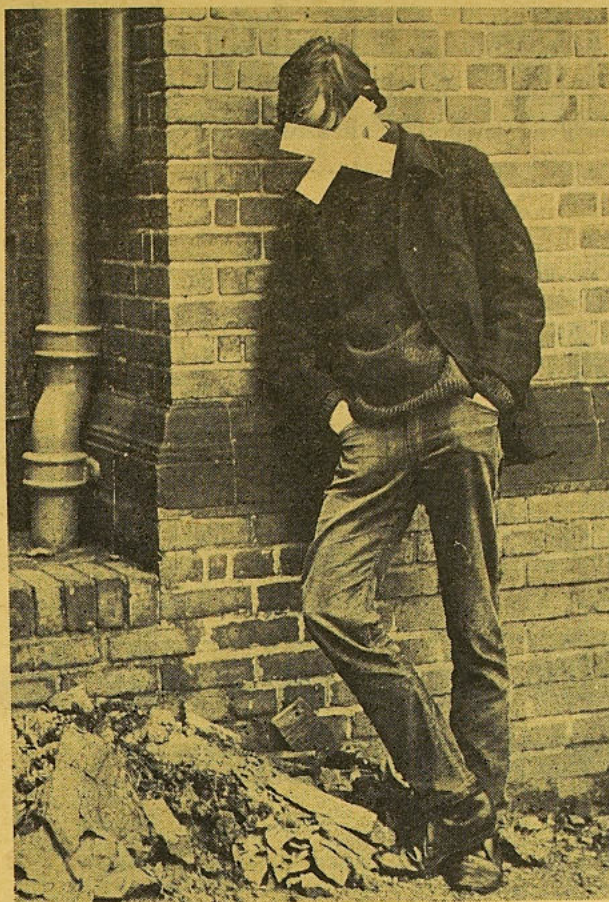
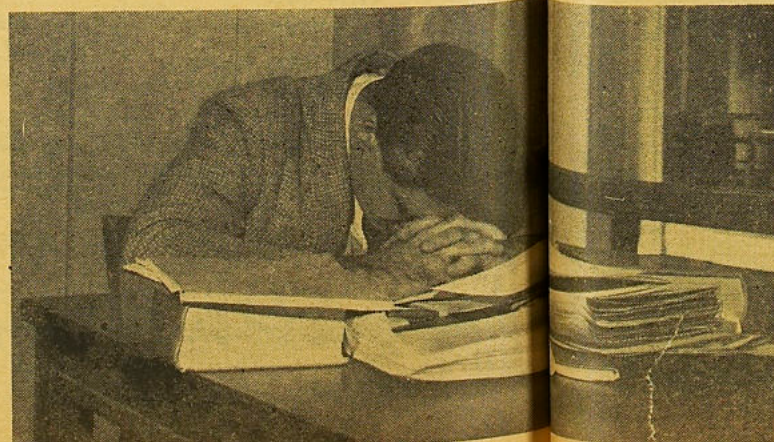
cause of their failure.

But it is the problems of personality that are, perhaps, the most commonly encountered by university students. The period of transition from adolescent into adulthood, "identity crisis", is universal. Coming up to university, an individual is pitched abruptly into a society where recognition of his personal, sexual and academic achievements can be won only by his own endeavours. It is an intensely competitive situation to which he has been conditioned, more or less unconsciously, during his earlier "schooling".

The following extract from Henry's "Culture against Nature" is concerned with the situation in contemporary American elementary school, but it may be seen to be applicable to the university environment also:—

"Boris had trouble from 12-16ths to the lowest terms. The teacher asked him questions that was as far as he could get. She suggested he should wave his hands up and down like a child, all frantic to catch the teacher's eye. Boris pretty much ignored her, mentally paralysed by the teacher's quiet, patient, ignorant others and concentrates with voice and two she turns her class and says: 'Well, tell Boris what the number is'."

Looking at from Boris's point of view, the nightmare at the blackboard was, perhaps, a lesson in controlling himself so that he did not fly shrieking from the room under enormous public pressure. Such experiences force every student raised in our culture, over and over again, night in, night out, even at the pinnacle of success.



When the living has to stop

cess, to dream not of success, but of failure. In school the external nightmare is internalised for life. Boris was not learning arithmetic only; he was learning the essential nightmare also. To be successful in our culture one must learn to dream of failure."

The kind of situation described is recurring in many spheres of university life. (The exam situation provides a classic example: the primary motive is nearly always fear of failure) particularly for the more anxious and neurotic. Moreover, its adverse effects are emphasised in a university environment where the role of student is so vague anyway; and the latter is less capable of providing a framework for the establishment of individual identity than that of most other occupations. When, for how long, and what you work at is very much your own decision—a situation rarely encountered outside the university.

This leads to the "fear of freedom" syndrome. For though the new-found freedom of the university entrant has brought him independence and rationality, it has also made him isolated and, as a result, anxious and powerless. The need for security, for someone or some group with which to identify, is thereby redoubled. Though this is only a tendency whose effect will depend largely on the individual, the value of a steady girl/boy friend in such a situation is obvious.

The establishment of a relationship can both provide the support that is necessary in a predominantly indifferent environment, and can also bring purpose into a vague, even irrational situation. The point is illustrated with the following cryptic message from a recent drop-out from this University:—

"... I realised I could not endure the three-year cram without continuous moral sustenance (or 'love') from a girl (there you are, people, I'm male). The artificial intimacy of the paired-off second-year student disgusted me. So I made a tactical withdrawal—to my London circle of home, friends—to continue my academic career. I hope, in less pressing surroundings. Too sensitive, I'm afraid."

"Too sensitive" is just the point. Rather than automatically condemning this course of action as "running away" perhaps we should consider whether it is not we who lack this sensitivity. The fact that we create and perpetuate a situation which a number of people find intolerable is interesting in itself. Who has really failed?

There is one other relevant fact. It has been shown that there is a definite correlation between the suicide rate and the male/female ratio at universities. Least suicides occur when the ratio is approximately two males to one female. Apparently, if it falls below this level, the number of female suicides tends to rise. Here in Birmingham there are four and a half men to every woman.

To appreciate the essential difficulties that can force a student to drop-out is to understand the problem.

by Jeremy Laurance

lems that almost every one of us encounters. The distinction is that under such pressure, some will "fly shrieking from the room." If this is a reflection on them, then it is also a reflection on us. We have resolved our problems; or have we only hidden from them? Perhaps the drop-out is the one who can find nowhere to hide.

HELP

In some universities great efforts are made to help the potential drop-out—notably in Oxford and London where special college-cum-hospitals have been established. A common criticism of this approach is to ask whether helping these "lame ducks" through university will be of real value to the community, when it would seem that they are inadequate individuals unfit to go into the world as graduates anyway. In fact these undergraduates are conspicuous in so far as the main "weapon" for living that they possess is their high intellect.

To drop out is to be automatically termed a "failure", whether merited or not. Effectively, therefore, the full use of their intellect is removed from them for life—unless they can pull themselves up by their shoestrings which these undergraduates conspicuously cannot. If a university degree is of value to anyone, then it is more certainly valuable to these people than to any other group. It is a strange irony of our educational system that it is precisely these individuals who are least likely to gain one.

YOUNG BUMLEY

Licking the queen

WELL, that's another Christmas over with and presumably everyone is so sick of the combined forces of mum, dad, aunt Mabel and uncle Theobald laying into them about the "students' sit-in and wasting the taxpayers' money," that you are all glad to be back at the good old university. (This applies even if you were not an ardent sit-in supporter, surely? There is nothing like a parental attack for producing solidarity.)

Besides, anyone who worked on the post during the Christmas vacation will have realised that, compared to such organisations as the G.P.O., students seem to waste comparatively little. I'm convinced that casuals are only employed so that the regulars can spend more time drinking in the canteen. You should have seen them knocking it back at Birmingham Post Office! What merriment, what Christmas spirit. When they finally got back to sorting they all saw

twice as many holes to put the letters and parcels in. Still, you've got to keep the workers happy during the festive season—hence casuals.

While I'm on the subject of the G.P.O., have you seen the new stamps with the pictures of Queen Elizabeth 2 on them—I'm referring to the ship as opposed to Her Gracious Majesty—the latter seems to get her head on all the stamps. Well, this new one is about 3½ times the length of an ordinary stamp—you have to lick it in

two stages because your tongue gets dry by the time you've got halfway across it. Anyway, what is there to be so proud about—the QE2 doesn't even work properly. Nowadays a new stamp is brought out at the slightest excuse. Apparently, they are regarded as an important export—that's a sign of a declining country if ever there was one. (Cf. The underdeveloped countries of Africa and South America and small independent states such as Andorra.)

Guild executive takes a holiday

On January 2nd six members of Guild Executive took up their tooth brushes and fled to the depths of darkest Wales on the pretext of important discussions on the structure of the Guild, festival, university reform and N.U.S. policy. They emerged three days later, presumably much the wiser on these affairs. The whole outing cost the Guild a total of £20. Now let me make it clear that I have nothing against Executive taking a well deserved holiday and I don't suppose £20 is really a lot of money. What I object to is the fact that they took an entourage of some 21 other people, some of whom seem to have no sound reasons for being invited.

The cottage at Caemarch which provided the hoard with its temporary home is owned by one Brigadier Vaughan. The Guild's connection with this gentleman is via the Rev. Bob Hughes whose presence as overseer is thus completely justified though in my opinion his task was not an enviable one. To assist him in this he had Mr. Roger Hird and Andy Wallbank. The festival contingent

present also had some justification though one might question whether five of them were really necessary—but five there were and that's that. Delegates to the forthcoming N.U.S. conference numbered four—again there are no real grounds for complaint.

Now we come to the very doubtfuls who are four in number. Firstly Roland Chaplain of Edgbaston Meteorological Observatory fame—presumably he went along to as a weather forecaster for the group. The other three members of the party were all, strangely enough, members of the fairer sex. One of these has been a constant companion to Guild President Ray Phillips for a long time now and another is frequently to be seen in the company of Chris Tyrrell, Guild Secretary. Miss Suzette Brussel went as cook but apparently did very little cooking.

Apart from the 20 pounds paved by the Guild, each member of the party contributed a pound towards expenses and by all accounts they all had a jolly good time.

How do they do it?

It's not often that people come round to see me at my palatial Selly Oak residence and it came as something of a surprise when the bell rang at about 8 p.m. about a month before Christmas. Of course, I leapt to the door immediately, flung it open and with outstretched arms prepared to receive my visitor. There before me was a little fellow looking about as angelic as Rasputin. From his gaping mouth came forth a sort of rasping sound such as I had never before heard. One of his grubby hands

was held open towards me as if waiting to receive alms. This was the first of the "carol singers." In the following weeks I grew accustomed to allowing a waiting period of a few seconds before answering the bell and if any sounds were heard which could conceivably have been Christmas carols, my flat mate and myself would join voices and shout obscenities intended to indicate our desire that the visitor should leave.

I wonder how they earn their bread the rest of the year?

Bumley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blind students in need of reading help

DEAR SIR.—We are writing to draw attention to the difficulties faced by a small group of students in this University. These students, though blind, are tackling courses designed for sighted people demanding the reading of text-books and, in one case at least, the mastering of tables and diagrams. Hardly any text-books are available in Braille, and these students have to rely on the help of others who read to them or tape-record material for them. Often departments can help their own students, but this is not always the case.

To our knowledge there are at present at least two whose progress is more or less at a standstill for lack of this kind of help. Attempts made to help one of them last term produced a lot of goodwill and helpful suggestions, but very little recorded material.

This term we are ready to help them both as soon as we have volunteers. We are appealing for anyone willing to give an hour or so a week reading Arts, Science or Engineering text-books, either into a tape-recorder or directly to one of these students, to contact one of us as soon as possible. This is an opportunity to be of immediate assistance to two people whose courage deserves practical support.

Yours sincerely,
ROD PLAYFORD,
Welfare Committee Chairman
(Welfare Office, the Union).

JANE EDWARDS,
Lodgings Warden and Student Welfare Adviser (Lodgings Warden's Office, the University).

BOB HUGHES,
DAPHNE HULL,
Chaplains (St. Francis Hall, the Union).

Danger of attacks on girls

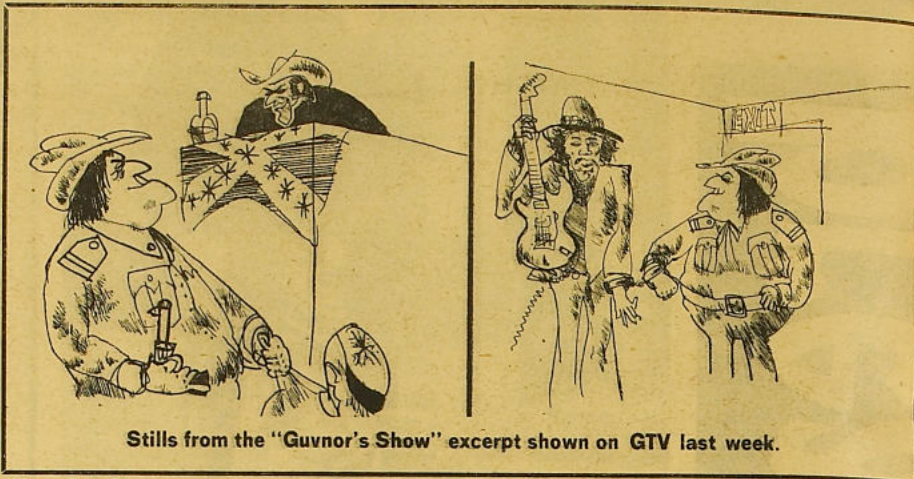
DEAR SIR.—Why do girls on the Vale Site think that there ought to be more protection from unwanted men for them than for the rest of the female population of this University (or city for that matter)?

Not only do they have a great deal more chance of getting a friend to walk home with them, since home is the same place for over 400 other students, but the Halls are not far from University anyway.

Lonely girls in distant digs (provided by the University) have almost to bribe someone to take them home, often an expensive bus-ride and a long walk. I know of two far more serious attacks made on girls in digs in one week alone last year, in unit lanes which were the only access to their homes. After asking around among girl-friends in the district, I found only one who had not encountered this unpleasant experience.

All the local police do is to advise that we never walk alone after dark, which generally requires a boy-friend with a great deal of time and money (some of us are lucky). Come off it, girls on the Vale Site, you are luckier than most of us, so just take more care like the rest of us.

Yours etc.,
MATTIE,
Physics II.



Critic expresses his horror at Sunday Flic choice

DEAR SIR.—It was with some horror, on reading the latest programme of events for the coming term, I noticed the abysmal selection of films for the "Sunday flic." Seldom can there have been such a mediocre collection of films intended for consumption by the so-called top two per cent of young people in this country.

Even taking into account the fact that the selection of films obtained is of necessity, limited to the catalogues of film companies who are content to provide films for showing in the Union, the collection provided this term seems to have been culled from the worst in commercial cinema over the past ten years.

The Sunday flic should complement the rather specialised minority interest films at present provided by Film Society, with a selection of the best that the commercial cinema, with its wider appeal, can provide.

This should surely include films of greater vintage than seem to be preferred by the selectors at the moment. Students will be far less likely to have seen an older film than they will a comparatively recent one. Further, the consequently wider range of old and new films available will lead to a better average standard of films eventually shown.

Clearly the member of Events Committee, or Ents Comm responsible for selecting this term's films is exhibiting an even worst taste

in entertainment than that which is usually displayed by members of those two organisations.

The decline in standard of the Sunday flic is a comparatively recent phenomenon; two or three years ago, one could guarantee that the Sunday flic would show a film which one hadn't seen and wanted to see, at least four or five times a term.

The two films possessing any merit at all, showing this term—"The Commanders" and "Divorce, Italian Style" have both been shown at least once a year for the past three years. Entertainments Committee should note, that there are others available.

Love,
PHIL IRVING.

Nothing will stop us. As long as I live I shall fight for the rights of my Race and Nation. I am proud of being anti-Jewish, because I love my country and hate what the Jews have done to it. I am proud of being a National Socialist.

COLIN JORDAN. At the Old Bailey, October 1962.

JORDAN—THE REAL DANGER TO THIS COUNTRY

COLIN JORDAN is at present the leader of the British Movement. Some of the other organisations he has led are: the National Socialist Movement (dissolved just prior to the setting up of the British Movement); the Nazi International (a "world-wide organisation"); Spearhead (see below).

WHAT DOES HE STAND FOR?
The programme of the National Socialist Movement states: "The National Socialist Movement stands for the positive and vigorous encouragement and expansion of our native Aryan culture and its appreciation, and the eradication and exclusion of all detrimental alien influences."

Jordan has time and again expressed his support and admiration for Adolf Hitler and the Nazi régime. His former journal, the "National Socialist", had on one occasion a photograph of Hitler on the front cover with the slogans, "Hitler was right", "His spirit lives on". Other issues carried eulogies of the Nazi régime and its various leaders.

In 1961, Jordan formed a movement called Spearhead. Its members had uniforms, with badges and jackboots, and they carried out drill and manoeuvres at week-end camps. He told his men, "The Spearhead man steps forward and marches as the stormtroopers of the National Socialist revolution in Germany in 1930."

Because of the way Spearhead was run, in October, 1962, Jordan was sentenced to nine months' jail for an offence against the Public Order Act of 1936, which was passed to combat possible nazism and military-type organisations.

Today Jordan claims he is no longer a fascist or Nazi, yet printed on his internal bulletin, "British Tidings", is the information that it issued by the National Socialist. Thousands saw Jordan at the May Day demonstration in Birmingham last year repeatedly give the Nazi salute. He was also seen at the same demonstration poking Indians in the chest while saying, "One, two three—dead!"

RECORD
The following is a list of his convictions:—
April, 1956: Fined £20 and £5 5s. costs for insulting words and behaviour.

March, 1959: Fined for assaulting the police.
April, 1961—Fined £15 at Bow St. for insulting behaviour at a ceremony commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto.

July, 1962: Charged out of incidents at his Trafalgar Square rally when he proclaimed "Hitler was right." Sentenced to two months' imprisonment in August, (September 1962, allowed right to appeal; March, 1963, appeal rejected).

October, 1962: Jordan and others tried re Spearhead organisation. Jordan sentenced to nine months in jail.

November 1965: Jordan sentenced to three months in jail, later quashed, and £50 fine substituted.

November 1966: Charged in Plymouth for distributing literature likely to stir up race hatred.

January 1967: Sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for conspiring to contravene the Race Relations Act.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Let anyone think that Jordan is an isolated phenomenon, the following is a run-down on other organisations holding views similar to his:—

The National Front. Claims 10,000 members—estimates confirm 8,000 plus. Formed by the League of Empire Loyalists, British Nationalist Party, Greater Britain Movement, People's Progressive Party (Liverpool), English Nationalist Party, and some elements from the Race Preservation Society.

Publications "Candour" as a monthly, "Spearhead" (incorporating "Combat") as a bi-monthly.

It is obvious also that Birmingham would be a main target for this policy. As yet, the National Front, the largest of the groupings, has not made an appearance here, and it seems fairly plain that the field is being left clear for Jordan to be the main mobilising force here.

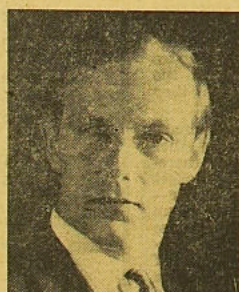
Fascism as such, has little hope of success in this country at the moment. But given that it is allowed to lay its footings in the present racism that exists in the country, the movement has a very strong potential for success.

Colin Jordan's planned meeting in the Town Hall this Sunday was stopped by the City Council. He may yet hold a street meeting. His scheduled appearance in the Union has been cancelled after pressure from certain organisations. Judy Suzuki, chairman of SCARD at the University, analyses his career and policies.

early responsibility and a salary that goes with it



David Devereux (27) Cambridge, Selwyn—History. Joined Clarks in 1962. Has held a variety of jobs in five different factories. Currently responsible for a children's shoe factory at Exmouth with 170 people and an annual production of 520,000 pairs of youths' shoes a year. He is also engaged in a management course run by John Tyack & Partners Ltd., the Consultants. His boss is 60 miles away at Street.



Michael Etienne (27) Oxford, New College, P.P.E. Joined Clarks in 1963. Worked for two years in a factory. Sent to America in 1966 to attend a two year M.B.A. Course at the Harvard Business School. Currently Market Planning Manager in Clarks Ltd, which makes and sells about £20M worth of shoes a year. He is responsible for forward planning, for Stock Control and Market Research.



John Bennell (25) Manchester—Chemical Engineering. Joined Clarks in 1964 and was determined to be a Manager not a Chemical Engineer. Began in Work Study and after a spell as Foreman then worked successfully for two different subsidiaries in Ireland developing and bringing into production a new manufacturing process. Now Factory Manager at Weston-Super-Mare with a labour force of 240 people and an annual production of 800,000 pairs of shoes a year. He works only 28 miles from his boss.

Ford puts its graduates in the driving seat

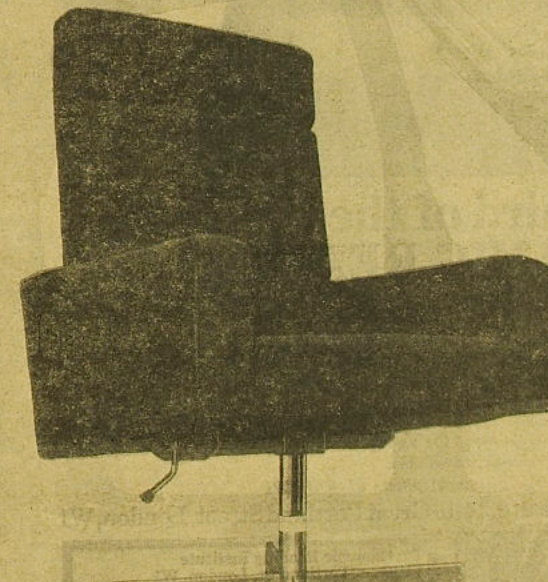
You have spent the last 17 or so years of your life in the process of "learning". We do not believe that the process stops now, and we feel sure that you agree with us. We do believe, however, that it is time you had a chance to put your knowledge to the test. So our initial induction period consists of showing you what we do and why. We shall then put you in a job which we feel will match your abilities and reflect your own inclinations. It will certainly give you real responsibility.

We offer you, besides this, a good starting salary—£1,116 (£1,200 after six months); a flexible approach, you can choose your job after seeing several good management experience—within three years most graduates are taking significant decisions; a realistic approach to career planning, through our performance reporting system. There are, of course, many other points we could make and we will be happy to talk to you about them.

If you would like to know more about a real career, then please contact your appointments officer or write to:—



Vernon Lewis, Graduate Recruitment Officer, Room 1/177 Ford Motor Company Ltd, Warley, Brentwood, Essex



WHY FESTIVAL WILL FAIL

TEN months ago, Carnival disappointed once again: money raised for charities slumped, a proposed Arts Festival was frozen in the planning stage, and an over-cautious Community Action section was too half-hearted in conception to arouse much attention.

This failure was not due to any

JOHN BUTCHER, CARNIVAL CHAIRMAN, EXPLAINS THAT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT FESTIVAL WILL COLLAPSE.

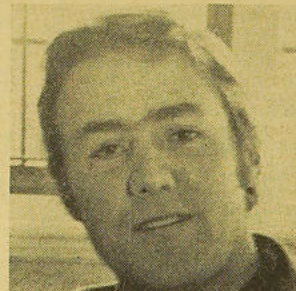
lack of enthusiasm, hard work or organisational skill on the part of the Carnival Chairman or his Committee; rather, it was a reflection on the outdated format of Carnival itself. Carnival was no longer inspiring enough to persuade the City to part with its bread for charity.

Last May, newly-formed Events Committee discussed this problem and arrived at a solution—Festival. Moulded around the skeleton of Carnival, Festival was to be much more far-reaching, with Drama at Cannon Hill Park, art exhibitions on the campus, and an extended Community Action section. The use of Cannon Hill Park fixed the dates of Festival as February 14th-23rd, 1969, as this was the only time that it was available.

On October 22nd, 1968, Events Committee's proposals were finally passed by Guild Council. Within five weeks, Festival organisation was halted as the Aston-Webb building was taken over during the eight-day sit-in. Festival, fast becoming a shaky proposition with the lack of time available to complete the arrangements, reeled from the body-blow of the adverse publicity sur-

rounding the demonstration: student prestige in the City reached an all-time low. Festival became even more important to restore public faith in students.

After many setbacks, Festival is now preparing for its biggest test—will you support it? If you do not,



John Butcher

Festival will die the same death as Carnival last year, with the possible consequences of an end to a Birmingham University rag altogether. Your help is needed to erase the dislike and mistrust that

exists between the City and its student population.

You must show outsiders that students are not all unwashed, drunken, ill-mannered, lazy, amoral hoppers who don't give a damn for anyone provided they get their next fix. With two days free from lectures during Festival week, I hope everyone will do something, no matter how small, to prove that you care enough about the hardship that exists outside your sheltered student environment to do something constructive about it.

Remember, the reason why Festival will fail is you—or rather the lack of you—during Festival week.

FESTIVAL NEWS

Press not keen

LAST Thursday Festival committee entertained the city and national Press to a working buffet, to explain what Festival was aiming to do this term. The Community Action section was emphasised, and Alan Barr explained about the almost derelict houses in Balsall Heath in which large families are trying to live and which will be repaired during Festival week.

The Press were also informed of the progress of the international arts festival to be held during the same week. Groups from France, Poland and Switzerland will be performing, as will many groups from this country.

However, the buffet cannot be described as an unqualified success, as only the B.B.C., the "Post" and the "Mail" were represented (although many more had promised to be present) and were rather swamped by students.

Hitch-in goes on

THE Mammoth Hitch-in, clearly designed for those of us adept at hitching lifts, is still on. Birmingham abandoned the idea some time last term, only to find that Aston have now taken up the responsibility of organising it instead.

The idea is to hitch from Birmingham to John o'Groats, on to Land's End, and back to Birmingham in the space of 100 hours. Sponsors can make donations in proportion to the number of half hours under the 100 hours that the sponsor takes to complete the journey. If it takes longer than the allotted time the sponsor pays nothing.

The world record is 29½ hours. Surely then it must be possible for some of us to make the journey in under four days and thereby raise a little money for charity.



Beautiful, 21-year-old Miss Korea, Young Chae Lee, graced Lake Hall with her presence recently. She came to visit a friend, Byung Won Park, who took this photo.

G.T.G. BOYCOTT N.U.S. FESTIVAL

LEICESTER UNIVERSITY were the winners of the 1968-69 National Student Drama Festival, held at Exeter at the beginning of January. Birmingham's Guild Theatre Group boycotted the Festival.

Barry Kyle, last year's G.T.G. chairman, said that the main reason for the boycott was financial: the expenditure involved in taking a production to the Festival does not justify the rewards, which are negligible.

The G.T.G. production of Brecht's "Galileo" which was presented at the Festival two years ago cost the group around £1,000, and with such sums involved, participation could cripple the group financially for the rest of the year. He said that another objection was the structure of the Festival itself.

Barry Kyle also felt that this festival was not as valuable as international ones on the Continent, where plays from many different cultures are presented. He said that at the N.U.S. Festivals, there are just "a lot of people doing the same thing as you" and that the same playwrights turn up year after year.

Personal Ads

LAKE WYDD. 6.0. Folk on Feb. 1st. LAKE: Guitarist and/or Singer for Blues Group just forming. Apply Chris Roberts, via Lake Hall or Union P.H.

WHAT do you create in the evenings? Your fruits could be displayed in the University Art Exhibition in Festival—If you dare submit them. **SUBMIT** your efforts to the University Art Exhibition: Festival, Feb. 14th-23rd.

CALIGULA. G.A.G. is coming. **RENT** a riot. Apply G.A.G.—P.H. **CAN** person who removed my Mohair Coat and Scarf from Refec. Friday 10th, please return. Reward! C.R.C., Mech. Eng. I.

CALIGULA **FORD TRUST TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS.** Up to £100 for Summer Vacation Project. Groups also given money for expeditions. Details, Welfare Office.

DICK: All is forgiven. Please come back to your Vacuum-cleaner Girl. **GLEN:** Are your fishnet stockings any good for catching Cods? **CALIGULA**

TRAITORS!! **FOLK** at Lake: Tinklers plus the Blues Group just forming. Apply Chris Roberts, via Lake Hall or Union P.H.

WANTED: Beds at weekend. Contact Welfare Committee.

CONTEMPORARY Artist wishes to contact others for exploration sessions, original ideas, name etc. to: Chris, Union Pigeon Holes.

HAVE you a spare bed in your flat at weekends? Contact Welfare Office for details.

IS this pair of scissors I see before me?

£500 a month when you're 25? Less than three years ago I was a student at Birmingham University.

After graduating I joined a progressive and dynamic American-backed company. This month I shall earn well in excess of £300.

Why wait until you're 40? These earnings could be yours in three years' time if you are ambitious, independent and keen to work hard for above average rewards. I shall be happy to interview final-year undergraduates. You will find me at 454-6711.

FILMS

TWO films showing in Birmingham which can actually be recommended: Franco Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet" at the Scala, and Stanley Kubrick's "2001—A Space Odyssey" at A.B.C. Cinerama. Both have been showing for some time in London, and are at present making their first tentative forays to the provinces. The former has been showing very successfully at the Scala since Christmas; "2001" has yet to show it can last the pace in Brum.

"2001"—at times one of the most beautiful, haunting and thought-provoking films I have ever seen, and others, one of the most infuriating. Kubrick spent four years creating the special effects, used in the film, and perhaps understandably, doesn't want to let his audiences forget the fact. He reminds us over and over again that he is superb at creating shots of outer space which are credible in this day and age, and to this extent, the film is somewhat self-indulgent and empty. Content is sacrificed to form, but what form...

There is no humanity in the film, only the coldness of a future technology. Kubrick convinces us that it is a beautiful and desirable thing. One is lost for terms to describe the actors in, they are not working in human terms. Men are secondary to machines and computers.

The opening sequence, of the dawn of prehistoric man, is overlong, ends with one of the most dramatic cuts in the cinema, from a bone thrown high, to a man-made

satellite eternally falling in orbit round the earth. Johann Strauss may not seem the most perfect, but Kubrick makes it so.

The central part of what is a rather episodic film, is concerned with a trip to Jupiter—man's latest technological triumph. Three of the five astronauts are in hibernation, and the remaining two are aided by a third or fourth generation computer called Hal. Hal controls all the ship's functions, and is all seeing, all knowing.

Hal talks in such a quiet, well-modulated, well-meaning, inoffensive tone he really is insufferable. Hal claims to be infallible and decides fallible men are a danger to the trip, and tries to kill the lot. It's food for thought for all who have ever been worried about the desirability of having a computer about the house, or even looking after one's bank statement.

The essential banality of space exploration as it seems like becoming, is highlighted—the astronauts on the moon and on the satellites, really can't think of anything to do—they live in a mental and physical white, antiseptic world.

Throughout the film, and throughout the part of man's civilisation it is depicting runs the theme of the mysterious slay, associated in some way with man's advances in thinking, but remains even at the end an unearthly query to which we shall never have an answer.

One tends, on the other hand, to take the content of "Romeo and Juliet" for granted; the only question is—can Zeffirelli translate it into credible cinematic terms? He succeeds, and he succeeds really well. Zeffirelli manages to obtain performances from his cast, which are so fresh and sharp, they completely escape the stereotyping of parts and moods which usually

BOOKS

"What Kind of Revolution?" Edited by James Klugmann and Paul Oestreicher (Panther Modern Society).

PEOPLE may consider the idea of the Christian-Communist dialogue somewhat trite. Even if tired of the now established cliché, "Well, of course, Jesus Christ was the first real Communist," as if this made everything all right, they should not be put off by the new publication from Panther, which presents ten very good and original essays on the subject by a group of prominent Christians and Marxists.

The book is edited by James Klugmann and Paul Oestreicher, the former a prominent member of the British Communist Party, and the latter born in Germany and a refugee from there, is now particularly concerned with East-West relations, through his work in the British Council of Churches.

The obvious tendency towards over-simplification of the fundamental concepts of both ideologies is mostly avoided in this selection of essays. The purposes of the dialogue are to dispel the myth which has existed for years, that Christianity and Communism are two directly antagonistic and invariable constants. In fact, the strength of this selection lies in its refusal to consider the two ideologies within the boundaries and limitations of their earlier exponents.

Instead, the essays present the broad and diverse spectrum of thinking which has developed, or even deviated, from the original foundation of the ideologies. It submits a whole range of Marxist thinkers and theologians, commenting, for example, on the immediate significance of Che Guevara, or the relevance of the "God is dead" claim by some "South Bank style" clergy.

The 10 essays are quite separate, although, of course, they meet and overlap on many points. They trace the historical development of Marx as a writer of political and sociological theory in Germany during the mid-19th century, his position amongst the Young Hegelians, of German thought during that period and particularly Marx's understand-

accompany plays which are so well known.

Best parts of the film are the street scenes, performed here better than any theatre production could ever have done them, and demonstrating that at its best the cinema can produce versions of Shakespeare comparing favourably with the theatre.

The balcony scene—so well known it's practically a music hall joke—is given a completely new aspect; it succeeds admirably in sidestepping cliché. Olivia Hussey, as Juliet, and Leonard Whiting as Romeo, bring a genuine feeling out of lines which are usually so limed with tradition, they are regarded as inevitabilities.

The dialogue stays close to the original Shakespeare, and the mood stays well clear of Hollywood soap opera—something which more than one recent cinematic version of Shakespeare has failed to do.

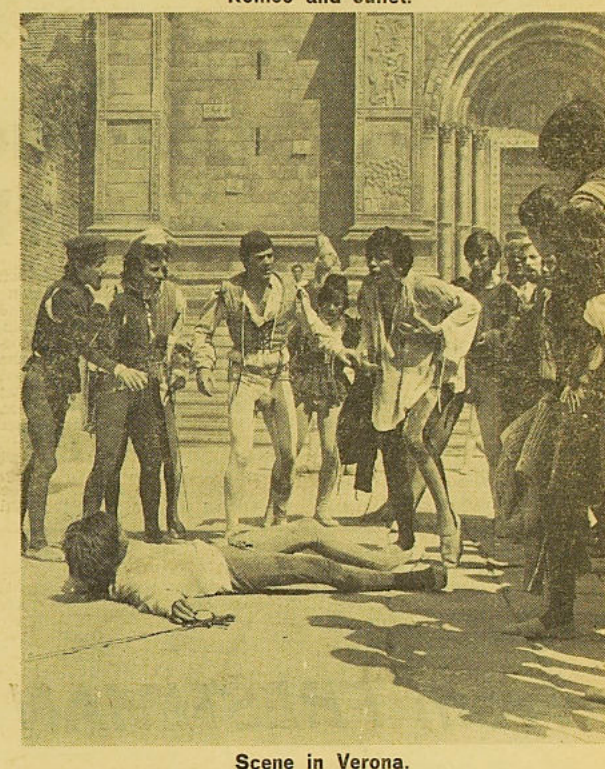
Unfortunately the rest of the Birmingham cinema is well down to its usual standard—the Odeon is still occupied with "Chitty whitsit"—thankfully now in its last week—and the A.B.C. New Street, takes a rather stolid comedy "The Bliss of Mrs. Blossom"—about the fortunes and misfortunes of a bra manufacturer's wife—the comedy is about on the same level, as that concept. Shirley MacLaine as Mrs. Blossom, ensconced in latterday psychedelic trendiness, keeping James Booth as a kept man in her attic while her even trendier husband (Richard Attenborough) slaves at building a bra to save the world in his factory.

Indeed as a light frothy piece of comic psychedelic fantasy, it emerges through Joe McGrath's murky direction as psychedelic snot pud; about as humorous and trendy as a Victorian corset. No, thank you.

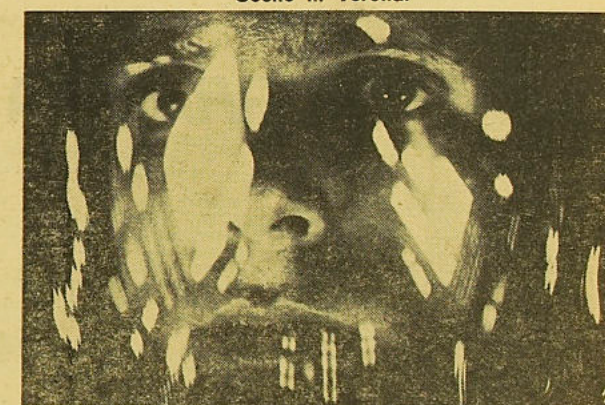
PHIL IRVING



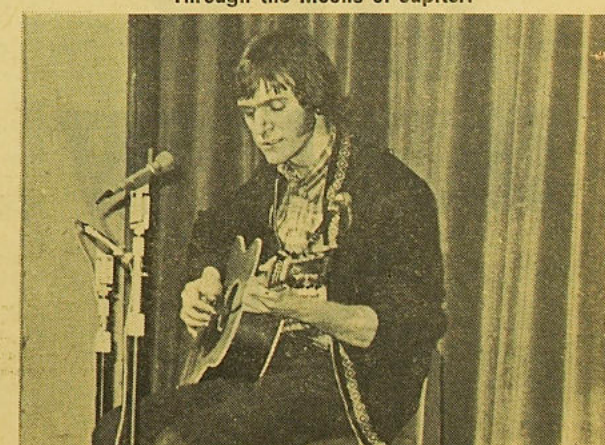
Romeo and Juliet.



Scene in Verona.



Through the Moons of Jupiter.



Ralph McTell at the Folk Club concert.

ART: a look back at the recent Van Gogh Exhibition

"REDBRICK" reviewer was entirely justified in recommending a visit to Van Gogh's Exhibition at Hayward Gallery. For those who do not like Van Gogh, he advocates a visit for the sake of viewing the gallery, which, I think, is highly inappropriate not only because a half-finished Victorian railway station converted under Mexican influence is hardly worth a visit. I can conceive of any arts lover who failed to admire.

and hence assessing his influence on later development.

It is not surprising that Vincent Van Gogh is usually a first favourite master in one's life. One usually regards it as a development when one later appreciates Gauguin, Cezanne and thus, perhaps, Modigliani or Dufy. The reason is that Vincent is bolder than others, perhaps the boldest artist ever. He is the most direct, candid, and hence, intimate. Here is the link with abstract art. He draws everything whether subject or form to its logical conclusions, be it "The Hague's poor waiting for the state lottery" (No. 10 in the exhibition) or the basic lines and colours of cypresses, fields, boats and wheat fields. Similarly, abstract art is not a refinement in form then a refinement in reasoning.

The more or less chronological arrangement gives an insight into Vincent's development from portraying the misery of the working class

in the 1880s to street scenes, still life and ultimately landscapes. The subjects are paradoxically remote and it is interesting to note that Vincent never went back to his early scenes however strongly he had felt about them. Critics find the link in his religious feelings. Perhaps it is another way of saying the same thing but, I should think, it is rather his sensitivity. Van Gogh was the most artistic of artists, i.e. the most sensitive, which led him to develop from his grief-stricken peasants and buyers of cemetery crosses (No. 40) rather than identify himself with a few individuals. He expresses his sympathy and kindness in appreciating the beauty of nature. He painted idle railway carriages with the same touching understanding of the desperate potato eaters.

The experience of viewing this exhibition was extremely enhanced by having the excellently-compiled catalogue at hand.

TAGHLIB EL QASSAB

sport 1

Half-season results disappointing

Birmingham Un. 0, Edgbaston 2 Aldridge 2, Birmingham Univ. 0

TWO defeats for the University ended what has been a disappointing first term of this season. The record is: P.16, W.6, D.3, L.7, goals for 27, agst. 18.

These latest defeats, against sides which the University usually beat, were a result of poor performances, though the first of the games was on a flooded pitch. Against Aldridge there was a lack of communication between defence and attack, either because the attack did not get into position quickly enough, or because the defence held on to the ball too long—probably both.

The best team performances of this term have been against Reading University (won 6-0) and Harborne (lost 1-3). In both these games the team played as well as it can, on good pitches, with good shooting, backing-up, calling and excellent distribution from defence.

The best individual performances came from Fishburn, who scored three superb goals against Kidderminster (won 4-2) and Tilsley, in a valiant game against Loughborough Colleges (lost 0-1).

While the First XI have had only moderate success, and are probably a little weaker than in previous years, the Second XI have had a fine season, winning their way through to the latter stages of the U.A.U. competition, in which they continue next term.

The team is very strong all round.

The forwards can all score goals (and do with great regularity), and the defence is capable enough to allow centre-half Inchley considerable attacking scope.

Team captain Mike Broadway (inside-left), who himself had a fine game when playing as a guest for Midlands U23 XI against the University, has commended Bunde for some fine games at inside-right, Haywood at right-wing, and Hill at centre-forward.

Regular goalkeeper Thompson has been injured, but Martin has proved

a capable deputy, and capped this with a fine display for the first team at Southgate. Roberts (right-back) and Longrigg (right-half), are experienced players, and Herbert (left-back) and Fairhurst (left-half) have shown promise for the future.

All credit to the Second XI, unbeaten when this was written, and looking a very good team. May they win their U.A.U. tournament and make up for some of the disappointments of those in the First team.

GOLF

Cox and Dathan show the way

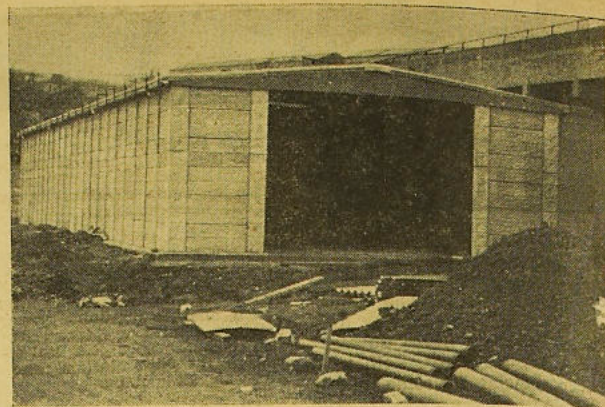
DISCOVERING at one o'clock on Wednesday that there was no course to play on, Edgbaston had been closed due to excessive rain, the University Golf team were fortunate to be able to play their game against Cardiff at Harborne, and even more fortunate to win, against one of the weakest U.A.U. sides. The final result was four matches to two.

A. Cox and A. Dathan both played well, round in 71 each, and won their matches, the former by the respectable margin of eight and

six. These were followed by N. Kraft and P. Bielby, both of whom took just about as many strokes on the first nine as the previous pair had taken on both nines.

Needless to say, they both lost, and Pete Bielby finished by firing out of bounds, with two extravagant slices, at the 12th and 13th, and ended his match six and five down.

P. Birtwistle, who claims a return to form, and J. Armitage, won their matches by three and two, and four and three respectively.



This is the new Rowing Club headquarters, completed for the new season.

CROSS-COUNTRY

International honours soon for Thomas!

FOUR of the University team competed for their home county teams in the senior inter-county cross-country championships at Brighton last Saturday. Andy Holden, running for the winning Lancashire team, completed the 7½-mile course in 9th place, a tremendous performance as he was only 18th last year.

Close on his heels, Malcolm Thomas (Middlesex) ran the race of his life to finish 14th and must soon follow in Andy's footsteps and get a full international vest. Considering he was only 14th in the national junior last year, Malcolm has really crashed into the top rank of distance runners this season.

Also running were Steve Gibbons (West Wales) and Robin Ball (Northants.).

In the third Birmingham League match held at Leamington, the University team finished three runners in the first 10 home. Malcolm Thomas was soundly beaten by John Hammond, of Coventry Godiva, who is returning to his form of last season. Gavin Russell came in ninth, in 30min. 13sec. just ahead of Pete Griffiths, who held off a late challenge by another Godiva man Basil Heatley.

The other University runners were Robin Ball, who had his best run of the season to finish 46th, Dick Nile was 63rd, Phil Smith 65th, Tom Salway, a disappointing 85th, and Graham Hilder 104th.

It was unfortunate from the team point of view that several of our runners were unable to compete. Andy Holden was running for England in Antwerp, Belgium, where he was placed second behind Ron Hill. Steve Gibbons was running for Wales against the Army.

With one more league to come, we are 27 points behind Coventry Godiva, who lie in second place.

sport 2

CYCLING

What makes an Olympic cyclist?

A profile on Ian Hallam

started his cycling career in road races and at 17 achieved national prominence when second in the 1958 junior road race championship. On becoming a senior in 1967, he began to concentrate on track racing and first represented England in the Welsh Games where he won the 4,000-metre individual pursuit.

This was the beginning of a two-year programme involving hard training every day with the objective of Olympic selection. As we have seen, the hard work was worth while and Ian represented Great Britain in the 400 metres individual and team pursuits.

Although he improved his own British record by some 12sec, with 4min. 50.5sec. (30.8 m.p.h.), he failed to qualify in the individual pursuit. In the team event we were eliminated with a 12th fastest 4min. 28.4sec.

Next year Ian will be aiming at the world pursuit championships in Czechoslovakia. His build up for these events will include long (80-110 mile) road races to increase his strength and stamina, before he concentrates on pursuing.

In 1970 the world championships are being held at Leicester, and on a home track and with a confessed desire to do well there, he will be a hard man to beat. In the more distant future, Ian has thoughts of the Tour of Britain and the next Olympic Games, at Munich, followed, possibly, by professionalism. The dedication with which Ian carries out a daily training programme will surely lead him to further success; at 19 he has age on his side, too.

TENPIN BOWLING

Not enough

Birmingham Universities dropped to second place in the Midlands Division of the Inter-Varsity League on Sunday. A victory over Lancaster College, Coventry, was not good enough to keep them in their previous position.

An unsatisfactory score of 10-6 was brightened by excellent performances from Doug Old (Maths II) with 518 series, and Mary Smith (Postgrad, Biochem) with a superb 490.



A Birmingham player is grounded and a loose Maul develops, but the forwards search in vain for the ball.

RUGBY ROUND-UP

Birmingham University 8pts., Burton 6.

WITH keen devotion to duty the First XV resumed on active service the Saturday before term with several "mystery" players on the side and turned on a fine performance to win by a goal and a try to two penalty goals.

The Burton side seemed to believe in a fatening-up process of their team members, and a number of these were sacrificed during the afternoon to the faster and more mobile University side. The game marked the return of the broomstick Rob Norman in the unaccustomed wing position. He did not have to contend with Burton, who were keen to carry on with several over-zealous spectators, who were keen to carry on with his shorts as a trophy.

The scoring was opened by crafty Burton, who whizzed on to a pass to dive over, and Rog Plank converted; and this was followed by the two Burton penalties. The winning score came from a three's movement, who outflanked

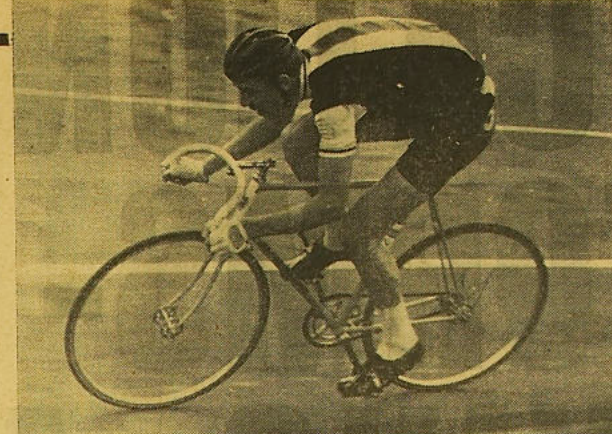
their opposite numbers for Dave Cook (the bearded wonder) to cap a fine game by scoring a fine try in the corner. Rog again made no mistake with the conversion.

Birmingham Univ. 1st XV 19pts., Liverpool Univ. 3.

On the glutinous mass which was Bournbrook, Birmingham earned a well-deserved victory by superior teamwork and being the fitter side. The game was a personal triumph for romantic Rog Plank, who is also playing safe on the matter of his prospective engagement, and who kicked 13 points, consisting of three penalties and two conversions.

The first nine points came from his boot before the Morgan scored a try just on half-time for the irresponsible Rog to add the points.

The second half was a much more even contest, and a great deal of good football was played despite the conditions. Potty Clarke capped the victory, after a Liverpool drop goal, by scoring an opportunistic try after good work by flanker Norman.



Ian Hallam, our Olympic ace, seen here in action on the Leicester track.

FACULTY SOCCER

STRENGTH IN DEPTH

THE over-riding characteristic of the soccer scene at this university is its strength in depth. The faculty system has stimulated an enthusiasm which could never be achieved in running additional sides representing the University as a whole.

In the Wednesday section of the

RIFLE

Sweet success

The University Rifle team won their away match at Manchester on Saturday. Both teams were depleted to seven rifles, but Birmingham still won by a convincing margin. Manchester have long been regarded as one of the strongest University teams, which makes this success even sweeter.

Birmingham led the contest from the start, with scores of 99 (out of 100), from R. Price and R. Matthew. This is a great boost to the team at the start of term and it is hoped that more members of the Guild will try their hand, down at the range this term.

Birmingham A.F.A. Division II, Wanderers' form has been inconsistent, but a considerable improvement on their performances of last season. And they proved themselves capable of beating Academicals, who, together with Mermaids, play in the stiffer Saturday competition of the Birmingham A.F.A. Senior Division II. Academicals this season, miss the regular services of their centre-forward, Mick Ratcliffe and their league record to date is disappointing.

Their close rivals, Mermaids, after a shaky start to the season, have at times produced something of the form which has made them contenders for the League title in the last two years. Key players of the past remain and the side's failings have been those of application rather than of skill. The main problem has been an inability to field a regular team—and it is one which is likely to remain.

Mermaids have lost three of their nine league games to date, but in friendly encounters have been troubled only by a robust Loughborough Colls. side which narrowly beat them 3-2. The goals so far have been evenly shared among the forwards, but once again Dave Perfect heads the list.

KEVIN SMALLBONE.
Result: Wanderers 9, R.A.F. Gaydon 2.

FOOTBALL

City revival!

THE spring term this year has coincided apparently with an upsurge in the fortunes of professional football in the Birmingham area. Whilst before the Christmas break Villa seemed doomed for relegation, and Birmingham City not much better, now they both appear to be climbing to safety.

Villa particularly have captured the interest of the entire soccer public, and Second Division matches at Villa Park now have the atmosphere of a sporting occasion rather than a funeral.

Whether Tommy Docherty is such a vital factor as most people seem to think will only be seen in the future. Meanwhile West Midlands have, at The Hawthorns, a quarter-final Cup Winners' Cup game with Dunfermline, and five clubs left in the F.A. Cup, all with hard ties, all playing away next Saturday.

This week's sport TODAY

Rugby: 1st XV v. Cardiff (Bournbrook).
Hockey: 1st XI v. Nottingham.

FRIDAY
Badminton v. Kynoch.

SATURDAY
Soccer: 1st XI v. London (West Hills).
Hockey: 1st XI v. Coventry & North Warwickshire.

Netball v. Harborne.

TRAMLINE

... a weekly column of news and opinion in the University sporting world.

"POLITICS and sport don't mix!" This is a view which has been held by British sportsmen and sports administrators since the beginnings of organised competition. Much to their distaste, as a result of growing international competition, politics is being forced into sport to an ever increasing degree.

Two examples of this arose at the B.U.S.F. General Council in Swansea at the beginning of the month. The old thorn in the sportsmen's side, South Africa, came up. A request for B.U.S.F. to organise a tour for a South African hockey team was rejected by the council. Who can blame them, when militant student unions are constantly looking for excuses to chop Athletic Union grants.

It was also reported to the council that Britain was unable to stage a F.I.S.U. soccer tournament because guarantees about the entry of an East German team could not be made. Similar difficulties could also affect plans to make an offer to stage the World Student Games at Crystal Palace.

It seems rather that the growth of sport on an international level has meant that sports organisations can no longer ignore the policies of the Governments. This, it seems, is the price we pay for the obvious attractions of international competition.

The appearance of a Birmingham footballer in a U.A.U. team is a rare occasion. The soccer players have been doing well in the last couple of years with goalkeepers John Wallis and Ian Finch making the grade, but it is a long four years since a rugby player caught the eye of the selectors, when Bob Cottler was picked. News that Birmingham's captain, Terry Monington, was playing for the U.A.U. in October was indeed a welcome surprise. Last Wednesday, he played once again, this time against the Scottish Universities and from all accounts hooked exceptionally well. In this form he should retain his place for the rest of the season.

At the beginning of last term in an article in "Talking Point" a "bumper" year was forecast for Birmingham in the U.A.U. championships. Today the truth of that statement will be tested. Five Birmingham teams are visiting Wales to fight for a place in the semi-finals, which the fencing team have already reached. The squash and table tennis teams probably have the best chances at Aberystwyth and Cardiff respectively. The soccer team will be up against an unbeaten Swansea side.

Even if the worst happens and all the Birmingham teams fail, 1968-69 will have been at least a partial success with an unprecedented number of teams reaching the final stages of the championships.

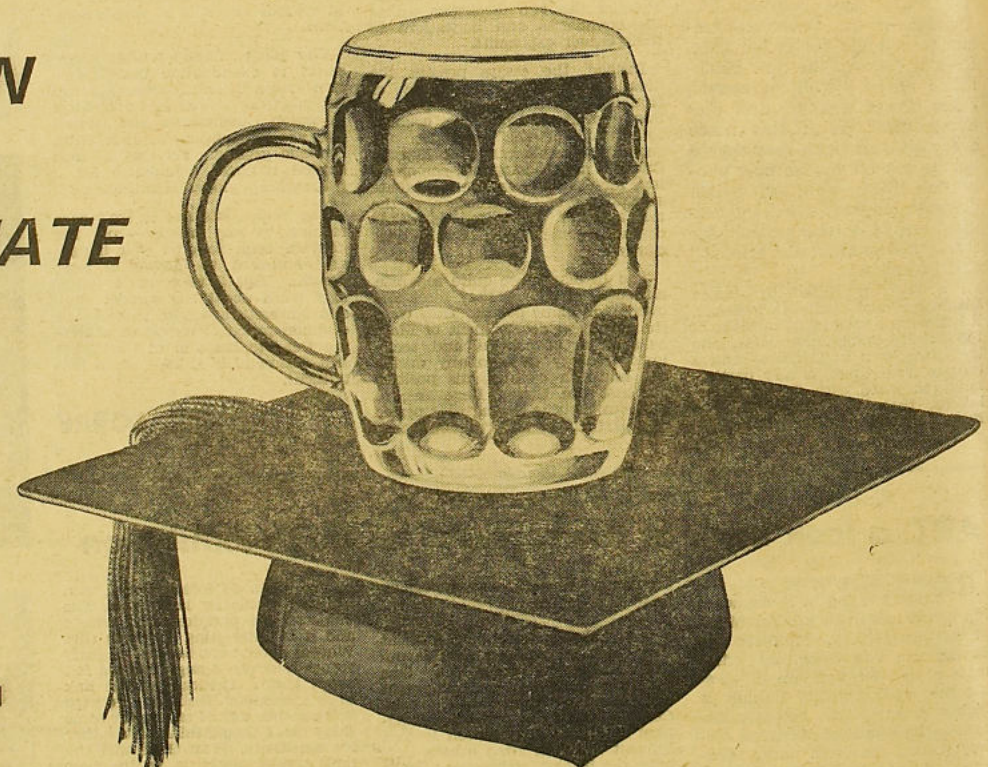
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XI



ALWAYS A FIRST

EDUCATION REFORMS- MOVING AHEAD?

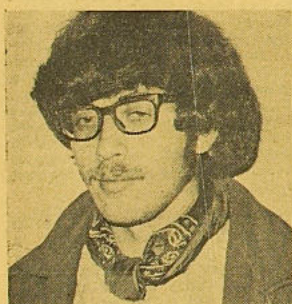
REDBRICK
Birmingham University

THE recently published report on the teach-in held during the sit-in is already causing considerable discussion among a wide range of groups in the University. The report has been compiled by Clare Dutton, who has been elected Education Chairman following Charles Critcher's resignation; she sees it as food for discussion and as the basis for the University teach-in which the Senate Ad Hoc Committee have recommended to be held on March 15th and 16th.

LOWE QUILTS AS YOUNG LIBERALS SPLIT

MARTIN LOWE, External Affairs Chairman, and described by "The Guardian" as "a prominent leader of the Birmingham sit-in," has resigned from the national executive of the Union of Liberal Students. He had held the post of student affairs officer since last Easter, but resigned before Christmas at the same time as several other prominent members of the executive who all felt that a central control of the movement should be replaced by local groups with local initiative.

This is part of a general movement to see national political organisations as irrelevant in anything except as co-ordinators. The idea of 1,000 revolutions cannot be



Martin Lowe

realised at anything except a local level; therefore national organisations are outmoded, and the Young Liberal movement which caused so much controversy a few years ago is dying. The Union of Liberal Students therefore intends to change its role and to become the student union of the Liberal Party.

SPECTACULAR FLOP

THIS Friday's Union dance will not be featuring Julie Driscoll, nor will it feature the Small Faces, who had been booked to appear in her place. Instead it will feature a lesser known group, the Harmony Grass, and the price will be reduced drastically.

The first problem arose when Julie Driscoll cancelled. Ents Comm booked the Small Faces, but

Though the official University teach-in is not yet definite, as the plan has to be approved by Senate and Council, the teach-in report will also serve as the basis for the departmental teach-ins which are already planned for this term, by the Law Faculty, the Medical School, and the departments of English, Physics and Geography among others. It will also provide some material for a discussion on the concept of an open university which is to be held in the Council Chamber this afternoon—a discussion arising out of ideas put forward

The report summarises the discussions by various groups which ranged from "The Role of the Student in Society," through Examinations, Accommodation, Broader Education, the moral content of courses and discussions of the teaching methods in various faculties.

It includes a long analysis of teaching in the Medical School and recommendations for its improvement, and particularly interesting analyses of the teaching in science and engineering faculties, where in most cases little of this sort of thing has been done before.

Unfortunately, however, lack of time has meant that this report is only a bare outline of the discussions, a full account of which would make an enormous document. It has also meant that the basic spirit of the ideas and their breadth has not, in most cases, been captured.

Many important details have had to be omitted, though the basic ideas are there, and the general trend towards the idea of the free university is shown.

A skeleton plan for a free, critical university is sketched at the end of the report; it proposes the abolition of assessment, the teacher-student idea and hierarchical labelling, and encourages flexibility and greater freedom in the choice of courses, etc. These are the basic guidelines which will be discussed at the meeting this afternoon.

The open university was also the subject of yesterday's open lecture, given by Professor Harry Ferns, who has recently published his own plans for one, on rather different lines to the one produced in the teach-in report.

Prof. Ferns, speaking of his concept of a "Free University," said, "My ideas are not designed to modify the present structure of the

on further consideration, cancelled them; they did not want outsiders to come to the dance, and also they have had large losses on previous spring term dances (the Troggs dance lost £150 last year).

Although they had had posters printed they thought it better to put on a cheaper dance. There will be a Guild card check on everyone coming to the Union for the dance.

University." He said that at present economic conditions determine to a large extent the structure of the universities. His aim was to find a form of finance which meant that decisions on teaching and other concerns of the academic community could be taken without reference to outside bodies.

One way of ensuring this was his idea of paying to the student which was sufficient to cover the whole cost of his education, which the student would then repay to the University. This, he said, would also tend to avoid bias in different universities towards either the arts or sciences.

CONFUSION HITS GUILD/SENATE MEETINGS

THE second meeting of the Guild Senate negotiating committee started last Tuesday in the presence of three students who wished to attend the meeting. They were asked to leave the room while the committee decided on the subject. After much pressure from Professor Davies, the chairman made his ruling and said: "I as chairman will not continue as chairman with student observers present." The Registrar left the room to inform the waiting students of the decision.

The committee seemed doomed from the start with Professor Shotton, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, arguing that the committee would serve no useful function and the first meeting was taken up with much discussion on what the Senate statement of last term meant. It was agreed that a teach-in should take place but on the question of victimisation there was much difference of opinion as to whether there was any definite Senate policy. Professor Shotton said that an assurance of no victimisation would be against the policy of the University.

Despite the Guild Council instructions that he should withdraw "Student Role" the President of the Guild persisted that it should be implemented as soon as possible.

After the decision that the meeting should be conducted in secret the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Senate sub-committee discussed the appointment of Sir John Wolfenden as adviser to the Vice-Chancellor.

No member of the committee could say what Sir John's terms of reference would be but he will probably advise on structural reform of the University. It was decided that Senate Executive would be asked why Sir John was appointed.

The group then discussed the teach-in and the Commission was advised that Senate had decided that the Teach-in would only be conducted if there was sufficient support. The only method so far used to ascertain the expected level of support was to pin up notices in the departments.

DISHONESTY?

During the meeting Prof. Hoggart had to insist several times that his remarks should be included in the minutes. The discussion on open committees was marred by two "misunderstandings." It was understood by the Guild that there would be a report from Senate Executive but the Senate members

of the group denied that this had been agreed. One member of the Guild delegation said that there was a hint of dishonesty in the statement of the Senate representatives.

SENATE CASE

It was also understood by the Guild that the Senate would be preparing a paper stating their case against open committees. The Senate paper was, however, only presented to the group itself.

The President of the Guild has said that "after running the University this way for so long it is inconceivable that they would see the light even after a two-week sit-in."

Guild Executive decided on Monday to circulate the minutes of the meeting although on Mr. Playford's proposal it was agreed before publication they would be slightly amended to make them comprehensible.



Clare Dutton, Education Chairman