



REDBRICK

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university

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FLATS CRISIS—HALLS ARE BLAMED

THE accommodation problem, particularly for second and third-year students looking for flats, is once more at its most critical stage; but this year, with many students still sleeping on floors with little immediate prospect of finding a permanent bed, the seriousness of the situation is only just beginning to be appreciated. It is thought that the recent rise in hall fees may be a significant contributory factor.

Old hands at flat-hunting have always realised that the big rush comes well before the beginning of term, but even by the beginning of September estate agents were being flooded with enquiries from students, and those who confidently waited until the middle of the month quickly found out that they had missed the boat altogether. "I've still got nowhere to live, and I've been travelling up to Birmingham to look round every day for almost two months," said one student.

Final-year students, particularly in the science and engineering departments, exhibit the most concern. Said one, "Right now I'm prepared to take absolutely anything, just as long as I can settle down somewhere and start working for my finals."

The causes and extent of the problem cannot be accurately ascertained, and probably never will be, but some evidence indicates that the situation may have been aggravated by the growing unpopularity of the halls of residence among students. Last year, a series of "economy drives" was instituted throughout the Vale Site halls in an effort to check the spiralling costs, and at the end of the summer term, the hall fees were raised by about £13.

Discontent

This, coming just after the announcement of a rise in grants, and despite of the staff reductions, caused widespread discontent among hall residents. Now it appears that the number of students returning for a second or third year at hall is much lower than normal, with a consequent increase in the number of first-year applicants. As second and third-year students are unwilling to go into lodgings, the demand for flats automatically becomes abnormally high in an already limited market.

Homeless

The Lodgings Warden, whose main problem is finding accommodation for new arrivals, said on Thursday that she could not estimate how many students were, or would be, temporarily homeless, as she deals with students only when they come to her, and "most of them haven't come back yet." She did say, however, that she didn't expect that the fabled camp-beds held in readiness for emergencies would be needed. Indeed, many students seem to be accepting the situation quite philosophically. "It's bad this year, but it can't last too long. I've kept on plenty of floors in my time, and I've got plenty of friends," was one comment.

The general opinion seems to be, that although almost everyone will have accommodation within a couple of weeks, there will be another abnormally high demand for flats at Christmas, usually a fairly quiet period, when even more students leave hall, and others try to find better flats.

Canned heat

"NOWADAYS it has become almost fashionable for people to protest about things, and leading this trend are the students," said Brian Redhead, compère of I.T.A.'s latest programme, "Protest". And leading the first of these potted protest programmes were twenty students from Birmingham University with a thirty-minute tirade on the subject of advertising. The students' case was stated quite admirably by Alan Munton when he asked whether advertisers "had a conscience about lying about a product in the adverts."

Answering these criticisms were the managers of Schlitz, Schweppes and a national advertising agency, who appeared quite unflustered both by the questions and the tedious pace of the programme. The only moment of truth was when the advertising manager conceded that he did tell lies about the product, but tried to justify this by saying that if every body does, the best product will still sell in the end.

However, the true fervour of student protest was not excited by this mundane topic, and so the programme lacked some of its anticipated vigour. But "Protest", like a good wine, may well improve with time.

FIRST CLASS IDEA!

THE university has found a way to beat the 25 per cent postal increase. Only "genuinely urgent" mail, the departments are warned, in a circular (second-class?) letter, should be sent at the new rate.

Just how much of the university's correspondence should be termed "important" it is hard to say. However, such letters should now be separated from normal mail and "attached by an elastic band" to a special



A view of the Vale Site Lake that you're not likely to see again . . . The course of the original brook can be clearly seen running diagonally across the silt bed, from the canal.

WHO PULLED OUT THE PLUG?

ON the last night of the summer term, 1968, the Vale site lake disappeared. Residents in the Halls woke up to find a large concave bowl of black mud emitting a more powerful marsh mud smell than usual.

Off duty

A group of about half-a-dozen geology students, some resident in Hall, waited until the Vale site security came off duty at midnight. About 1.30 a.m. they sawed through a chain and opened the valves, allowing the water to run out into the larger lake below, belonging to Edgbaston Golf Club. Nothing was noticed until early next morning, and by the time the valves

were shut the lake was practically empty.

However, according to the assistant bursar, Mr. Lewis, the damage was minimal. "Owing to unusually heavy rainstorms we experienced over the next week, the lake filled up much quicker than we expected," he explained, and went on, "if we

hadn't had this unusual rainfall before the mud and silt could become 'active' we might have had biological troubles with horrible smells, etc. In fact we were very very lucky in this respect."

A number of people know which students were involved, but no-one is talking.

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Legendary Faust

STUDENTS from the department of Drama and Theatre Arts have been working round the clock to prepare a production of Part One of Goethe's "Faust". This will be the premiere performance of a new translation by Professor Roy Pascal, of the University German Department, and will be staged at the Crescent Theatre from October 2nd to 5th.

Performances of this work are rare because of technical difficulties involved; the play contains nearly

two hundred parts, and there are 194 separate costume designs. The wardrobe department has been working non-stop for the last week making and altering costumes, and the sound technicians have been collecting recordings of various effects — chickens in Bourville, poodles, strip music and a multitude of other special effects including flashes, exploding ladies, swords that spout fire and an expanding poodle.

Impact

Professor Pascal's translation has aimed at maintaining the variety and impact of the original and he has retained the basic vigour of the

play. This has enabled the director, Jocelyn Powell, to concentrate on a production that is visually exciting, fast moving and lively, yet stresses the situations and conflicts that underlie the apparent formlessness of the work.

Goethe was preoccupied with the Faust legend. He started writing the play in the 1770s when he was only in his twenties, and completed the first part of the play in 1808. The play is seen by Jocelyn Powell as a "dream play," covering a fantastic range of human and artistic experience with a surprising variety of mood.

An exhibition of material relevant to Goethe and the Faust legend will be staged in the long gallery of the Arts Faculty. Material in the form of documents, photos, books, has been loaned by various authorities on Goethe, including some exhibits from East German institutes devoted to a study of Goethe.



Due to excessive length, much of Goethe's "Faust" had to be omitted, but the essentials still remain. And Goethe was no prude!

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Since when has recording tape featured in a play written over 150 years ago? A very good question . . . anyone who sees the play will soon realise that this is not the only deviation from the original.

G.T.G.—'many different types of theatre'

G.T.G. chairman, Alan Booth, writes in the handbook: "For the past two years we have been the only university group to follow a specific policy of entertainment, which we called 'Popular Theatre'. This year we are discarding this policy in favour of the idea that the tasks of a varied university community can only be satisfied by a varied and unrestricted programme of plays; in order to do its job properly G.T.G. must aim at providing the Guild with as many different types of theatre as it can."

Introduction

G.T.G.'s plans for the year start with a very full programme of plays this term. The first offering is a special production for the Freshers' Conference of Brecht's "The Exception and the Rule." The director, Graham Padden, who is G.T.G. secretary this year, explained that the production is designed as an introduction to G.T.G.'s work. "This is the first time we've done anything specially for Freshers in this way. The conference is held to introduce them to all aspects of academic and social life, and theatre should be one of those aspects. We feel that G.T.G. has a part to play in the life of this University, so why not start right from the beginning?"

Graham describes the play as a "didactic entertainment." "That sounds a bit pompous, I know, but I simply mean that the audience should come to enjoy themselves, and also, I hope, learn something from what the play says." The message of the play seems quite simple—it's asking people to question the social set-up they find themselves in, and particularly not to accept the hold that officialdom has over them. "This is particularly important at the moment with the growing student unrest. When people come to a university they tend to accept everything they're told, at least during their first year—they've been trained to do that at school. We're trying to help them break away from that."

The play is being performed in the Union Reading Room at 2.15 and 4.15 this afternoon and Sunday afternoon.

Workshop

There are two other innovations in G.T.G.'s programme. The first is a period of workshop and free rehearsal sessions during the first two weeks of term. Alan Booth hopes that anyone who is interested in theatre work of any kind will come and meet G.T.G. at these sessions, if they haven't already done so during Society's Day. "They'll be quite informal, but we can't say exactly what will happen on any particular evening. That'll depend on who turns up and who is leading the session. The directors of our four Autumn term productions will all be there at some time, and we'll probably use the period for auditions, in part at least."

Which brings us to the second innovation, a two-week period of Repertory starting in the middle week. The plays will be Racine's "Phaedra," which Alan is directing, Pinter's "The Homecoming," directed by Steve Wright. Each play will have three evening performances and a matinee. I asked Alan whether he thought he could fill the Debating Hall for that number of performances. "I think we can, because of the variety of the material we're presenting. I hope people will come to try three plays—we may sell rather season tickets."

Integrate

But that's not all. In the sixth week Sebastian Bergman will be directing Arrabal's "The Car Cemetery" in the Union and then in colleges in the Birmingham area. G.T.G. had a very successful programme of school performances two years ago, but were not able to repeat the project last year. "The town elders are always saying that the University should integrate itself more into the life of the city and that's what we're attempting to do."

In the Spring Term, the Group will be organising a Drama Festival at Cannon Hill Park, as part of the revolutionised Festival Week. They hope to bring two groups over here from the Continent as well as groups from other British Universities. "We will, of course, be presenting our own productions there, before we go to the International Festivals at Easter." The festival will also include talks and discussions, to which eminent speakers will be invited.

From all accounts it should be a good year for theatre—don't miss out on it!

FESTIVAL

PLANS are going ahead, subject to the approval of Guild Council, for the reorganisation of Carnival and its integration into a "festival".

Elvin McDavid, the chairman of Events Committee, which has been concerned with the initial stages of the reorganisation, said: "The general idea is to build upon Carnival and to enlarge it into a Festival with the emphasis on community action. We hope to create a new image for the University, to turn the eyes of the city to the University, and to show that students are capable of tackling large-scale social projects."

The idea of involving students in a greater amount of social work was started by last year's Carnival and it is hoped that this will continue this year with projects such as decoration, visiting old people and the building of playgrounds.

As well as this the new-style festival will have an extensive entertainment section with large functions in the Birmingham and Aston Unions as well as a large concert in the Town Hall. It is hoped that throughout the Festival, which will run from a week from February 14th to 23rd, there will be entertainments of all kinds every night in the Union.

The Festival will also include a section concerned with the arts.



Elvin McDavid
(Events Committee
Chairman)

publicity campaign to interest the public in the venture. This campaign will be started some time this term and will be gradually built up as the Festival draws near.

Elvin McDavid said: "We hope to take huge adverts in the Press and to do anything which will bring our activities to the notice of the general public."

Aston University are not holding a Carnival of their own this year and instead they will donate the sum of £1,000 to the Festival and two of their representatives will sit on the Festival Committee.

Commenting on the organisation of the Festival, Elvin said: "Each of the sections will have a chairman who will be responsible for the activities of his section. We hope to appoint a Festival organiser who will be in charge of the co-ordination of each of the sections. The Festival can only be a success if we can involve as many students as possible. We are intending to go round to all the societies and groups in the University and ask them to give us all possible support."

WANTED to help with Festival — about 10 FRESHERS . . .

FRESH faces

FRESH ideas

All those interested, please contact ELVIN (see photo).

British student health

SUICIDE, drugs, student pregnancies and staff-student relations were among the topics discussed at a conference in Nottingham last weekend, held by the British Student Health Association. It was the first time that students were allowed to be present at the conference, and papers on the various topics submitted by students were the basis for the discussion.

One of the most important aspects of the conference was the correlation between different aspects of student welfare, particularly in the relationship between a student's academic progress and his physical and mental wellbeing. Student counselling was generally felt at present to be inadequate, although very necessary; tutors were felt to be inadequate in this respect although delegates from Oxford and Cambridge said that their system of Moral tutors worked well. It is significant, however, that the Oxford suicide rate is about four times as great as the average in other universities.

Suicide was an important theme at the conference. No specific cases could be found for it, although examinations are often an important factor—Sussex University, which has a flexible examination system, has no suicide rate at all, compared with the national university average of six per hundred. The only suggested preventive for suicide was to encourage students to use counselling services more—this might save some of the excessive depression which can follow failure of important exams. In spite of the results of the examination system the conference generally felt that it was better than any of the alternative systems.

And Playford, Chairman of Welfare Committee at Birmingham, presented a discussion paper on pregnancy, abortion and contraception, which criticised the rather fashionable attitude to such things held by some Universities and Health Services. The conference agreed that many pregnancies resulted partly from ignorance, and that sex education in schools should be far more widespread. Another question raised by this paper was whether abortions should be prescribed of contraception should be left to the discretion of the individual doctor. A paper on drugs was presented

PROPPING UP WALL

Freshers all, find your way now, if you haven't already done so, to the gallery where you will find such pleasures as are rarely bestowed on students. We mean, as if you were that ignorant, WALL, that masterpiece of journalism and wit which is hung in splendour and many colours every Thursday. You will come to love it, we assure you.

Nobody can afford to miss the exclusive weekly reports from our ace reporter, Fingers McGroin: equally compelling is the series of Vitreous Porcelain episodes, social comment of the highest order.

But we are proudest of the fact that for the first time a fresher is going to write for us. Those of you, and there must be many, who know Zoe Meldrum will be intrigued to learn that she will be giving her own experience in her own words every Thursday. Above all, remember the WALL, recommended by Basil the Bulgar Slayer, is required reading.

SPECTATOR

LAST year you were "pupils" if you were lucky, and "school-children" if you weren't. This year, as of now, you are "students," and we hope you like your new image. How does it feel to be a dirty, long-haired (and probably revolutionary) lot?

The Great British Public has never had much sympathy for students, but at the present time anti-university feeling is at an unprecedented pitch of intensity, and whether you like the idea or not, you cannot avoid becoming part of it.

The reason for this, of course, is the so-called "student revolution" which is supposed to have taken place during the last academic year. Partly as a result of actual events, and partly because of sensationalism in television and the Press, the word "student" is now synonymous with those who sit-in, march, demonstrate, drop out, smoke pot, read Marcuse and talk about Che Guevara.

One way or the other, you will find your new image either hard to live up to, or nearly impossible to live down. Follow the letter to the editor in the "Birmingham Post" and you will see what we mean. Or wait until the landlady starts making jokes!

All this is depressing rather than funny. The vicious misrepresentations of young people which have been publicised and believed actually support their claim that something has gone radically wrong with society itself. But that is not our immediate point, nor the reason that this column has been instituted in "Redbrick".

The purpose of the "Spectator" is to provide a forum for the rational discussion of those issues which seem most important in the current movement towards educational reform—a movement in which "student power" is a vital, but not the only element.

The University of Birmingham, as you will discover, bears little resemblance to the seething hotbed of radical discontent which has become a favourite image among popular journalists. So much so that one good and true revolutionary heart has been broken by the prevailing air of passivity and calm.

But though the clock tower remains unoccupied, a number of small, potentially important changes are taking place even here. It seems likely that students will soon be appointing their own representatives to the University Council, and already, in a few departments, student/staff committees have been established to discuss examinations, syllabuses and methods of teaching. The concept of "student participation" in university affairs hasn't been greeted with much enthusiasm, yet in these small ways, there is a movement in that direction.

Then there was the "To Sir, With Love" issue of the normally uninspiring "Mermaid"—if you're lucky you may still be able to pick up a copy during Orientation Week, and we think you will find the time spent in reading it well worth while. Some aspects of the "Mermaid" controversy will be discussed in this column later in first term. Otherwise some of you will find a little more variety than there used to be among the courses offered by this or that department, the arrangements for Combined Honours students in the Faculty of Arts have been improved, and there is a lot of talk (and even some action) about liberalising the examination system.

This doesn't sound much—and indeed it isn't—yet the fact that a university as large and conservative as this one has changed at all is itself a kind of minor miracle. And to find even the beginnings of a genuine dialogue between students and staff in an institution that still supports the doctrine of *in loco parentis* is almost a revolution.

But to that question we shall return. Meanwhile you might ask yourselves how you like the idea of having a University take over from mother.

N.E.—That, in fact, is the Spectator's first thought of the Week.

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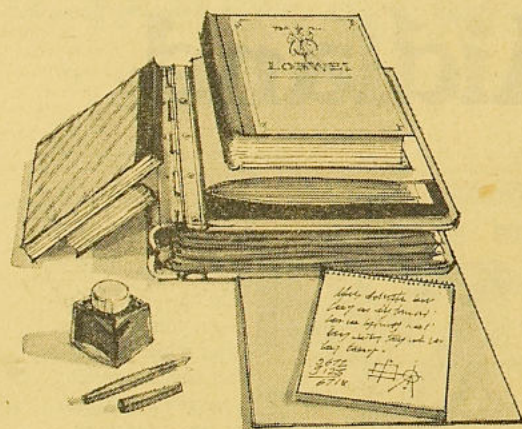
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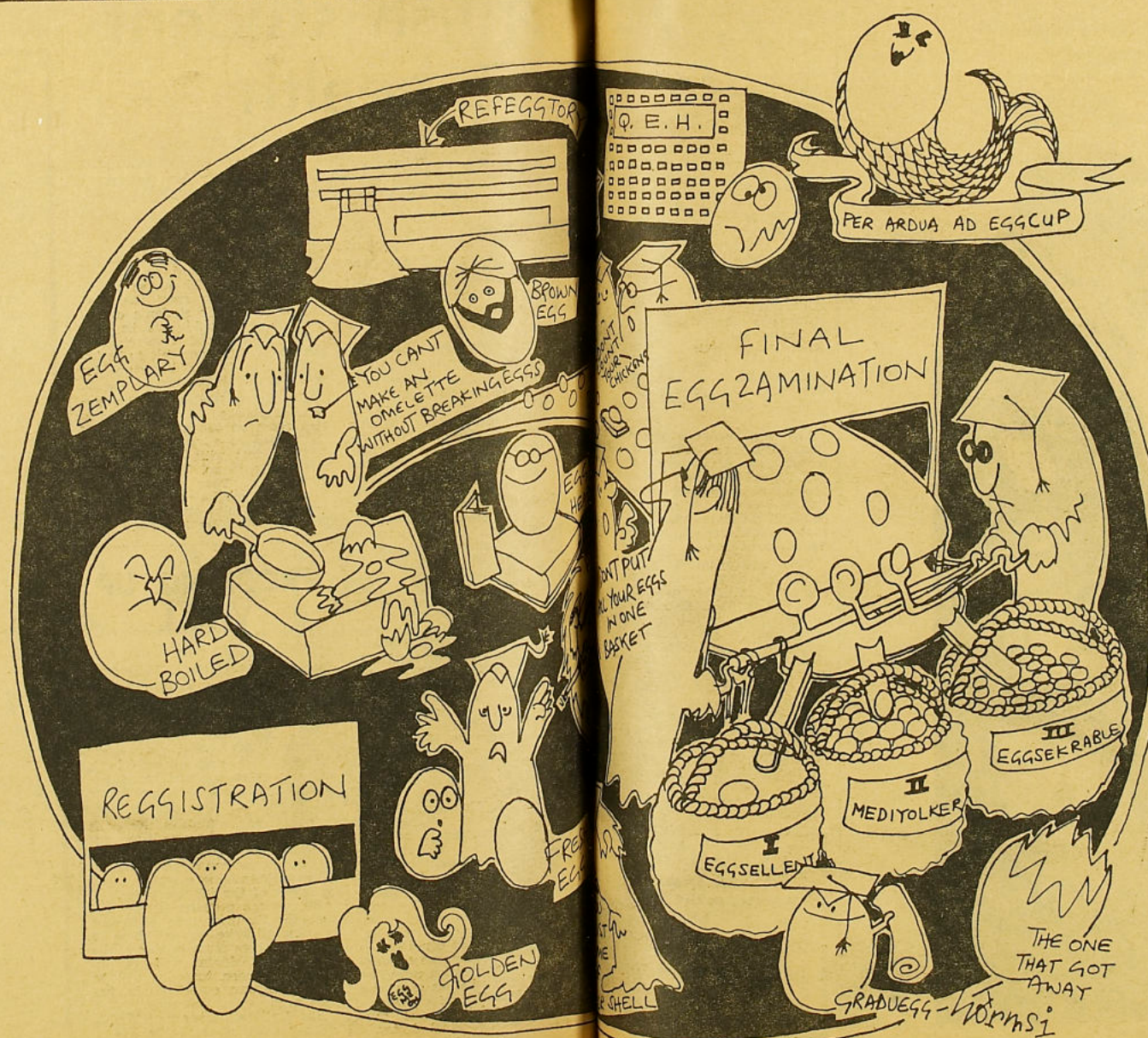
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Out of the discussion groups will analyse the rounding the publication of the and function of the "To Sir with Love" "Merrill teaching methods and has emerged the decision to the systems offered by up action/study groups for the departments. many departments as no period of discussion.

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Pete Townsend	English
Alf Louvre	" "
D. Forbes	Law
J. Suzuki	Elec. Eng.

Last year posed fundamental questions about the university and its place in modern society. If you are interested in helping to restructure courses, teaching methods and exams, get in contact with us. This might just be the year the chickens come home to roost.

ACTION-STUD M O M E N T U M



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SPORT - Birmingham's Olympic selections - Air Squadron success

Olympic Games

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RALPH BANTHORPE, 200 metres, Howard Payne, hammer, and Ian Hallam, 4,000 metres cycling team pursuit—that is Birmingham University's impressive contribution to the British Olympic effort.



RALPH BANTHORPE

Probably the least known of the three is cyclist Ian Hallam, a third-year Medic. He is the fastest Briton over 4,000 metres this year with a time of 4:59.8. Second in the national championship, he is considered unlucky not to have been picked for the individual event.

The pursuit team were certainly looking towards a bronze medal but defeat by a non-Olympic team just before they left for Mexico last weekend was something of a setback.

Following Hallam out to Mexico next Monday will be Howard Payne and Ralph Banthorpe. Though they are in the last group of athletes to leave, neither is worried about acclimatisation or the atmosphere. Howard Payne, who is a lecturer in the Physical Education department, was born in South Africa and has lived for many years at 6,000ft. He believes that the thin

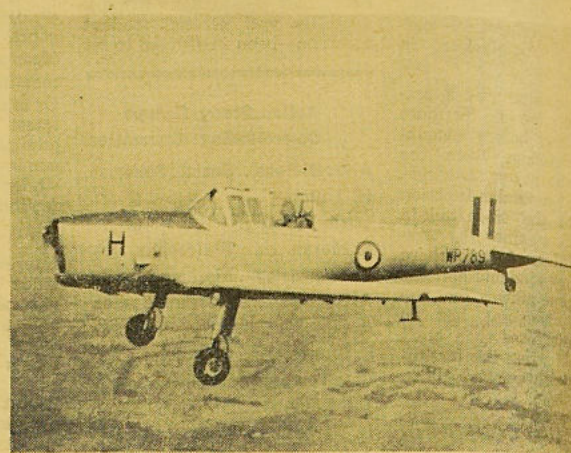
air can only help the throwers by reducing the resistance on the hammer.

Neither Banthorpe nor Payne give themselves a chance of medals. The best they hope for is a place in the final and a U.K. record.

To qualify for the final Payne, who is 38, is the oldest British athlete in Mexico, has to throw 216ft. 6in. about 1ft. better than his present U.K. record. This is definitely on the cards.

"I will be very pleased to reach the final because that will mean I will be throwing further than ever before," said Payne.

With a best time of 20.9 for 200 metres when second to American Tommy Smith on the slow White City track recently, a U.K. record is also within Ralph's reach. Probably the most encouraging thing about the two athletes is that they have been improving consistently through August and September and should be in peak form when they compete on October 15th and 16th. As Banthorpe said: "A bit of luck and anything can happen."



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Air Squadron

NEW BRITISH UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONS

FOR the first time in the history of Birmingham University Air Squadron, the student pilots have become British university champions.

The final fly-off to decide the year's winners took place at R.A.F. Central Flying School, Little Rington, and teams from Birmingham, Oxford, Glasgow and Hull were competing.

The Hack Trophy, as the competition is called, requires competitors to fly an aerobatic sequence and carry out spot landings. Birmingham was represented by Acting Pilot Officer W. D. Lowe and Cadet Pilot P. J. MacClaren. As well as having the highest overall score, both the competitors won their own individual events.

This win by Birmingham breaks the dominance that the southern universities have had for a number of years, and it was particularly pleasing as this is the 50th anniversary year of the R.A.F. To mark the occasion a special 1918 gold sovereign was presented to the Squadron together with the Hack Trophy.

The Air Squadron reached their final earlier this year by winning a regional competition held at R.A.F. Shawbury, where teams from Manchester, Liverpool, Wales and Belfast were competing. In this competition there was included a formation championship in which Birmingham was also victorious.

There are about forty members in the University Air Squadron, and about 15 places are available each year. Any male member of the University is eligible to join and to receive flying training. The Squadron is commanded by Squadron Leader M. Metherall, and there are four permanent R.A.F. instructors. The flight of five Champions is operated from R.A.F. Shawbury. Members receive pay allowances and travelling expenses as in accordance with the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, but they are not under any obligation whatsoever to join the R.A.F. There is also a very active social life associated with the Squadron.

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CHAIRMAN EXPLAINS

By Wendy Palmer
(Chairman of A.U. 1968-69)

I HOPE that by now most of the freshers will have seen something of the excellent and extensive facilities that this university offers for sport. There is no doubt that Birmingham is at the forefront of universities both in respect of its sports facilities and its achievements.

The Athletic Union is here to provide the facilities, equipment and club organisation for the sport of your choice—all you need to bring is your enthusiasm. I would like to stress that everyone is most welcome to participate, whatever their standard and prior experience, and I feel sure that one of our 18 clubs will be of interest to every one of you.

There are three basic levels of sport within the university—inter-departmental, Faculty and University club teams, so that everyone from the novice upwards will be able to choose an appropriate team for which to play. At the highest level, the University 1st and 2nd teams participate in all the national university competitions; and also many of the clubs arrange international tours during the year. These National University competitions are called U.A.U. for the men and W.I.V.A.B. for the women, and are approximately equivalent to an English University Championship.

The outstanding sportsmen and women from all the Universities are chosen to represent U.A.U. and W.I.V.A.B. and also for the British Universities team (B.U.S.F.). Birmingham provides no small proportion of these teams especially in the men's sports. Indeed, it is probable that Birmingham has the best women's teams in the country, for it has won the Kerslake trophy, presented to the University with the highest number of points in national competitions for the past three years.

Birmingham has a fine sporting tradition to preserve and I sincerely hope that you will support the teams as much as possible. Everyone can make a great contribution to University sport in this way and indeed, if University sport is to have the status it deserves, it must receive encouragement from the people it represents.

At West Hills the playing fields have been improved beyond recognition this year, so that now we possess some of the finest pitches in the country.

It is my personal hope that this year West Hills will be used much more as a social centre. The club-house is available for any socials and we hope that both teams and spectators will utilise the clubhouse amenities after matches.

Spectators prefer to confine themselves to the campus the 1st XV will be playing most of their matches on the Bournbrook ground, where, amongst other clubs, basketball and badminton teams will be participating—not to mention the athletics track next to the Sports Centre, where the athletes will be sweating it out!

Birmingham has so much to offer everyone at all interested in any sport, and I sincerely hope that you will show your appreciation of our sports facilities by participating as widely as possible in the activities organised by Athletic Union.

If you have any queries at all, do not hesitate to contact me in my office in the Sports Centre. I wish you the best of luck for the coming season—we hope to see you all, whether screaming on the sidelines or wallowing in the mud—everyone is welcome.



Roger Calverly passes through gate 13 in the B.U.S.F. Championships at Shepperton Weir.

CITY SPORT

By Roger Kelly

IN the last few years, the Birmingham area has not been able to offer very successful teams. Only an extra-time goal at Wembley last May brought a major football honour to the city, and Warwickshire once again proved that 11 fine cricketers do not make a Championship side. Despite the short measure of success, the Birmingham spectator is offered a wide selection of sports to patronise.

Until Albion's success last year, English football had seemed in the grip of teams like Manchester United, Liverpool, Spurs, Leeds and Everton. No major trophy had been brought to the Midlands since 1960. What are the chances of similar success this year?

Aston Villa, once Division One's senior team, is now languishing at the foot of Division Two. Albion is now the city's leading team. Everton are seniors in Division One. Villa are erratic and new signings Hole and Ferguson from Blackburn have not helped as yet.

It looks as though Villa Park will remain the most palatial ground in the Second Division for a few seasons yet. Football specialists leave the Old Square outside Lewis's stores on match days and it is a short ride to the ground.

Birmingham City had a fine season last year, due principally to the intelligent leadership of Fred Pickering and Barry Bridges. They were always challengers for promotion and disposed of Arsenal and Chelsea before bowing out to West Bromwich Albion in the Cup competition at Villa Park. Now Bridges has left the "Blues" and their position at the foot of Division Two, with a quarter of the season gone, suggests that Birmingham will not join Albion in the top-flight this season.

St. Andrews lies two miles to the North-East of the city centre, which is either a 30-minute walk (follow blue and white scarves) or by bus from Diebich.

West Bromwich Albion are the current pride of the Midlands, yet it is their remarkable inconsistency

that makes them first-rate entertainment for the uncommitted. Literally anything can happen, as witnessed by two home results last season, Albion winning 6-3 against Manchester United and losing 2-6 to Everton.

Albion's return match with F.C. Bruges in the Cup Winners' Cup is approaching soon and with a 3-1 deficit to make up, Albion should be at their attacking best. The Hawthorns is situated on the City and West Bromwich boundary on the A41, reached by buses 72, 74 and 75 from Colmore Circus.

Football fanatics may look further abroad where First Division teams can be found in Wolverhampton, Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham. Most grounds are near the city centres, and a visit to Molyneux is worthwhile just to experience the best football atmosphere in the Midlands.

Although this time of the year is principally soccer, the city can offer each summer splendid days, at not extravagant prices at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. After the exams, when time lies on the hands, cricket becomes a most pleasant way of spending the day. Edgbaston is one of the best-appointed cricket grounds in the country and the team that plays there justifies its quality. Warwickshire, at their best in one-day matches, can boast players like Tom Cartwright, David Brown, Denis Amiss and the two great West Indians Lance Gibbs and Rohan Kanhai. The ground lies on the intersection of Pershore Road and Priory Road, and a visit is a must for the real sports fan.

Rugby Union, less a spectator's game than a player's, can offer teams like Coventry and Northampton, and the city's own Moseley Club, and the city offers most spectator sports—except horseracing, which disappeared with the closure of Castle Bromwich Race Course, the nearest courses now are Wolverhampton and Warwick.

Although Birmingham cannot offer the most successful teams in the country, there is plenty of good sport to be found.



Wendy Palmer
(Chairman of A.U. 1968-69)

- A.U. Chairman writes - Preview - Spectator Scene

Good prospects

By John Palmer

WITH six thousand students and excellent facilities, it is hardly surprising that Birmingham is a major force in university sport. Strong contenders for the Midlands Universities championship in almost every team game, Birmingham invariably makes the national finals in up to a dozen sports every season.

In the major winter games, the ever-present Loughborough Colleges are always a stumbling block. The soccer team gets better every year, and have even beaten the Colleges recently, only to lose to Loughborough University.

In Rugby, the influx of freshers should give the team a better chance of success than for some years past in both the U.A.U. competition and in their strong club fixtures. Dave Starling, from Chem Eng, has played back-row for the North of England Under-19s, and John Clarke, who has captained Glamorgan Under-18 team, should be especially useful. Terry Monington, this year's captain, who has hooked for the U.A.U. team, will be pressed for his place by another fresher, Julian Bond, who has played for London Counties and S.E. England Under-19s, not to mention London Irish and Harlequins.

Basketball, the "Tower Power" sport, is certainly a major at Birmingham. Aided by five Americans and a strong band of supporters, they were U.A.U. champions two years ago. In last season's competition they were runners-up to inevitably Loughborough Colleges. With American George Green still around, together with five others who have played for U.A.U. teams, Birmingham will again be strong contenders this year.

The racket games are very up and down. Squash is on the decline after several good years with the loss of three of last season's first team. Lawn tennis is definitely on the up, following the arrival of two county players and a junior international last October. Table tennis should certainly improve since this year's freshers include Brian Mitchell, who has played for England Juniors and Lancashire seniors. The return of Mike Donovan from a year in Germany should aid an ailing badminton club.

If the male teams are good the females are phenomenal. They won six W.I.V.A.B. titles last season—hockey, table tennis, swimming, athletics, squash and lawn tennis. They have won the overall sports championship, the Kerslake trophy for three out of the last four years, and Birmingham invariably makes the national finals in up to a dozen sports every season.

Members of the department last year included Under-23 netball international Pat Dudgeon and Under-23 hockey international trialist Shirley Moore. Not all the stars are from the department. Ruth Martin-Jones, from French, was Birmingham's sole representative at the World Student Games in Tokyo, coming fifth in the pentathlon.

As far as national recognition is concerned there is little doubt that the Athletics Club is the tops. Birmingham is the only redbrick university to have a match against the A.A.A., and are second only to Loughborough Colleges in University competitions. As well as Ralph Banthorpe the club can boast international Roger Richardson, last year's captain, and Rod Morrod. Both are hurdlers. The freshers can only add to the strength of the team with Andrew Holden, who ran a world best for Under-19's in the 3,000 metres steeplechase, and Jan Skrybant, a junior international hammer thrower.

The Kayak club is led by Richard Prince for the second year. He is an international who is currently ranked eighth in Great Britain for slalom and was second in the B.U.S.F. championships for which Birmingham were hosts. Although white water racing and slalom are the club's main interest, this year a new long-distance racing section is springing up.

Clearly stars abound in University sport but in almost every case they play only a small part in team success. It is the strength in depth and more particularly the organisation, under the direction of permanent secretary Brian Walker, which has gained respect for Birmingham in sporting circles in every university in the country.



Mike Donovan who has returned from Germany to strengthen the badminton team.

OPEN LECTURES

THE following is a provisional list of Open Lectures for the autumn term:—

October 15th—
Sir Hugh Greene
"Broadcasting in the 'Sixties"
—a Decade of Change"

October 22nd—
Jacquetta Hawkes
"The Proper Study of Man-kind"

October 29th—
Dr. N. A. Dyson
Organ recital.

November 5th—
Professor F. W. Parish
"The Balance of Payments"

November 12th—
George Woodcock
"Trade Unions and Reform"

November 19th—
Professor David Daube
"Organ Transplants: Law and Ethics"

November 26th—
Professor J. H. Plumb
"Churchill, the Historian"
The times of the lectures, and the places where they are to be held, will be announced later. It is expected, however, that as last year, most of the Open Lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

TEN PEOPLE for Executive Committee to help with Festival.

OCCULT SOC. is not affiliated to or connected with any Christian, Jewish, Spiritualist, Buddhist, Black magic, Seventh day adventist, Psychic or Mystic group or sect. It is entirely independent. Freshers' tea on Tuesday, October 1st at 5.15 p.m. in Private dining room on 1st floor of Union. All welcome.

PLAY TENNIS for fun or at county standard? Why not join Tally Ho! L.T.C.? The club is opposite the cricket ground on Priory Road. New members welcome on Tuesday evenings. Reduced subscriptions for students.

CAVING CLUB: Freshers' tea and colour slide show—5.15 p.m. Council Chamber, Tuesday, October 1st.

HUMANIST GROUP: Humanism is concerned with encouraging individual freedom of thought. The group has no dogmatic principles—it holds discussions and talks at which you are asked to express your own views. Freshers' Tea—Tuesday, October 2nd, 5.10 in the Mixed Lounge, on "Individual Liberty."

MOTOR CLUB — Inter-Varsity Driving Tests—1.30 p.m. Sunday, September 29th, West Car Park. Come and see your Motor Club in Action.

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Mary Geddes and Alan Munton face the cameras in the Medical School studio.

'Electric Village'—not many sparks yet

GUILD TELEVISION made its first broadcast last Thursday—a recorded programme to introduce the University and the city to Freshers. There were interviews with a group of overseas students, and an examination of student radicalism in the University.

One of the producers of the programme, Alan Munton, said afterwards: "It was a moderate piece of work. An attempt, not a success." The entire programme was put together in under a week. "The Film Production Unit did a good job of the film of the campus and the city. But we couldn't get into the studio to rehearse because a camera blew up and took almost everything else with it. So we had two days to practise, and then we recorded."

The University has lent its television equipment to the Guild for a trial period, and the technical work is done entirely by two members of staff under Dr. Peter Whitaker, in the Physics department. "Their expertise is extraordinary," said one student member of the production team.

A line joining the studio in the Medical School to the recording equipment in Physics was not set up until the day before recording was due to begin. "We just tried not to worry about those things," said Mary Geddes, who acts as link-woman between items.

When "Redbrick's" reporter visited the studio during rehearsals there was the extraordinary sight of an apparently serious interview about the American Presidential election going on between Alan Munton and Matt Connelly, while cameras swung about the studio and Mr. John Moseley (University

staff) shouted instructions to the cameramen. No one listened to the interview, except to tell the interviewer to speak up, and watch the rhythm. "Don't let it get monotonous."

Then Mary Geddes joined in to do a quick cross-cutting item, sitting on a high stool. It went well. Meanwhile, "Redbrick's" photographer dodged amongst the cameras and people, getting some fairly candid shots.

The television unit will at first be broadcasting, in the Union, every Friday, a half-hour programme of news, interviews, comment and music. It is hoped that this will not be limited only to the Union, or only to events in Birmingham—interesting visitors/speakers will appear, and there will be a series examining issues confronting students.

The new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brockie Hunter, will be invited to appear in the first programme, and there will be a description of the Refectory issue.

NEW S.F.H. CHAPLAIN

THE new St. Francis Hall chaplain is the Rev. Daphne Hull. Former minister of a church in Croydon, she worked for the Christian Education Movement and as a primary school teacher in Balsall Heath before coming to the University.

She views her job with interest, although with a little trepidation. She thinks that one of her most important jobs will be as a counsellor, and was surprised that there is so little facility for counselling and for students to discuss their problems on the campus.

Mrs. Hull's husband is a lecturer in religious education in the Education Department.

REFECTORY SIMMMERS

AS a result of last term's illegal meetings, inflammatory leaflets, demands for representation and militant threats to take the refectory "by force if necessary" the University Council has offered to set up a working party to investigate the facilities provided in the building.

Executive Committee of the Union is to recommend to Guild Council that this offer be accepted on two conditions. First, that the working party should meet frequently so that Executive may be kept informed of progress made; and secondly, that a decision be reached by Christmas. If this latter condition is not fulfilled, or if the decision is unfavourable, Executive is almost certain to recommend that more militant action be taken. There is therefore no possibility of actually improving the facilities in the refectory before Christmas at the earliest.

The problem posed by the refectory was summed up by Ray Phillips, President of the Union: "It is primarily a physical one—a direct result of its distance from the Union and its more central position on the campus. It naturally becomes a focal point for scientists and engineers in particular, because it is close to their place of work. The answer must lie in developing its social functions." But there are technical problems involved and legal restrictions on the size and nature of

these functions (i.e. insufficient fire escapes, etc.). However, Mr. Humbert, catering officer, was not in position to give details of these.

He said: "We always do all we can to help the Union in planning its activities and functions," though this was disputed by Ray Phillips with regard to a proposed stand-up buffet for Freshmen on Thursday night. This function had to be cancelled ostensibly because the numbers involved were too great but it later emerged that there would have been sufficient accommodation as required. This is a typical example of non-cooperation between Executive and the refectory management," commented Tuli Kupferberg, a third year Medic from Sweden.

Ray Phillips sees the problem differently, however. "The thing we're up against," he said, "is a powerful administrator (Mr. Humbert) and judging by the manner in which the refectory committee was handled, an unconcerned committee (chaired by Mr. Givens, a long-standing member of the University Council). What is needed is student representation on a refectory committee which will have real control over refectory policy and an awareness of the needs of those that actually use the building.

It will not simply pay lip service to Mr. Humbert. The great problem is how this is to be done."

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